

## Adventures in Veterinary Medicine 2016 High School Application Instructions

**We recommend you read these instructions prior to filling out your online application. Refer back to these instructions as needed during the online application process.**

### Application Deadline

We begin accepting online applications on November 2, 2015. Early application is advised as our sessions are extremely competitive with a limited number of spaces available. High School Residential Sessions are the most popular, and files must be completed no later than late February. The Admissions Committee begins to review completed files in March, and continues the review process until all spaces are filled for each session. Final decisions are typically released by mid-April.

Part of AVM's goal is to familiarize high school students with the application process for college and veterinary school. We encourage students to complete our application and follow up **themselves** once the application has been submitted. If parents have questions about the program, we will be happy to answer them; **however, our main contact should be directly with the students themselves—not their parents.** This is important and gives us an opportunity to get to know each applicant prior to our selection and admission process.

### Required Application Materials

#### Submitted Online Application

Please complete all pages of the application. Use of proper grammar, including correct spelling and capitalization, is important. You do not need to wait for all of your supporting documents to arrive in the AVM office in order to submit your online application.

#### Application Fee

A nonrefundable application fee of \$40 is required and may be paid by credit card or electronic check after submitting the online application.

#### Letters of Evaluation

Two letters of evaluation are required. **It is not necessary to wait for your letters of recommendation in order to submit your application.** One letter must be written by a teacher, faculty member, advisor, or guidance counselor. The second letter should be written by an individual who can comment on your interest in animals and in veterinary medicine. This letter may be submitted by a work/volunteer supervisor; veterinarian with whom you have shadowed, volunteered, or worked; or another teacher or faculty member. **Letters from family members and/or personal or family friends cannot be accepted.**

We prefer to have Letters of Evaluation submitted through our online application process. It is important that you inform your evaluators to expect and allow all emails from Adventures in Veterinary Medicine ([avm@tufts.edu](mailto:avm@tufts.edu)). Each evaluator will receive an email with his/her unique link to submit an evaluation on your behalf.

Letters can also be mailed directly to our office from the evaluator. The letter must be signed and on letterhead.

**Grades and Official Transcripts**

Official transcripts must be sent directly from your school to our office. It is important that you follow through with your institution to ensure we receive transcripts prior to our Admission Committee's review.

**Please wait until your first semester or trimester grades are available before requesting your transcript.**

You must ask your school to send an official high school transcript, including the current year's first semester or trimester grades when available in January/February. When requesting your transcript and grades from your school, be sure to specify that we also require your current year grades, as this is sometimes a separate document. If you are in ninth grade, you must also submit official eighth grade transcripts.

**Transcripts should be sent to:**

**By Mail:** Adventures in Veterinary Medicine  
Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University  
200 Westboro Rd.  
North Grafton, MA 01536

**By Fax:** (508) 839-7952

**By Email:** avm@tufts.edu

## **Instructions for Completing the Online Application**

Each page of the application can be accessed via the links on the left-hand navigation bar. Once you complete each page, remember to click the "Continue" button on the bottom of the page, which saves the data you entered and then takes you to the next page of the application.

### **Personal Information**

Please enter the information requested on this page.

### **Application Information**

Please enter the information requested on this page.

***We strongly encourage applicants who live within commuting distance to apply for the High School Day Session.*** The High School Residential Sessions are extremely competitive and seats are limited in availability. Since applications are submitted from students worldwide, preference for the residential sessions is given to qualified applicants who are from outside the local area.

Please take careful note of grade eligibility when selecting which session you would like to attend. Eligibility is based on grade level as of September 2015.

### **Parent/Guardian Information**

Please enter the information requested on this page. You must supply information for at least one parent/guardian.

## **Academic History**

Please list all middle schools and high schools you have attended.

As noted on page 2 of these instructions, we require official transcripts from your high school, including first semester or trimester grades from the current year.

## **Animal Experience**

Experience with animals is necessary for a competitive application. This includes the care, knowledge, and experience gained working with animals. Pet sitting and dog walking should be included, as well as any relevant research experience. Please document your paid or volunteer experience, giving the duration, description of duties, and exposure to different animal species. Be sure to indicate if experience was during summer or other school breaks only.

## **Extracurricular Activities**

Please outline your middle school/high school activities, outside activities, work/volunteer experiences, special interests, and hobbies. You should note any elected or appointed leadership positions.

## **Essays**

Please write a one-page essay telling us about yourself and your interests in science, medicine, and animals. This essay is an opportunity for you to tell us why you would like to attend Adventures in Veterinary Medicine. Limit your essay to 650 words. Spelling and grammar count!

This page also includes an optional section for any additional information you choose to provide with your application.

## **Letters of Evaluation**

Letters of Evaluation are an important part of the AVM application and selection process. **Please request letters as soon as possible.**

See page 1 of these instructions for more details regarding the types of evaluators required for your application. Use the "Add Evaluator" link in the online application to provide the names and contact information of those individuals whom you have requested to provide a Letter of Evaluation. In the "Type" field for each evaluator, please specify whether he/she is most familiar with your academic or animal-related experience.

## **Certification**

Click the "Applicant Signature" box. Then, in place of your signature, please type your full legal name in the box provided. If you are under 18, your parent/guardian must complete the "Parent/Guardian" signature portion.

## **Review and Submit**

This page prompts you to complete any missing information in your application and allows you to preview your full application before you submit it. Once you hit the "Submit" button, you will be directed to a page where you can pay the required \$40 application fee.

## Completed File

All of the required materials can be submitted through the online application with the exception of official transcripts. There is a \$40 nonrefundable application fee, payable online by credit card or electronic check.

**Incomplete files will not be reviewed.** It is your responsibility to follow through and ensure that your file is complete. You can check the status of your application by logging in to your account at <http://vet.admissions.tufts.edu/apply/status>. Please allow at least two weeks for supporting materials to be marked as "received" on your Applicant Status page.

## Timeline

Below are important dates regarding applications and admission decisions:

Material Submission Deadline: Late February

File Review Begins: March

Decisions Released: Mid-April

## Admission Decisions

Applications are reviewed and considered based upon factors such as GPA, rigor of coursework, animal experience, work/volunteer experience, and letters of evaluation. Applicants with strong qualifications are admitted, applicants who demonstrate potential are placed on an alternate list, and those who need to improve their academic performance and/or animal-related experience are denied admission. Once sessions are filled, strong applicants will be placed on the alternate list.

Please be aware that admission for our AVM High School sessions is not on a rolling basis. High school admission is competitive and is based upon the applicant's qualifications. A strong candidate will generally have solid grades with a B+ or higher grade point average and possess significant animal experience. It is also important for the applicant to contact the office directly to follow upon on their file status. This provides the AVM office an important opportunity to interact with the applicant prior to the selection process.

Due to the competitive nature of the residential sessions and limited amount of seats, preference must be given to applicants who are from outside the local area and who have not already had the opportunity to attend previously. If a student has attended AVM previously and is applying for the same session type (i.e., high school), the Office of Special Programs reserves the right to deny admission in order to allow other students the opportunity to participate.

Admission decisions are typically released in April. Applicants will be notified via email to check their Applicant Status page for their decision letter.

## Financial Aid

Please indicate whether you will be applying for financial aid on your application. Assistance is need-based for families who are financially disadvantaged. Eligibility requirements as well as instructions can be found on the AVM website. An application for financial aid has no bearing on the student's admission status. Financial aid applications must be postmarked by Tuesday, March 15, 2016. 2015 federal tax forms are required. Applications postmarked after March 15 will not be reviewed for financial assistance.

## Vaccination Requirements

As per Tufts Policy, we require the following vaccinations. All participants must be current on these vaccinations prior to attendance and be able to provide physician's documentation. In order to be properly prepared, if you are missing any of the vaccinations as indicated below, please be sure to follow up with your physician to ensure all vaccinations below are current.

**Tetanus Diphtheria Acellular Pertussis (Tdap):** One dose of the adult Tdap vaccine is required, unless current Td booster is less than 2 years old. If current Td booster is less than 2 years old wait to receive Tdap vaccine. (The Tdap vaccine is effective for ten years—if previous Tdap is from within the past ten years further vaccination is not required.)

**Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR):** Two doses of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine or positive antibody titers.

**Varicella (chicken pox):** Physician verification of year of disease, positive antibody titer, or two doses of varicella vaccine.

**Hepatitis B:** Three doses of hepatitis B vaccine or positive surface antibody titer.

*The hepatitis B vaccine is a three-dose series that takes six months to complete. For participants who have not already started the series, documentation for two doses of the vaccine must be submitted by your program immunization deadline.*

**Meningococcal:** One dose of vaccine within five years prior to start date.

Please contact us if you have questions or concerns about the application process.  
We look forward to receiving your application!

## Adventures in Veterinary Medicine

200 Westboro Road, North Grafton, MA 01536

Phone: (508) 839-7962 Fax: (508) 839-7952

Email: [avm@tufts.edu](mailto:avm@tufts.edu)

Web: [vet.tufts.edu/avm](http://vet.tufts.edu/avm)