



*The latest news and updates from tonight's meeting!*

GVSU Pre-Vet Club Website: <http://gvsuprevet.weebly.com/>

*Cindy Valentine*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

Photo Credit: Cindy Valentine and Mackenzie Shannon

#### UPCOMING EVENTS/IMPORTANT DATES

**PICK UP AND BUY YOUR T-SHIRTS!**

**WINTER SEMESTER DUES:  
Due Next Meeting:  
Monday February 5th**

**SEND IN YOUR EVENT OR FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE APPLICATION: Email or hand in to Ashley DeWitt (Fundraising Committee) ([dewittak@mail.gvsu.edu](mailto:dewittak@mail.gvsu.edu)) and Krissy Shoup (Event Committee) ([shoupk@mail.gvsu.edu](mailto:shoupk@mail.gvsu.edu))**

## The Road to Veterinary School

by: Alyssa DeWitt  
GVSU Pre-Vet Club Secretary

Ilissa Chasnick, the GVSU Pre-Vet Club Public Relations Officer, spoke about a suggested timeline on how to plan your four years of undergraduate to prepare you to apply to veterinary school the summer after your junior year. This included when to start studying for the GRE, when to ask for letters of recommendation, when to start the VMCAS application and much more! Please note that this is a suggested plan and advice for your four years of undergraduate education, but is not meant to be what you have to do or should do, everyone's journey to vet school is different and that's okay!

## Featured Pet



Pictured on this week's meeting minutes is Jenny, who is fostered by our President Mackenzie Shannon!

**Next Meeting: Monday February 5th**

## Freshman Year

- Settle into life as a college student
- Determine what you would like to study
  - You can apply to veterinary school with any major as long as you complete the pre-requisite courses required
  - Explore your options

## Freshman Year (Summer)

- Gain valuable experience in a wide range of areas
  - For example: Small animal, Large animal, Zoo, Volunteer/Shadowing, Internships
  - Remember to document your hours (You will need this information for the VMCAS application)
  - Check out the Excel experience hours template on the Pre-Vet Club website under the resource tab created by Kasey Forton!
- Take summer classes if you would like to get a head start on your general education courses

## Sophomore Year

- Continue to focus on your course work
- Step out of your comfort zone: become involved in clubs on campus, consider an executive board position to gain leadership skills
- Remember to give time for yourself to de-stress and stay healthy (Mental health is very important)

## Sophomore Year (Summer)

- Continue gaining a wide range of animal and veterinary experienced
- Consider studying abroad
- Create a VMCAS application account
  - You are not required to submit the application when an account is made
  - You will be able to familiarize yourself with the set up of the application for when it's time for you to apply
- Think about taking the GRE exam (Costs \$200)
  - Magoosh Online Test Prep is a great study tool
- Familiarize yourself with vet schools that you would like to apply to



## Junior Year

- Stay strong and focus on your grades, extracurriculars, and experience
- Expand your roles within campus clubs and become more involved

## Junior Year (Summer)

- Begin the VMCAS application as soon as it opens (March)
- Request transcripts to be sent early (send them at least one month prior to application deadline)
- Ask the writers of your letters of recommendation months in advance
- Take the GRE exam early enough to send it to VMCAS (take into account that you may have to send them directly to the school as well)

## Senior Year

- Do not lose focus on your school work, finish strong!
- You will begin to receive emails from schools about interviews as well as acceptances

## Senior Year (Summer)

- If you are not accepted take a gap year, gain more experience or explore other options
- Use this time to figure out your next steps and gain new experiences and knowledge
- If you are accepted take time off and spend it with family and friends

---

## Useful Resources!

- GVSU Pre-Vet Club Website (Resource Tab)
- Pre-Veterinary Student Doctor Network  
(<https://forums.studentdoctor.net/forums/pre-veterinary.73/>)
- American Pre-Veterinary Medical Association Website  
(<http://www.apvma.org/index.html>)
- APVMA Facebook Page
- AAVMC (<http://www.aavmc.org/Students-Applicants-and-Advisors.aspx>)