

Preparing for a Career as a Swine Veterinarian

Suggested Courses

All veterinary schools have a list of prerequisite courses required for admission to the veterinary medicine program. These consist of many science courses such as biology, biochemistry, chemistry, organic chemistry and physics, which are subjects that the veterinary school curriculum will build upon. Students have opportunities in both high school and college to take additional, elective classes to complete their degree program. Some of the following courses would be very helpful in the swine veterinary profession:

- **Agricultural Economics/Business**
 - Swine veterinarians work with production operations, which are businesses. They must always consider the financial impact of their recommendations and work to help clients run their businesses more efficiently and maximize profits.
 - Many veterinarians are also business owners themselves and must have an understanding of basic business principles to make decisions as they manage their clinics.
- **Agricultural Marketing**
 - Again, swine veterinarians are involved in all aspects of their clients' production operations and must therefore also understand, to some extent, the marketing principles under which clients operate when selling their commodities.
- **Communication – Interpersonal**
 - Swine veterinarians are intimately involved in the operations of their clients as trusted advisors. They must be able to interpret and interact with people of various personalities. Swine veterinarians are involved in teaching clients every day and must be able to tailor their teaching methods for different types of clients.
- **Communication – Speech**
 - Not only are swine veterinarians heavily involved in teaching producers on a one-on-one basis, they are commonly involved in giving educational presentations to groups of producers at meetings. Many swine veterinarians also present scientific talks at veterinary meetings. Therefore, it is important to have good speaking and presentation skills.
- **Computer Applications**
 - Swine veterinarians work with the latest and newest technology. They utilize numerous spreadsheet, database and statistical programs on a routine basis. They also must be able to extract production data from the various computerized record-keeping programs that are used in the swine industry. It is very helpful for swine veterinarians to have a good working knowledge of various computer software programs in order to serve their clients in a quality, efficient manner.
- **Spanish**
 - As in the entire agricultural sector, there are many Hispanic workers employed on swine farms. Since an important aspect of swine veterinary medicine is educating producers, it is very beneficial to be able to communicate well with the Spanish-speaking workforce.

