

APPLICATION TIMELINE & CHECKLIST

For Students Applying to Veterinary Schools for Entering Class 2026 (EC26)

INTRODUCTION

The instructions and timeline on the following pages are intended for GS Postbac and undergraduate prevets who plan to apply, with the support of the GS Preveterinary Committee, to veterinary school in 2025 for 2026 admission. We've packed a lot of information into just a few pages, with the goal of providing a concise summary of the key milestones and action items. For thorough and more detailed information about all aspects of the application process, see the document "Application Year Guidelines" available on the web site under the tab "Applying to Medical School" (<https://gs.columbia.edu/content/applying-medical-school>).

This document consists of two parts. The first section provides a month-by-month timeline and checklist, beginning in Fall 2024, for applying for the EC26 general admission cycle. The second describes the schedule of assurance dates by which the Postbac Program will submit committee letters of support to VMCAS.

The Preveterinary Committee is eager to collaborate with you on the important project of applying to veterinary school and we look forward to getting to know you better while doing so.

TIMELINE AND CHECKLIST FOR EC26 GENERAL APPLICATION CYCLE

FALL 2024

October 2024

- Attend one of the required general applicants meetings for students planning to apply in 2025:
 - October 21 at 2:00 pm (in person)
 - October 25 at 10 a.m. (in person)
 - October 29 at 6:00 p.m. (online)
- After attending a general applicants meeting, initiate your online internal application portfolio, complete the fields of the web forms, and begin uploading the required documents once they are ready. You can initiate your internal application portfolio here:
<https://admissions.gs.columbia.edu/apply/?pk=PI>

JANUARY 2025

January 23

- Submit your internal application by noon on this date in order to be eligible for a Preveterinary Committee Letter for EC26. Students who do not submit the internal application by this date will not be eligible for a committee letter in this cycle. Materials in this internal application include:
 - web form questionnaire responses,
 - essays,
 - a draft of your work & activities entries,
 - a draft of your common application personal statement,
 - drafts of select secondary application responses,
 - photograph (head shot), and
 - verification of clinical experience to date.

The required components of the internal application are described in the document “Essays and Uploads” available at <https://gs.columbia.edu/content/applying-medical-school>

- *Be sure to click the “Submit Application” button on the Review page. If you do not click this button, you have not submitted your internal application.*

[Postbacs only:] Apply for the Certificate in Premedical Sciences through the Student Success Portal.

Begin reading the Medical School Application Year Guidelines available at:
<https://gs.columbia.edu/content/applying-medical-school>.

FEBRUARY 2025

Schedule a portfolio review for some time between February and the end of May.

Order a set of your transcripts to review for accuracy and to use when completing the VMCAS application in May/June (you will need to reorder your Columbia transcript showing your spring grades).

MARCH 2025

Attend a personal statement writing workshop, if you have not already done  so.

APRIL 2025

- Ask faculty of spring courses and year-long courses for recommendations, if appropriate. Letters should be submitted directly to VMCAS through its eLOR system. They do not need to be sent to the GS Premedical Office or uploaded to your portfolio.
- If you plan to take the GRE, tell your GS prevet advisor when.
- Attend Application Year Panel.

MAY 2025

- [*Postbacs only*:] Attend Postbac Class Day (each postbac finishing study in the spring or summer 2025 is welcome to invite two guests). Tentative 2025 date: May 16.
- Begin to fill out VMCAS application, drawing on an accurate set of transcripts.
- Meet with the Postbac Program's writing consultant to discuss drafts of your personal statement.
- Meet with your preveterinary advisor to discuss where you plan to apply. Notify your advisor if you are applying to any non-VMCAS schools.
- If any of the schools you are applying to require the GRE, plan when you will take it and how you will study.
- Have transcripts from all institutions attended sent to VMCAS.
- Once your spring grades have been recorded, have your Columbia transcript sent to VMCAS electronically through Student Services Online (SSOL).

JUNE 2025

- June 15**
 - Submit VMCAS application and upload a PDF copy to your portfolio by June 15 at noon.
- June 30**
 - **By** this date at noon, your portfolio in the GS Premedical Office must contain the items listed below. If it is missing any of these items, you must submit an extension request by June 30 at noon.
 - a PDF copy of the common application you submitted to VMCAS.
 - Verification of veterinary and animal-related field experiences (at least 120 hours).

JULY 2025

- July 31**
 - Your portfolio must be complete by noon on this date (for those who applied for a deadline extension by June 30).

JULY/AUGUST 2025

If a school has a supplemental application separate from VMCAS, it will be sent after your VMCAS application has been verified. Aim to submit secondary applications by the first week of August regardless of the date provided by the veterinary school. (If you receive secondary applications in August, plan to submit them within two weeks.)

AUGUST 2025

August 15

- This is the date by which your committee letter will be uploaded, if you have met the relevant deadlines listed below under “Overview of Committee Letter Eligibility and Assurance Dates.”

SEPTEMBER 2025

September 1

- This is the date by which your committee letter will be uploaded, if you took the GRE by July 15 and your portfolio was complete by July 31 (with approved extensions beyond the June 30 deadline).

FALL 2025 AND SPRING 2026

Postbacs will be automatically enrolled in Maintenance of Status, a 0-credit course, unless they are enrolled in classes at Columbia during these semesters.

Please keep the status of your application at each of the schools to which you are applying current on your portfolio status page. If you have invitations for interviews, update the application tracker in Slate and schedule a mock interview with a GS prevet advisor.

After each interview:

- Complete the interview feedback form found at the link above.
- Send thank you notes to your interviewers.

Keep in touch with your advisor throughout the application year.

OVERVIEW OF COMMITTEE LETTER ELIGIBILITY AND ASSURANCE DATES

The GS Preveterinary Committee provides a committee letter of support for every student who meets eligibility criteria (outlined at <https://gs.columbia.edu/content/medical-school-letters-of-recommendation>). In order to receive a committee letter for the EC26 application cycle, students must submit an internal application (components of which are listed on p. 2 of this document) via the Slate portal by **January 23, 2025, at noon**. Students who submit by this date are eligible for committee support for EC 26. Students who do not submit by this date are not.

A student's committee letter will be uploaded either by **August 15** or by **September 1**, depending on when the student submits the VMCAS application, takes the GRE (if necessary), and has a complete portfolio on file with the Premedical Office (see the required elements of a complete portfolio below). The deadlines are shown in the table below.

If you meet these deadlines...	Your letter will be uploaded by...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VMCAS submitted by June 15 • Portfolio complete by June 30 	August 15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VMCAS submitted by June 30 <i>with approved extension request</i> • GRE taken by July 15 <i>with approved extension request</i> • Portfolio complete by July 31 <i>with approved extension request</i> 	September 1
<p>If you miss <u>any</u> of these deadlines...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit your internal application by January 23 at noon • Submit your VMCAS application by June 30 at noon • Have a complete portfolio by July 31 at noon <p>...you will not be eligible to receive a letter of committee support for the EC26 cycle.</p>	

Notes on the deadlines above:

- Students who intend to **submit VMCAS (or other common application) after June 15** must request an extension by noon on that date. A student whose request is approved will be allowed to submit the common application as late as noon on June 30.
- Students whose **portfolio will not be complete by June 30** must submit a request for an extension by noon on that date. This request must include an explanation for the delay and a proposed date by which the outstanding materials will be submitted.
- Requests for an extension to the VMCAS submission deadline, the GRE deadline, or the complete portfolio deadline should be made with the online form on Slate. Students will find the link to this form on their application status page when they log into their portfolios.
- A portfolio will be considered incomplete on July 31 at noon if it does not contain all of the following:
 - A copy of the VMCAS application that was submitted electronically to VMCAS. The only common application that will be accepted is one that has already been

submitted. You must upload a pdf of your common application to your portfolio on the internal application status page by the deadline.

- Verification of pertinent health care experience.