



APPLY SMARTER CHECKLIST 2024

Target schools that will give you the best odds of getting in and will cost you the least. Set yourself up for success with these seven steps:

- STEP 1: Determine your projected total veterinary school costs**
 - ✓ Go to the [Cost of Education Toolkit](#)
 - ✓ Explore different veterinary school programs and the associated costs
 - ✓ View the school rankings on the map from the lowest to highest cost of attendance (COA)
 - ✓ Toggle among resident and non-resident cost profiles and estimated annual increases
 - ✓ *For extra credit: Estimate your student loan costs for your selected school using the VIN Foundation [In-School Loan Estimator](#)*

- STEP 2: Focus on discounted veterinary school seats**
 - ✓ Use the [Apply Smarter Tool](#) to identify discounted seats based on your state of residency
 - ✓ [Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education \(WICHE\)](#) options
 - ✓ [Southern Regional Educational Board](#) options
 - ✓ Multi-location programs (AK+CSU, NE+ISU, UT+WSU, SD+UMN)
 - ✓ Apply to schools with discounted seats to save hundreds of thousands of dollars

- STEP 3: Increase your odds of acceptance**
 - ✓ Visit veterinary school websites to research most recent admitted class statistics
 - ✓ Research combined DVM degree programs that fit your skill set
 - ✓ Visit with your top-choice admissions offices to see how to improve your application

- STEP 4: Explore veterinarian student debt and income data**
 - ✓ [2024 AVMA Report on ECONOMIC STATE OF THE VETERINARY PROFESSION](#)
 - ✓ [AAVMC Tuition & Debt data](#)
 - ✓ [AVMA Veterinary Salary Estimator](#)
 - ✓ Bureau of Labor Statistics [for veterinarians](#) nationally and in your area
 - ✓ No “Harvard Effect” for veterinarian incomes; narrow focus to lower cost schools

- STEP 5: Have Questions? Explore the VIN Foundation Apply Smarter [Message Boards](#)**
 - ✓ [FREE VIN Foundation access](#) to participate in the special Apply Smarter Message Boards
 - ✓ Browse previous posts from other pre-vet students to learn more
 - ✓ Start a post to ask your questions. The 100,000+ VIN member veterinarians and veterinary students are here to help you on your journey

- STEP 6: [VMCAS portal](#) - your gateway to applying to most veterinary schools**
 - ✓ Application service opens in January
 - ✓ Begin selecting your programs in May
 - ✓ Deadline for submission is in September for admission the following fall



STEP 7: Take advantage of helpful resources:

- ✓ Apply Smarter [webinar recording](#)
- ✓ Apply Smarter [Q&A](#) from webinars
- ✓ VIN Foundation [Vet School Bound website](#)
- ✓ VIN Foundation [Student Debt Center](#)
- ✓ APVMA [website](#) and [Facebook Group](#)
- ✓ National Pre-Vet Club [website](#) and [Instagram](#)
- ✓ Student Doctor Network [veterinary forums](#)
- ✓ AAVMC [Veterinary Medical College Application Service \(VMCAS\)](#)
- ✓ [Federal Student Aid](#) website

Visit VINFoundation.org/ApplySmarter for more details and join the VIN Foundation on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

Questions? Email ApplySmarter@VINFoundation.org.

