

Summarized Review of Degree Program
Pre-Vet Agriculture
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Pre-Vet Agriculture (CIP 511104) is not a degree-awarding major. Rather this “major” serves as an entry point for students seeking pre-professional training, via the College of Agriculture, leading to entry into the College of Veterinary Medicine. Students cannot graduate in Pre-Vet Agriculture and our advisors work to move students from Pre-Vet to a degree-awarding major as soon as possible. When moved to other majors, students continue to work toward completion of the pre-veterinary requirements while simultaneously completing Bachelor of Science degree requirements in one of our majors. A review of the 5-year average enrollment data gives evidence to this as 68% of the students in Pre-Vet Agriculture are Freshmen and Sophomores.

This “major” does serve a critical role in the recruitment of outstanding students to K-State and again gives these students a logical entry point until they become familiar with degree programs that are compatible with the pre-veterinary requirements. While the 2001-2005 enrollment data shows a decline in enrollment from 60 to 32 students, the Fall 2006 enrollment is 67 students, Pre-Vet Agriculture is easily the major most often listed by prospective students in the College of Agriculture. Eliminating Pre-Veterinary Agriculture, even though it is not a degree-awarding program, would negatively impact student numbers and student quality in the College of Agriculture and K-State.

The statistical overview report does list an average of nine baccalaureate degrees conferred under this CIP code. These are students who have entered Veterinary School prior to completion of the baccalaureate requirements, who after two years of Veterinary School have requested transfer of credits back to the College for completion of the Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Medicine Agriculture. These students may have been Pre-Vet Agriculture students or they may have entered Veterinary School after completing the pre-veterinary requirements within one of our degree-awarding majors. Of the 59 students who received the Veterinary Medicine Agriculture degree from 2000 to 2004, 100% have completed their DVM and one has a DVM and a Master of Science degree. We request this degree completion option be continued as it presents no additional costs to the Institution and provides these graduates with an important connection back to the college where they completed their pre-professional studies.

Due to the uniqueness and value to the Institution and College, the College of Agriculture requests that CIP code 511104, Pre-Vet Agriculture be exempted from the Board of Regents review standards for the number of graduates required for a degree program.

1. Mission, Centrality and Uniqueness:

Pre-Vet Agriculture serves a critical role in the recruitment of outstanding students to K-State and again gives these students a logical entry point until they become familiar with degree programs that are compatible with the pre-veterinary requirements. Given the importance of animal agriculture to the State of Kansas, developing qualified individuals to provide animal health care is extremely important.

2. Quality of Faculty

Pre-Vet Agriculture students enroll in a wide variety of courses across the campus while fulfilling the pre-veterinary requirements. No special courses are taught for Pre-Vet Agriculture students. Over 90 % of these students are advised by faculty in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry and faculty also advise a large Pre-Vet Club student organization.

3. Quality of Students

As a program leading to a professional school, this major obviously draws very talented students with high ACT and strong academic preparation. The 5-year statistical data do reveal, however, that the Pre-Vet Agriculture program does draw a wide variety of students with varying degrees of ability and backgrounds.

4. Employer Demand

Students who complete their pre-veterinary requirements in the College of Agriculture have a strong record of performance as veterinary students. The Veterinary College's focus on Food Animal Practitioners creates an even greater need for developing a strong agriculture background in our pre-veterinary students. There is not a good tracking system to quantify the percentage of students who start in Pre-Vet Agriculture who actually matriculate to Veterinary School. While this is likely not a high percentage, students who do not proceed to Veterinary School often complete Bachelor of Science degrees in an agricultural field and help fill the strong demand for graduates in the agricultural industries.

5. Service Provided to the Discipline, the University and Beyond

Pre-Vet Agriculture serves as an entry point for students seeking pre-professional training via the College of Agriculture leading to entry into the College of Veterinary Medicine. These students are typically high quality students who are engaged across the campus.

6. Cost Effectiveness

Costs for the program are borne across the degree-awarding departments and majors. No courses are taught with a "Pre-Vet" prefix, thus students are enrolled in regularly taught courses across the campus. Advising costs are absorbed by the departments in the College with Animal Sciences and Industry providing advising support for over 90% of the Pre-Vet Agriculture students.