



Fourth-year DVM students examine a patient in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Student Scholarships

Accessible education for a world where disease knows no boundaries

The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine is preparing the next generation of veterinary, public health, and biomedical research professionals to tackle society's most pressing health challenges. To remain competitive in recruiting top talent to our programs, we must offer exceptional degree programs that have a high return on investment for students. The rising educational debt-to-salary ratio is considered one of the most serious issues facing veterinary colleges across the U.S. and the veterinary profession as a whole.

Scholarship support will play a crucial role in reducing the burden of educational debt and in providing the college with recruitment packages to attract the best and brightest students. This support will help to address issues of student access across socio-economic, racial, and international boundaries by creating opportunities for underserved populations, including first-generation students. Promoting inclusive access will also create a more diverse learning environment that mirrors the society our students will serve. Through the campaign, we aim to increase the ratio of DVM students receiving scholarships from 25% to 50%, enabling more students to make a career choice based on where and how to make an impact as opposed to what they have to do to eliminate debt.

“Generosity from donors not only has a financial impact, but eases the students’ stress levels and helps their mental wellness, which in turn allows them to focus on what they came here for: to join the greatest profession.”

- Dr. Jacqueline Pelzer,
Director of Admissions
and Student Services

VIRGINIA TECH
BOUNDLESS
IMPACT

Global experiential learning opportunities

The college is continuing to expand experiential learning opportunities for students. Our network of key partnerships gives our students hands-on experiences in regional and international programs and initiatives aimed at providing services to underserved populations and improving animal, community, and rural health.

A select number of students currently gain experience in international animal health, disease, and production through the college's global health exchanges in South America. With increased support, we aim to provide this experience to at least 20% of our students. By traveling abroad and gaining a global perspective on the growing complexities and interconnectivity of health and disease in animals, people, and the environment, our students will be positioned as future leaders in the One Health arena and prepared to make long-term impacts on the health of human and animal populations.

DVM Student debt in numbers

\$143,000+ Average DVM student debt at graduation

1/4 Ratio of VM-CVM DVM students who receive scholarship support

2:1 Debt-to-income ratio for DVMs

About VA-MD College of Veterinary Medicine

The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine is a leading biomedical teaching and research center and the in-state veterinary college for residents of Virginia and Maryland. The college is focused on the development and delivery of a One Health education, integrating multidisciplinary research and educational opportunities that provide health care solutions for animals, people, and communities. Locations include the main campus in Blacksburg, Virginia; the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Virginia; the Gudelsky Veterinary Center in College Park, Maryland; and the Animal Cancer Care and Research Center in Roanoke, Virginia. The college offers a four-year, full-time, professional Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program, a graduate degree program in Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences, a master of public health, and a bachelor of science in public health.



Scholarship support changes lives

Stephanie Lees, a member of the DVM Class of 2023, graduated from Virginia Tech in 2019 with a B.S. in biochemistry. At the veterinary college, she serves as a Student Ambassador and as the president-elect of the Companion Animal Club; she is also a member of the student chapter of the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society and the student chapter of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. She was selected as the recipient of the Mary Sue Collins Scholarship when she entered her first year at the veterinary college.

“What would I say to Ms. Collins? First and foremost, I would thank her and give her a huge hug. I would tell her that without people like her, many students may never see the potential they have at such a young age. I would thank her for inspiring the next group of professionals, whether they are teachers, doctors, engineers, or veterinarians.”

Join us.