

ANIMAL SCIENCES: INSIGHTS FOR INCOMING STUDENTS

We asked some recent Animal Sciences graduates who are currently pursuing a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree to share some of their thoughts with incoming Animal Sciences students interested in becoming a veterinarian.

Why did you decide to come to Purdue Animal Sciences?

I knew that Purdue Animal Sciences was for me when I saw how tightly knit the department was. Coming from a small rural town, thoughts of a large campus were daunting. The support and investment in every individual from the Animal Sciences department helped me overcome that fear and realize they were going to be with me every step of the way, in undergrad and beyond.

What made you want to become a veterinarian?

I wanted to become a veterinarian because of the role they serve in their communities. Our job is not only to care for and treat the animals, but to care for and assist the people who depend on them as well. To me, the impact left by these actions is the most worthwhile achievement any career can strive for.

What is your best advice for an incoming student wanting to pursue veterinary school?

Many pre-vet students come in wearing blinders, so my best advice is to take those off and realize there is more than just veterinary medicine out there as a career. Then explore those opportunities and if at the end of the day your dreams and passions are still with veterinary medicine, great! The experience gained from trying new things coupled with a strong academic performance will make you stand out wherever your path takes you.



*Levi Byrd
Indiana*

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College of Agriculture

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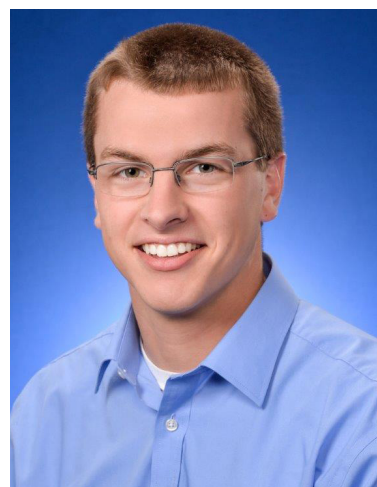
I chose Purdue Animal Sciences because of the positive interactions I had at Purdue coming up through Indiana FFA and 4-H programs. The Animal Sciences department gives students the opportunity to work hands-on with animals throughout the curriculum which is unique to other "pre-vet programs" and provided me with a solid knowledge foundation in basic science, nutrition and physiology to build on.

What made you want to become a veterinarian?

Growing up with multiple pets and around livestock, it seemed like we always needed a veterinarian. I was always amazed by the knowledge they had and their ability to problem solve and that inspired me initially to want to go vet school. As I went through my high school FFA program and Purdue Animal Sciences, I became passionate about food security issues. Being a veterinarian gives me a great opportunity to impact food security in a positive way by keeping the livestock that deliver our food supply healthy.

What is your best advice for an incoming student wanting to pursue veterinary school?

My best advice is not to spend your entire time as an undergraduate stressing and worrying about getting into veterinary school. My advice for students is to work hard to be a successful Animal Sciences student and you will be amazed that you naturally become a good veterinary applicant in the process. Do things like take the more challenging courses, get involved in a research area that interests you, travel abroad, apply for competitive internships, and take on leadership roles in clubs and organizations across campus.



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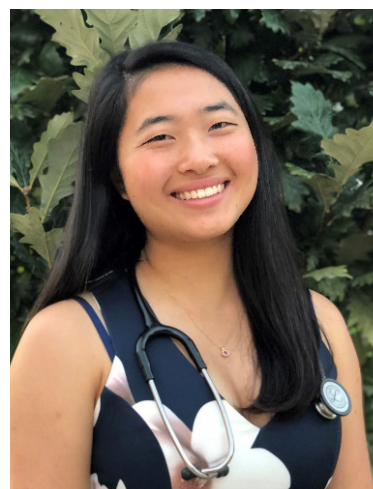
When I visited Purdue, my family and I were welcomed by wonderful people from Purdue Animal Sciences and I felt at home immediately. They left such a lasting impression that I could not wait to meet them again to tell them I chose Purdue Animal Sciences because of them! Not only was the atmosphere so friendly, but the opportunities seemed limitless. I participated in the animal sciences quadrathlon, studied abroad in Cuba, Costa Rica, and Australia, and showed a steer for the first time. Coming from a city, I knew Purdue Animal Sciences would provide me the foundation of animal knowledge for a future in veterinary medicine.

What made you want to become a veterinarian?

When I was in primary school, I wanted to be a veterinarian just because I wanted to pet cute animals all day! Now, the reason I want to be a veterinarian is to continue learning about science and medicine throughout my entire career, to be an advocate for those who do not have a voice and to create a positive impact on the world, but still, to pet cute animals as much as I can.

What is your best advice for an incoming student wanting to pursue veterinary school?

You don't need to be in vet school to start your veterinary career! Keep your mind open to new diverse experiences (animal-related or not) before vet school to build on what you were taught in classes. And enjoy every moment of it! Those experiences can help you become a well-rounded person and, therefore, a better applicant and a better future veterinarian!



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After visiting Purdue's campus, I fell in love with the tight knit community the college and Animal Sciences department seemed to offer. The fact that during my first visit I was able to meet one-on-one with people who would later be my professors amazed me, and I knew I had found the perfect fit. I knew I wanted to become a veterinarian and I chose Animal Sciences over another major, like Biology, because I wanted to experience more hands-on courses while in undergrad, and I certainly did get those opportunities.

What made you want to become a veterinarian?

I wanted to be a veterinarian since I was in first grade. After working at a veterinary hospital in high school, I knew I wanted to pursue veterinary medicine in college. During my undergraduate studies, I worked in a microbiology lab while majoring in Animal Sciences on the pre-vet track. This research experience along with some of my coursework led me to pursue a dual-degree DVM/MPH while in veterinary school.

What is your best advice for an incoming student wanting to pursue veterinary school?

Work hard in your courses and get all of the animal experience required, but also delve into the extra-curricular activities that make you happy. Everyone applying to veterinary school has the grades and the experience, but what will make you different is your devotion to something you are passionate about. Developing leadership skills in other areas will make you a well-rounded candidate and a unique classmate.



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Knowing the passion for animal agriculture that I had and my aspirations to become a veterinarian one day, I knew Purdue would be a perfect fit. During a campus visit I shadowed an animal sciences student and I fell in love with the family atmosphere. Building relationships with faculty and classmates have allowed me to find a home away from home here in Animal Sciences.

What made you want to become a veterinarian?

Growing up on a small dairy farm I always knew I would work with animals one day. My love of science and working with animals grew into a drive to contribute to the dairy industry and animal agriculture as a veterinarian.

What is your best advice for an incoming student wanting to pursue veterinary school?

Never stop learning! This goes way beyond what you learn in the classroom — learn new things from clubs, research and everything Purdue has to offer. Learn how to perfect your study methods during undergrad; knowing how to prepare for different types of classes is crucial in vet school. If you diversify your experiences and work hard on study habits you will be a first class veterinary school applicant. The hard work you will put in the next few years is beyond worth it!



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