



orientation

MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY

— BOZEMAN • MONTANA —

Pre-Veterinary Advising

Dr. Jamie Arndt BS, BVetMed, MSc
Pre-veterinary advisor and teaching professor



What We'll Cover Today

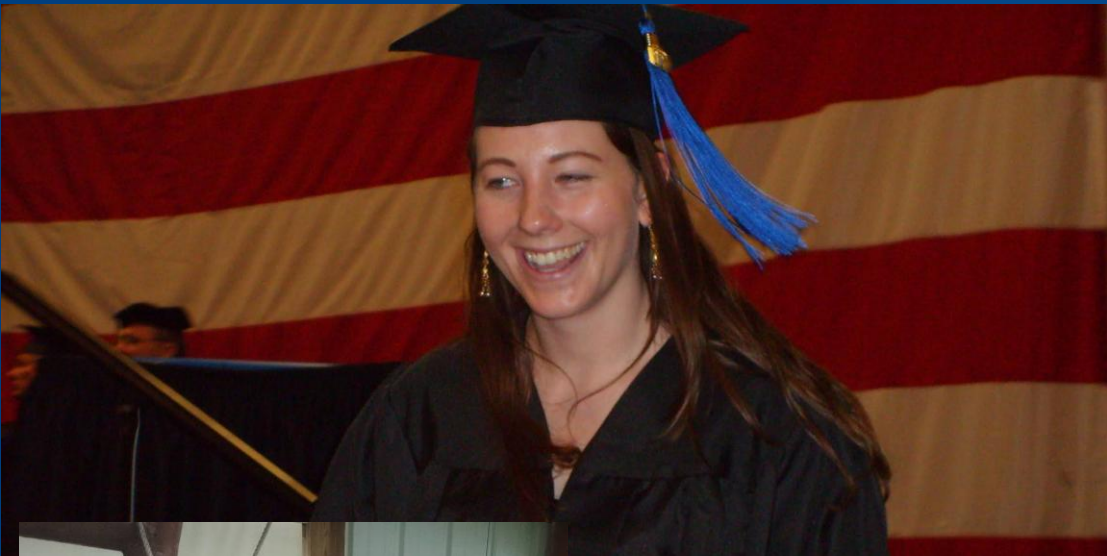
- The path to veterinarian and veterinary technician
- Degree pathways based on your interest that prepare you for vet school
- Residency and vet school
- Applying for vet school
- Pre-vet advising at MSU
- Pre-vet club

Dr. Jamie Arndt

**Pre-veterinary and faculty
advisor and teaching professor**

- Ag Student Support Office- Linfield 105/106
- jamie.arndt@montana.edu
- (406)-994-2031





Veterinarian or Veterinary Technician

Which career path is right for you?

You probably love animals, right?

What career path is right for you?



Veterinarian



Or

Veterinary Technician

Veterinarian versus Veterinary Technician

Veterinarian (DVM)

- Complete 4-year undergraduate degree and then 4 more years of professional school
- Prescribe medications, perform surgery, make diagnoses and treatment plans, euthanasia, paperwork and client communication
- Average student debt \$147,000!

Veterinary Technician

- Complete a 2-year associates degree
- Responsible for anesthesia, performing laboratory tests, radiographs, patient care, dental cleaning, and client communication
- Average student debt \$29,700!
- Program at Great Falls College!



Vet Pre-requisite courses

Complete your veterinary pre-requisites and a bachelor's degree simultaneously!

Vet School Pre-requisites

Courses required before admittance to vet school

- Often include: inorganic and organic chemistry, biochemistry, physics, calculus, statistics, genetics, biology, cellular biology, microbiology, physiology, English and humanities courses
- Pre-requisites vary by school, so look early and often!
- MSU has three-degree programs with many pre-requisites already built in:
 - Animal Science-Science Option
 - Microbiology- Pre-veterinary Option
 - Biotechnology- Animal Systems Option

Choosing your degree

Study what you love!

- Encourage students to choose a degree based on interests
- No single degree increases chance to get into vet school
- Most STEM based degrees have similar prerequisite courses- chemistry, biology, physics, math
- Look at upper division classes and ensure they interest you and think about job placement after graduation
- Over 250 options available at MSU
- Always have a back-up plan if vet school doesn't work out!

Animal Science- Science

College of Agriculture- Animal and Range Science Department

- Courses are centered around animal breeding, animal nutrition, livestock management, rangeland and plant management
- Also include veterinary pre-requisites for many vet school- some need to be taken as electives
- Graduates also go into animal nutrition, animal reproduction



Microbiology- Pre-veterinary

College of Agriculture- Microbiology & Cellular Biology Department

- Courses include microbiology, virology, parasitology, immunology and physiology
- Very flexible program that prepares you well for vet school course work
- Graduates also go into veterinary health, pharmaceuticals and veterinary technician programs



Biotechnology- Animal Systems

College of Agriculture- Microbiology & Cellular Biology Department

- Take courses in genetics, microbiology, immunology, molecular and cellular biology and research methods.
- The most flexible degree containing pre-veterinary pre-requisites allowing students to explore many upper division electives of interest.
- Graduates also go into research, regulatory agencies and graduate school.



Other Common Options

- Animal Science- Equine Science or Livestock Management
- Biological Science- Organismal
- Conservation Biology and Ecology and Fish and Wildlife
- Chemistry, Math, Cell Biology, and Business
- All require additional courses to complete pre-requisites for vet school
- **Pre-veterinary certificate**- can be added to any major to help track and complete vet school pre-requisites



Residency and Vet School Choices

Residency Affects Vet School Choices

- Most veterinary schools are part of a state university system.
- Tax dollars direct the tuition and number of seats available for in state and out of state residents.
- Students who are residents of a state with a university or cooperative program have the best acceptance and tuition rates.
- Some universities have Professional Student Exchange Programs, where students from non-resident states pay a reduced rate of tuition and have access to a small pool of reserved seats.
- Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) and Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Professional Health Degree Program are examples

Montana Residents



- MT Residents have two great options for entrance into vet school!
- **Washington, Idaho, and Montana Regional Cooperative Program**- First year at MSU, last four years at Washington State University (WSU)
- Small class size and reduced tuition rate
- Can also apply for **WICHE PSEP programs**- WSU, CSU, OSU and Midwestern University- AZ
- *Rocky Vista University*- Private veterinary university currently under construction in Billings, Montana. Admissions, accreditation and acceptance still being sorted.

Applying for Vet School



Veterinary Applications

More than just grades, experience too!



- Most apply Junior or Senior Year
- Do not need a four-year degree to apply, but strongly encouraged.
- **GPA matters**- average GPA for acceptance is 3.70!
- Vet schools also look at: Overall science GPA, Last 42 credit hour GPA, pre-requisite GPA, and curriculum and semester rigor.
- **Veterinary clinic hours (500 at least)**
- **Broad candidates**- work experience, leadership, clubs, volunteer, animal handling and research

Have a Back-up Plan

Most students apply 2-3 times before acceptance

- It's okay to change your mind!
- Pre-vet grads also pursue: veterinary technician, research, master and PhD programs, farrier, equine dentistry, chiropractics, animal massage, pharmaceuticals, nutrition and reproduction!
- We need professionals in all of these areas!



Pre-vet Profession Advising



Pre-Vet Advising at MSU

- Located in **Linfield 105/106 Ag Student Support Office**
- Professional advising to help you navigate your journey to veterinary pathways
- Work alongside Advising Commons Advisors and faculty advisors in your chosen major
- Offer advising regarding recommend pre-requisite courses and internships
- Program selection- which school is the right one for you?
- Application assistance and guidance
- Advise all pre-vet students, post-bac, and am the faculty advisor for Microbiology-Pre-Vet and Pre-Vet Certificate
- Book with me through **NavMSU!**



Ag Student Support Office- Linfield

105/106



Mandi McCarthy Rogers



Melissa Hill



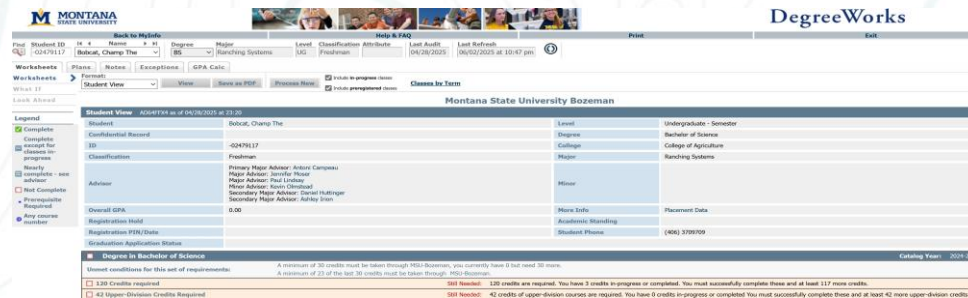
Patty Kroemer-Spiess



Dr. Jamie Arndt

New This Year!

- **Pre-Vet Passport-** an optional course through Canvas where students can complete modules to help them prepare for veterinary school applications
- **Partnership with Health Profession Advising-** for application and essay writing support!
- **New Pre-Vet Advising Website-** location for prospective and current students with resources on applications and programs
- **Pre-Veterinary Advising Blocks in Degree Works-** optional blocks that help students and advisors in all degree paths track veterinary pre-requisites while completing their degrees



Questions?

Contact information for presenters:

- **Dr. Jamie Arndt**
(406) 994/2031
jamie.arndt@montana.edu



