

Laboratory Animal Science Master's Admissions Process

Admission Requirements

- Candidates must have completed all undergraduate degree requirements and have been issued a bachelor's degree prior to matriculating as an EVMS student. If the bachelor's degree was issued by a U.S. college or university, as a general rule it should be from a regionally accredited institution. However, the program may grant exceptions on a case-by-case basis. Official transcripts from the awarding institution must specify the date upon which the degree was issued.
- All applications must have qualifying GPA of 2.5 or better (on a 4.0 scale) for consideration. We will use the better of the following three possibilities:
 - Actual undergraduate GPA (foreign degrees considered on a case by case basis – see Bachelor's Degree information below)
 - Completed U.S. or Canadian graduate degree GPA or a second degree with better GPA
 - Program may use a replacement GPA computed from the last 2 semester credit hours of all coursework, last 2 semesters' science courses, or overall science GPA.
- Minimum of 3 months or 500 hours of hands-on experience in the laboratory animal field or 1500 hours of hands-on experience in general animal field, as described in technical skills.
- Two letters of reference, one of which must verify the minimum hands-on animal experience requirement.
- Personal statement outlining the applicant's academic and professional goals.

International Applicants/Additional Procedures

English proficiency test

- International students, or applicants whose native (primary) language is not English, must take the TOEFL and receive a score equal to or greater than 550 for the paper-based test, or 213 for the computer-based test, or 80 for the iBT exam.
- Note: If the candidate has received a BS or graduate degree from a college or university in a country where English is the primary language (like the US, Canada and UK), applicants could request for the TOEFL requirement to be waived by the Program Director or the Admission Committee.

Transcripts/Translation

- If the academic institution does not issue documents in English a word-for-word translation must be obtained. University Language Services (ULS) at www.universitylanguage.com is a suggested resource for transcript translation. A copy of the translation must be sent to the credentialing agency as well as EVMS Office of Admissions & Enrollment.

Credentialing and Evaluation

- International students who have attended colleges and/or universities outside of the United States must have their official transcripts credentialled and evaluated. The following two agencies are suggested resources: www.wes.org or www.ece.org/. A course by course evaluation with GPA calculation and degree conferred is sent to the Director of Admissions & Enrollment.
- Another official copy of the transcripts must be submitted to the EVMS Office of Admissions & Enrollment.

Application Cycle

- Please note: MLAS program starts with regular EVMS fall semester (currently second week of August)
- Application cycle starts by mid-October of each year and continues to early application due date at the end of February. All applications submitted and completed during this time will be reviewed in March admission committee meeting.
- Following applications will be collected and reviewed monthly until end of July.
- The requisite documents as outlined above are required in our office before each meeting to the end of the deadline.
- Applications and other documents are distributed to and will be reviewed by the admission committee members before the meeting.
- During the admission committee meeting, members review the applicants to make decisions about offers.

Admission Committee Procedures

- Committee members: the MLAS program and veterinary directors and at least one member of the LAS Program faculty. The directors are permanent members and the floating faculty member serves for 3 years.
- The members score the essay and letters of recommendation and rank the applications based on the application profile, taking into consideration the GPA and field specific experience.
 - Essay scoring: Essay will be scored in following 4 categories of Organization (O), Mechanical/ Grammar (MG), Content (C) Career Potential (CP) for 5 points per the four categories for a total of twenty points possible based on the 4 below criteria of Criteria: Inadequate, Needs Improvement, Adequate and Professional quality.
 - Letters of Recommendation will be scored for a total of 10 /each based on following scale. No basis for Judgment category scores may be distributed to numbers of other categories.
 - Example: If applicant receives 2 No basis for judgment, the remaining 15 categories will have total of 8.5 points.
 - Applicant total bachelor GPA will be scored for total of 20 points based on following scale.
 - Applicant total related field experience, education and certifications will be considered for a total of 10 points.

Applicant Essay Grading Rubric	Points			
	Inadequate (2 points)	Needs Improvement (3 points)	Adequate (4 points)	Professional Quality (5 points)
Organization	There appears to be no organization of the essay's contents.	Organization of the essay is difficult to follow, due to inadequate transitions and/or rambling format.	The essay can be easily followed. A combination of the following is apparent: Basic transitions are used; a structured format is used.	The essay can be easily followed. A combination of the following is apparent: Effective transitions are used; a professional format is used.
Mechanical/Grammar	Sentences and paragraphs are difficult to read and understand due to poor grammar or mechanics.	The essay contains numerous grammatical and mechanical errors.	The essay contains minimal grammatical or mechanical errors.	The essay is clear and concise and contains no grammatical or mechanical errors.
Content	The essay content is not applicable to the field.	The essay includes minimal content applicable to the field.	The essay includes a good level of content applicable to the field.	The essay includes a superior level of content applicable to the field.
Career Potential	The essay shows no connection to a career potential.	The essay shows some career potential.	The essay shows an elevated level of career potential.	The essay shows a superior level of career potential.

Overall GPA Rating Scale	
GPA	Points
4	20
3.8 – 3.9	18
3.5 – 3.7	16
3.2 – 3.4	14
2.9 – 3.1	12
2.6 – 2.8	10
2.4 – 2.5	8
2.3	6
2.2	4
2.1	2
2.0 and below	0

Overall Rating Scale	
Category	Points
Overall GPA	20
LOR 1	10
LOR 2	10
Essay	20
Experience	10
TOTAL	70

Letters of Recommendation (LOR)	Points	Total
LOR Categories		
Outstanding	0.5	
Excellent	0.4	
Good	0.3	
Average	0.2	
Below Average	0.1	
No Basis for Judgment	0	
Total Number of Questions Points	17	8.5
Overall Endorsement		
Highly Recommend	0.5	
Recommend	0.4	
Recommend with Reservation	0.2	
Would Not Recommend	0	
Total Overall Endorsement Points		0.5
Additional Points		
At least 5 reasons to support applicant	1	
	4	0.8
	3	0.6
	2	0.4
	1	0.2
	0	0
Total Additional Comment Points		1
TOTAL		10

Admission Offers/Waitlists

- Once student is scored and ranked, offers are typically sent to those scoring higher until class size is reached.
 - Students who may have insufficiencies, mainly their GPA score, but have otherwise strong application score, will have their qualifying GPAs calculated. These students will also be interviewed by the committee and be requested for further information such as additional essay explaining their low GPA for decision making.
 - Those international candidates who have a low TOEFL score may be encouraged to take courses to improve their English and to retake the TOEFL.
- If class size is reached before the end of application cycle, a waitlist might be created and ranked based on the same scoring criteria as described.
- If a member of the cohort declines the offer after accepting, then the first person on the waitlist is sent an offer.
- Those remaining on the waitlist who are not made offers are given the opportunity to 1) discuss ways to improve their application and 2) to reapply for the following year, once they have made an attempt to improve their application.