

# Veterinary Student

Jennifer Reid



## PROFILE

**Education/Training:**  
Grade 12 (Agriculture Certificate)  
Pre-vet Program at Nova Scotia  
Agriculture College (2 years)  
Currently in DVM program at  
Atlantic Veterinary College

**Years Working in Agriculture:**  
5 years

**Nature of Work:**

*As a Student:*  
Classroom  
Laboratory

**In practice:**

Small animal vets are mainly in  
the clinic  
Large animal vets spend time  
on the farm

**Salary:**

*The average salary of a veterinarian  
is approximately \$69,000.*

**Job History:**

*5 summers working on dairy farms.  
Currently working in a small animal  
clinic and on a dairy farm*

**What I like best about the career:**

*"I enjoy facing new challenges  
every day. Every case will have a  
different twist that will always keep  
me on my toes. There is so much  
opportunity under the umbrella of  
veterinary medicine."*

## WHAT DOES A VETERINARY STUDENT DO?

Vet school is a 4 year program that involves 3 years of mainly theory and one year primarily in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. The courses are science related, as well as learning surgical skills. The program is fast paced and intense, but the professors are very approachable and your classmates are a valuable resource. There is a wide range of experience among students entering vet medicine.

## WHAT SKILLS ARE REQUIRED?

To apply to vet school, you must take the prerequisite courses required for the program. The courses are taken during the two years of university education prior to applying. Part of the application involves two 40-hour periods of practical experience with a veterinarian. Most students generally choose to do one period with a large animal veterinarian, and one with a small animal veterinarian, but hours with research and food inspection are also considered acceptable.

## HOW DID YOU BECOME A VETERINARY STUDENT?

I took the 2 year pre-vet program at Nova Scotia Agricultural College before applying to Veterinary College. I obtained my work experiences at Kensington Veterinary Clinic in the summer before my second year at NSAC. After I applied, I was invited to AVC for an interview. Approximately one month after the interview I found out that I had been accepted into the Class of 2009!

## WHAT DO YOU NOT LIKE ABOUT YOUR PROGRAM OF STUDY?

It is a very demanding course, both mentally and time-wise. It does cut down on the free time that you are used to having in undergrad and it is a lot faster paced, but it is possible to find a balance between the studying and free time.

## SUMMER CAREER OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS

There are student positions at AVC and many clinics. There are also jobs available that relate to veterinary medicine on farms or in zoos.

## THE FUTURE (JOB OUTLOOK)

There are job opportunities available in the Maritimes, but there is a growing demand for veterinarians in the western provinces, especially for large animal veterinarians in rural areas.

## OTHER ANIMAL-RELATED CAREERS:

Animal Health Technician  
Wildlife Rehabilitation  
Zoo Keeper  
Conservation Officer  
Fisheries and Wildlife

**"Being a large animal veterinarian allows me to help a whole herd of animals, as well as play a role in the safety of the food that is being produced for consumers."**



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