1996

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Lisa K. DeNault
Iowa State University

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New Service Dramatically Increased the Number of Applications

Lisa K. DeNault

A new, standardized process had dramatically increased the number of applications to Iowa State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine last year.

“Our college received over 1800 applications for the Class of 2000, of which over 1700 met the requirements for admission,” said Dr. Eldon Uhlenhopp, Associate Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

The college had the third highest number of qualified applicants in the nation in 1995. A total of 898 applications were received with 690 meeting the admission requirements (the college accepts about 100 students each year). Last year, the college had the highest number of qualified applicants in the nation.

The new Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS) requires the applying student to complete only one application. This standardized application is sent to as many veterinary colleges as the student wishes.

While the process may be less time consuming than filling individual applications for each veterinary college, the service is being refined. For example, many colleges sent applying students forms requesting more specific information.

“The increased numbers of applications caused problems for the admissions department,” said Dr. John Greve, chair of the veterinary college admissions committee. With the VMCAS applications, two members of the admissions department had to recalculate each applicant’s grade point and examine each application before submitting them to the admissions committee.

Despite the added work, the increased number of applications and the college’s selective process may have resulted in an unusually energized class.

“At orientation [in April], we had a great turnout,” said Dr. Greve. “Sitting in the back of the room, observing the incoming class, I could just see the enthusiasm.”

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* Lisa DeNault is a first-year veterinary student in the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

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