

Admission into the Zoo and Conservation Science major

Admission to the Zoo and Conservation Major is by application during May of each year; to graduate in four years students should apply after their first year at Otterbein. When applying for admittance into the major, students will have the option of selecting the zoo track or aquarium track. Admission into the major is the prerequisite for the hands on practicums at our partner institutions, the Ohio Wildlife Center and Columbus Zoo, and all Zoo and Conservation Science majors are required to complete two practicum courses. **The number of students accepted into the program each year is limited (the current limit is 24 students for the zoo track and 12 for the aquarium track), and thus admission will be based on a competitive application process. In order for an application to be fully reviewed, students must meet the following minimum standards:**

Application Criteria:

- Passed Bio 1010 with a C or above (or have received placement or transfer credit)
- Passed Math 1250 with a C- or above (or have received placement or transfer credit)
- Passed ZoSc 1010 with a C average or above
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.

For admission into the Aquarium Track, students are strongly encouraged to have taken ESC 1002 Marine Science. Students applying for the Aquarium Track that have not yet taken Marine Science will be prompted in the application to write a short paragraph explaining their interest in aquaria and aquatic systems.

If students do not meet the above application criteria, they are encouraged to schedule a meeting with their academic advisor, the Center for Student Success or the Director of the Zoo Science Program to discuss options on how to proceed.

Selection Criteria:

Students who meet the above application criteria may submit an application for admission that will be considered by the Zoo Science Advisory Committee. Selection into the major will be based primarily on the students' overall academic record and the ability to meet additional criteria below. Emphasis will be placed on success in science courses. Previous animal experience is not required and will only be taken into consideration in the case of a tie-breaker.

Statement on Disability Services

The University provides reasonable accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. Students seeking such accommodations should contact Kera McClain Manley, Assistant Director of the ASC and the Disability Services Coordinator, to arrange for whatever assistance you need. Disability Services is located in Room 228 on the second floor of the Library in the Academic Support Center. For more information, contact Kera at kmanley@otterbein.edu, 614.823.1618 or visit the [Disability Services website](#).

Additional Criteria:

In addition to the academic selection criteria listed above, the nature of the Zoo and Conservation Science major dictates several non-academic criteria that were developed in conjunction with our partner institutions. These criteria must be met by all students in order to keep both students and captive animals safe and unharmed.

Students must continue to meet these criteria as they progress in the major, or they risk being disenrolled or given an incomplete or failing grade in the practicum courses required for graduation. Instances of concern will be reviewed on an individual basis by the Zoo and Conservation Science Advisory Committee. Students under review will be temporarily removed from all off-campus credit-bearing experiences until the review is completed. Depending on the outcome of the review, the suspension may be lifted or continued.

Additional criteria include:

- Pass a criminal background check
- A negative TB test
- Ability to work a flexible schedule including weekends, evenings, and holidays
- Ability to work in varied weather conditions (i.e. extreme heat, cold, rain, snow).
- Self-transportation is not required, but is encouraged for students in the practicums.

Safety Performance Requirements:

Safety is essential. All students must consistently perform in a manner that does not jeopardize the safety and well-being of animals, fellow students, instructors, or themselves. Safety performance requirements include but are not limited to the following five areas:

1. **Observation:** Observe demonstrations and experiments in the basic sciences. Observe an animal accurately to identify health and welfare concerns; accurately identify medication names and dosages as shown on containers, follow veterinarian and staff orders; and perform physical assessments and restraint of animals.
2. **Communication:** Observe animals in order to elicit information, describe changes in body condition and welfare, and perceive non-vocal animal signals. Respond appropriately to emergency signals and animal vocalizations. Demonstrate written, verbal and language capabilities to keep detailed records and communicate effectively and professionally. Follow written and verbal instructions. Work independently and in small groups.
3. **Motor:** Stand for prolonged periods of time, quickly move about and transport animals during emergencies, and maneuver quickly in confined spaces. Carry equipment, push, pull, stoop, kneel, bend, and climb stairs. Lift, push and pull at least 50 pounds. Other motor skills include eye-hand-foot coordination, repetitive arm and hand movements and finger dexterity, using sterile techniques, preparing and administering medication (oral, intramuscular, intravenous) and numerous other procedures.
4. **Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities:** Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize data. Demonstrate problem solving and decision making, critical skills for animal caretakers, require all of these intellectual abilities. Collect and analyze data pertinent to an

animal's health. Incorporating new information from peers, teachers, and the professional literature is essential.

5. **Behavioral, Social and Ethical Attributes:** Emotional stability and accepting responsibility and accountability are essential. Work with and handle a variety of animals, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates. Demonstrate ethical actions related to the well-being of others. Tolerate physically and mentally taxing workloads, balance multiple assignments that may change as new information is gained, and function effectively under stress. **Demonstrate neat appearance and maintain professional and courteous behavior at all times.**