

Student 1:

In terms of classes that were useful, I think two of the most useful ones were your mammalian anatomy seminar (freshman seminar – **Comparative Anatomy and Physiology of Mammals – 81N**) and the human physiology class (**HumBio 112**). The anatomy seminar made me familiar with a lot of terms that I came to know and love during first year anatomy, so at least I wasn't seeing all of those names for the first time and had a pretty good understanding of the broader concepts of anatomy. The physiology course really gave me a very solid foundation in general physiology (very little of it was exclusive to humans and it was very well taught). Some parts of our 1st year phys course at vet school were not particularly well-taught, so I was really glad to already have a good understanding of a lot of those topics, and a lot of students referred back to the Sherwood textbook used in the Human Phys course rather than the Berne & Levy text used in vet school. I wouldn't worry too much about microbiology labs (other than getting that requirement fulfilled – for certain schools!) - the labs at A&M were very basic technique-type stuff that most people will get through Bio 44X (the Bio core lab) and through any clinic work that they have. Lastly, if anyone spends time at Hopkins Marine Station, they may want to take advantage of Barbara Block's Marine Mammal Physiology course. I didn't take that one, but others have and I know that they thought it was useful. Otherwise, I think anyone coming from Stanford will have a strong enough science background to hold their own with all the animal science majors from other schools, and we have the advantage of being used to a rigorous curriculum and being trained to think critically and work hard. First year was a LOT of material and memorization, but conceptually it was not particularly challenging.

Student 2:

So far I've learned that I'm really glad I took human physiology at Stanford: everyone is struggling with it here because the professor doesn't explain concepts very well, but I'm not having any trouble because I took HumPhys (**BIO 112**) last year. I also wish I had learned more anatomy because, although I'm super comfortable with internal anatomy, I haven't much of a clue about all the little muscles of all the limbs and their origins, insertions, actions, and all the little bony prominences... which is setting me behind A&M grads who already dissected dog cadavers in undergrad anatomy. Not that I'm doing poorly, it's just taking more effort to study. And time's a precious commodity, so the more of a jump start you can get, the better.

Student 3

The more you do to prepare for vet school before you get there, the better off you'll be and the easier of a time you'll have. For that reason I really recommend taking as many physiology, anatomy, and other relevant courses as you can while at Stanford. Dr. B's comparative mammal course (**Freshman Seminar course- Comparative Anatomy and Physiology of Mammals – 81N**) is excellent exposure, Dr. Green occasionally teaches an equine medicine course (**Sophomore dialogue- Horse Medicine 83Q**), and I know that there is some osteology course under HumBio (**HUMBIO 180**). Other good courses

that develop extremely good thinking skills are: Developmental Biology (taught by Sue McConnell and Mike Simon **BIOSCI 160**), Immunology, which I especially recommend (taught by Pat Jones **BIOSCI 230**), and Cellular Biology (**BIO core**). If you have time to go to Hopkins Marine Station, they have an EXCELLENT comparative physiology course taught by Barbara Block (**BIOHOPK 162H**) with numerous labs involving fish (you'll get to handle tuna), birds, reptiles, and mammals. Hopkins also offers a really awesome Biochemical Evolution course (George Somero) and a Neurology course (Gilly) (**BIOHOPK 300H. Research**).