



# CHASING DOWN VIRUSES WITH A GIANT Q-TIP. GOING HEAD-TO-HEAD WITH PROFESSORS IN SEMINAR.

## It's an attitude.

Anne Kimmerlein, student, pre-veterinary major

I think my first words were, "I want a horse!" Instead, my family adopted a wild donkey from the Bureau of Land Management. Then we got rabbits. And sheep. And pigs. And of course, a dog. I don't think anyone was surprised when I decided to be a vet.

Can you guess the subject of my independent research project? Horses! Dr. Hansell helped me set it up – he's in the biology department at Saint Mary's. Basically, I'm trying to isolate a virus that could be making horses sick. That means sticking a giant Q-tip up the horse's nose to collect viral DNA. It doesn't exactly make me popular with the horses, but it's for their own good.

Fifty percent of the horses I tested had the virus, even though they weren't exhibiting symptoms. We don't

really know what that means yet, but I'd like to keep the research going when I get to vet school.

I expected to love biology, but I didn't realize how great a class like Seminar could be. It was totally different from my science labs and lectures. It made me see that science, art and the humanities are all related in really important ways. And the best part? The professors treated us like colleagues. They weren't just handing down information – we were all peers having a discussion. Our opinion was just as valuable as theirs and every now and then, we taught them something.

After Saint Mary's, I'd really like to do a dual Ph.D. program in vet school. I'm ready – Saint Mary's prepared me well. One of the schools I'm looking at, UC Davis, gets 1,200 applicants and only gives interviews to 230 students. Now, I'm one of the 230.

Saint Mary's doesn't just look good on my resume. It has helped me be **competitive.**

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