MASTER OF SCIENCE IN VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH-EPIDEMIOLOGY (VPHE) AND DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE (VTMD) COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAM

Program Requirements
Master of Science in Veterinary Public Health Epidemiology (p. 1)
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in Veterinary Medicine (p. 3)

Master of Science in Veterinary Public Health Epidemiology

Program Requirements
- Student’s Advisory Committee (p. 1)
- Degree Plan (p. 1)
- Credit Requirements (p. 1)
- Transfer of Credit (p. 2)
- Limitations on the Use of Transfer, Extension, and Certain Other Courses (p. 2)
- Non-Thesis Option (p. 2)

Student’s Advisory Committee

After receiving admission to graduate studies and enrolling for coursework, the student will consult with the head of his or her major or administrative department (or intercollegiate faculty, if applicable) concerning appointment of the chair of his or her advisory committee. The student’s advisory committee for the MS degree will consist of no fewer than three members of the graduate faculty, representative of the student’s fields of study and research. The chair or the co-chair of the advisory committee must be from the student’s major department (or intercollegiate faculty, if applicable), and at least one or more of the members must have an appointment to a department other than the student’s major department. The outside member for students in an interdisciplinary program must have an appointment to a department different from the chair of the student’s committee.

If the chair of a student’s advisory committee voluntarily leaves the University and the student is near completion of the degree and wants the chair to continue to serve in this role, the student is responsible for securing a current member of the University Graduate Faculty, from the student’s academic program and located near the Texas A&M University campus site, to serve as the co-chair of the committee. The Department Head or Chair of Intercollegiate faculty may request in writing to the Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate and Professional School that a faculty member who is on an approved leave of absence or has voluntarily separated from the university, be allowed to continue to serve in the role of chair of a student’s advisory committee without a co-chair for us to one year. The students should be near completion of the degree. Extensions beyond the one year period can be granted with additional approval of the Dean.

If the chair of the student’s advisory committee is unavailable for an extended time in any academic period during which the student is involved in activities relating to an internship, thesis or professional paper, and is registered for courses such as 684, 691, 692 or 693, the student may request, in writing, that the department head appoint an alternate advisory committee chair during the interim period.

The duties of the committee include responsibility for the proposed degree plan, the research proposal, the thesis and the final examination. In addition, the committee as a group and as individual members are responsible for advising the student on academic matters, and, in the case of academic deficiency, initiating recommendations to the Graduate and Professional School.

The committee members’ approval on the degree plan indicate their willingness to accept the responsibility for guiding and directing the entire academic program of the student and for initiating all academic actions concerning the student. Although individual committee members may be replaced by petition for valid reasons, a committee cannot resign en masse.

Degree Plan

The student’s advisory committee, in consultation with the student, will develop the proposed degree plan. The degree plan must be completed and filed with the Graduate and Professional School prior to the deadline imposed by the student’s college or interdisciplinary degree program, if applicable, and no later than 90 days prior to the date of the final oral examination or thesis defense.

A student should submit the degree plan using the online Document Processing Submission System (http://ogsdpss.tamu.edu/).

A student submitting a proposed degree plan for a Master of Science degree should designate on the official degree plan the appropriate program option.

Additional coursework may be added to the approved degree plan by petition if it is deemed necessary by the advisory committee to correct deficiencies in the student’s academic preparation. No changes can be made to the degree plan once the student’s Request for Final Examination or Request for Final Examination Exemption is approved by the Graduate and Professional School.

Credit Requirement

A minimum of 36 semester credit hours of approved coursework is required for the Non-Thesis Option.

Ordinarily the student will devote the major portion of his or her time to work in one or two closely related fields. Other work will be in supporting fields of interest. When pursuing a combination degree with the Doctor
of Veterinary Medicine degree, 6 credit hours will be double counted to complete the combination degree program.

**Transfer of Credit**
A student who has earned 12 hours of graduate credit in residence at Texas A&M University may be authorized to transfer courses in excess of the limits prescribed below upon the advice of the advisory committee and with the approval of the Graduate and Professional School. Courses taken in residence at an accredited U.S. institution or approved international institution with a final grade of B or greater may be considered for transfer credit if, at the time the courses were completed, the courses would be accepted for credit toward a similar degree for a student in degree-seeking status at the host institution. Otherwise, the limitations stated in the following section apply. Coursework in which no formal grades are given or in which grades other than letter grades (A or B) are earned (for example, CR, P, S, U, H, etc.) is not accepted for transfer credit. Courses appearing on the degree plan with grades of D, F or U may not be absolved by transfer work. Credit for thesis research or the equivalent is not transferable. Credit for coursework submitted for transfer from any college or university must be shown in semester credit hours or equated to semester credit hours. An official transcript from the university at which the transfer coursework was taken must be sent directly to the Office of Admissions.

Courses used toward a degree at another institution may not be applied for graduate credit. If the course to be transferred was taken prior to the conferral of a degree at the transfer institution, a letter from the registrar at that institution stating that the course was not applied for credit toward the degree must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School.

Grades for courses completed at other institutions are not included in computing the GPA.

**Limitations on the Use of Transfer, Extension, and Certain Other Courses**
Some departments may have more restrictive requirements for transfer work. If otherwise acceptable, certain courses may be used toward meeting credit-hour requirements for the master's degree under the following limitations.

1. The maximum number of credit hours which may be considered for transfer credit is the greater of 12 hours or one-third (1/3) of the total hours of a degree plan. The following restrictions apply:
   - Graduate and/or upper-level undergraduate courses taken in residence at an accredited U.S. institution, or approved international institution with a final grade of B or greater will be considered for transfer credit if, at the time the courses were completed, the student was in degree-seeking status at Texas A&M University, or the student was in degree-seeking status at the institution at which the courses were taken; and if the courses would be accepted for credit toward a similar degree for a student in degree-seeking status at the host institution.
   - Courses previously used for another degree are not acceptable for degree plan credit.
2. The maximum number of credit hours taken in post-baccalaureate non-degree (G6) classification at Texas A&M University which may be considered for application to the degree plan is 12.
3. A zero credit 684 or 685 course is only allowed for non-thesis option master's students. A zero credit 681 course can be used for either thesis or non-thesis option master's students. Other courses, including 691 (Research) hours, are not eligible for zero credit.
4. Not more than 12 hours may be used in any combination of the following categories:
   - Not more than 8 hours in the combination of 691 (Research), 684 (Professional Internship), or SOPH 680 may be used. Under normal circumstances, non-thesis masters students may not use 691 hours on their degree plan. However, for non-thesis masters students who are using 691 hours on the degree plan, see the Non-Thesis Option section on the Program Requirements page in the graduate catalog for the degree they are pursuing.
   - Not more than 8 hours of 685 (Directed Studies) may be used.
   - Not more than 3 hours of 690 (Theory of Research) may be used.
   - Not more than 3 hours of 695 (Frontiers in Research) may be used.
5. A maximum of 2 hours of 681 (Seminar).
6. A maximum of 9 hours of advanced undergraduate courses (300- or 400-level).
7. For graduate courses of three weeks’ duration or less, taken at other institutions, up to 1 hour of credit may be obtained for each five-day week of coursework. Each week of coursework must include at least 15 contact hours.
8. Continuing education courses may not be used for graduate credit.
9. Extension courses are not acceptable for credit.
10. For non-distance degree programs, no more than 50 percent of the credit hours required for the program may be completed through distance education courses.
11. To receive a graduate degree from Texas A&M University, students must earn one-third or more of the credits through the institution's own direct instruction. This limitation also applies to joint degree programs.

Exceptions will be permitted only in unusual cases and when petitioned by the student’s advisory committee and approved by the Graduate and Professional School.

**Non-Thesis Option**
For non-thesis option students, a final comprehensive examination may be required.

The final exam cannot be held prior to the mid point of the semester if questions on the exam are based on courses in which the student is currently enrolled. If a student has completed all required degree plan coursework, the student is not required to be registered for classes in the semester the final examination is administered (unless he/she holds an assistantship). For specific final examination requirements, a student should check the program requirements for the degree which he/she is pursuing.

Exam results must be submitted with original signatures of only the committee members approved by the Graduate and Professional School. If an approved committee member substitution (1 only) has been made, his/her signature must also be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School.

A student pursuing the non-thesis option is not allowed to enroll in 691 (Research) for any reason and 691 may not be used for credit toward a non-thesis option Master of Science degree. A maximum of 4 credit hours of 684 (Professional Internship), 8 credit hours of 685 (Directed Studies), and up to 3 credit hours of 690 (Theory of Research) or 695 (Frontiers in Research) may be used toward the non-thesis option Master of Science degree. In addition, any combination of 684, 685, 690, and 695 may not
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in Veterinary Medicine

The professional curriculum in veterinary medicine is a four-year program. During the first three years, classes are scheduled on a semester basis. The fourth-year curriculum consists of 14 weeks of basic core rotations and 34 weeks of elective clinical rotations or career alternative electives or externship. The fourth-year curriculum allows students to choose a species directed career, i.e., equine, companion animal, rural/mixed animal, production, or a career alternative track.

Below is the degree plan for the MS/DVM combination program. While the individual degree programs require a total of 213 credit hours, this degree plan allows 6 hours of public health related coursework to apply for credit towards completion of both the Master of Science in Veterinary Public Health and Epidemiology and the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine professional degree.
Master of Science In Veterinary Public Health-Epidemiology (VPHE) and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (VTMD) Combined Degree Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VLCS 925</td>
<td>Diagnostic Imaging &amp; Interpretation II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VMID 935</td>
<td>Surgery</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VSCS 934</td>
<td>Professional &amp; Clinical Skills V</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VSCS 956</td>
<td>Small Animal Diagnostics &amp; Therapeutics I</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VLCS 958</td>
<td>Career-Focus Tracking I - Food Animal</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VLCS 959</td>
<td>Clinical Focus-Tracking I - Equine</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VSCS 958</td>
<td>Clinical Focus-Tracking I - Companion Animal</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Career Selective: 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VLCS 957</td>
<td>Large Animal Diagnostics &amp; Therapeutics II</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VMID 964</td>
<td>Clinical Experience</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VMID 966</td>
<td>Professional and Clinical Skills VI</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VSCS 957</td>
<td>Small Animal Diagnostics &amp; Therapeutics II</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VLCS 960</td>
<td>Clinical Focus-Tracking II - Equine</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VLCS 961</td>
<td>Career-Focus Tracking II - Food Animal</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VSCS 960</td>
<td>Clinical Focus-Tracking II - Companion Animal</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Career Selective: 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Health Selective (VIBS 988)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Semester Credit Hours | 24 |

### Spring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VLCS 957</td>
<td>Large Animal Diagnostics &amp; Therapeutics II</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VMID 964</td>
<td>Clinical Experience</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VMID 966</td>
<td>Professional and Clinical Skills VI</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VSCS 957</td>
<td>Small Animal Diagnostics &amp; Therapeutics II</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VLCS 960</td>
<td>Clinical Focus-Tracking II - Equine</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VLCS 961</td>
<td>Career-Focus Tracking II - Food Animal</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VSCS 960</td>
<td>Clinical Focus-Tracking II - Companion Animal</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Career Selective: 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Health Selective (VIBS 988)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Semester Credit Hours | 21 |

### Fourth Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Track: Alternative</td>
<td></td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Semester Credit Hours** | 207 |

---

1. Select 2 elective courses during this semester from VIBS 948 (https://catalog.tamu.edu/search/?P=VIBS%20948), VLCS 948 (https://catalog.tamu.edu/search/?P=VLCS%20948), VSCS 948 (https://catalog.tamu.edu/search/?P=VSCS%20948), VTPB 948 (https://catalog.tamu.edu/search/?P=VTPB%20948), and VTPP 948 (https://catalog.tamu.edu/search/?P=VTPP%20948).

2. Select from courses highlighting veterinary career options in public health and public policy, research, business and practice, lab animal medicine, exotics/zoo/wildlife, and avian/reptiles/pocket pets during this semester including VIBS 988 (https://catalog.tamu.edu/search/?P=VIBS%20988), VLCS 988 (https://catalog.tamu.edu/search/?P=VLCS%20988), VMID 988 (https://catalog.tamu.edu/search/?P=VMID%20988), VSCS 988 (https://catalog.tamu.edu/search/?P=VSCS%20988), and VTPB 988 (https://catalog.tamu.edu/search/?P=VTPB%20988).

3. See student program manager for a complete list of courses for the Alternative Track.

### Basic Core Rotations

- Anesthesiology (3 weeks)
- Diagnostic Imaging (3 weeks)
- Radiology (2 weeks)
- Laboratory Services (2 weeks)
  - Diagnostics
- Houston SPCA (2 weeks)
  - Animal Welfare and Shelter Medicine
- Primary Care Medicine (4 weeks)

### Available Rotations

- **Small Animal Medicine**
  - Dermatology
  - Critical Care
  - Emergency
  - Dentistry
  - Cardiology
  - Oncology
  - Internal Medicine
  - Neurology/Neurosurgery
  - Zoological Medicine and Surgery

- **Small Animal Surgery**
  - Orthopedic
  - Soft Tissue
  - Ophthalmology

- **Large Animal Hospital**
  - Food Animal Medicine and Surgery/Ambulatory
  - Equine Medicine
  - Equine Community Practice and Field Services
  - Equine Sports Medicine and Imaging
  - Equine Soft Tissue Surgery
  - Equine Orthopedic Surgery
  - Equine Theriogenology
  - Small Ruminant
  - TDCJ (Texas Department of Criminal Justice)
  - VERO Dairy Production
  - VERO Rural
  - VERO Cow-Calf Palpation
  - VERO Feedlot Production

### Alternative Career Electives

- Externship
- Vacation

---

1. All rotations are two weeks in length.

---

**Fourth Year**

The fourth-year curriculum consists of 14 weeks of basic core rotations and 34 weeks of elective clinical rotations or career alternative electives and externships for a total of 48 credit hours. The fourth-year curriculum allows students to choose a species directed career, i.e., equine, companion animal, rural/mixed animal, production, or a career alternative track.