



Who is Eligible for the Veterinary Public Health Program?

Any student that has completed a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with an undergraduate GPA of ≥ 3.0 is eligible to apply to the MPH degree program. Students must be admitted to the Graduate School at USM, and GRE scores must be submitted.

Can I combine both an MPH and DVM degree?

Yes. With good planning you can complete both degrees in four years. Career opportunities for public health trained veterinarians will continue to expand with changing world demographics, urbanization, environmental change, and land use.

Can I get an MPH alone, or before Veterinary School?

Yes. As the recognized credential for public health professionals, an MPH serves as a great terminal degree. Students in the Veterinary Public Health specialization that are accepted into the professional veterinary medicine (DVM) program after the first year can still complete their MPH degree.

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The MSU-USM Collaboration

The Masters in Public Health (MPH) is the acknowledged credential for the public health professional, recognized throughout the world. Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine is developing a partnership with the University of Southern Mississippi, who support a fully accredited MPH degree. This MSU-USM collaboration will allow students located in Starkville to complete the MPH, taking classes offered at MSU and distance from USM.

What is the MPH program at MSU-USM?

Students enrolled in the MSU-USM program may specialize in one of four areas:

- Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- Health Education
- Health Policy and Administration
- **Veterinary Public Health** — A new emphasis area

What is the Veterinary Public Health Emphasis?

The Veterinary Public Health Emphasis within the MSU-USM MPH program will provide students with the public health credentials to serve as leaders in zoonosis prevention and control programs in the US and worldwide. Students will gain an understanding of the epidemiology and ecology of zoonotic diseases in pet animal, livestock, and human populations. Students will also learn about animal production systems, the roles of companion and food-producing animals in society, food production and distribution systems, biosecurity programs, and intervention strategies. The Veterinary Public Health emphasis can be tailored for students that intend to enter the professional veterinary medicine (DVM) training program at MSU.



What Classes will I take to Obtain my MPH degree in the Veterinary Public Health Emphasis Area?

The Master of Public Health degree requires that all students take at least one course in five areas of knowledge basic to public health (15 hours): epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health sciences, social aspects of health, and health administration. For the Veterinary Public Health curriculum, emphasis area courses focus on zoonotic diseases, food safety, biosecurity, and environmental health and related issues (18 hours). To receive an MPH degree, each student must complete an approved internship (9 hours).

What Career Opportunities are Available with an MPH in Veterinary Public Health emphasis area?

Potential employers include public health agencies ranging from state Departments of Health to federal agencies such as the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the US Public Health Service; as well as international agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the World Animal Health Organization (OIE). In addition, students with specialized training in Veterinary Public Health will be competitive for public health related positions in the food processing, food service, and pharmaceutical industries. Completion of the MPH degree with a specialization in Veterinary Public Health will also help students that plan to pursue a DVM degree by providing a broader background and expanded knowledge base in the health sciences prior to entering the professional veterinary medicine program.

