

Invitation for Veterinary Students Attend Select USDA's APHIS Veterinary Services Training Courses

Purpose:

To provide high caliber veterinary students who may be interested in a career in public practice a close up look at the activities and working environment within the USDA's APHIS Veterinary Services by attending a training course.

Who can apply?

Veterinary students from any accredited veterinary school in the United States. Students must be US citizens or legal, permanent US residents. To be considered, a potential candidate will have demonstrated a concerted interest in regulatory medicine.

How many students will be selected?

One student per course and total of four students per year. No two students will be selected from the same school unless there are not enough qualified applicants

Which courses could students attend?

The following link list's courses sponsored by PDS:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/prof_development/downloads/catalog-2009/pds_catalog.pdf

The courses of greatest interest and of most benefit to the students would be those that employ a combination of lecture and wetlab. Such courses include Basic Tuberculosis, Live Bird Market, Foreign Animal Disease Practitioner (FADP), Designated Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) and Aquaculture. Students **may not apply** for the Animal Identification Coordinator's Workshop, any of the FADD courses at Plum Island, or the Veterinary Services Career Program (VSCP). Smith-Kilborne, although designed for students, may not be applied for through this application process. Each school has a very specific application procedure for Smith-Kilborne. Please see course description on the PDS course catalog for more information about Smith-Kilborne.

What year student could attend?

Any year student can apply.

I am a 4th year student and have elective blocks. Could I work the course into my curriculum?

Most courses only last between 3 to 5 days. If your school would approve such an arrangement, we could work with you or your advisor to create a project related to the course which would cover the rest of your block time so that you could receive credit

Who will pay my expenses to attend the course?

All costs for attending will be paid. These include transportation, hotel, meals and incidentals. There is no cost for attending the course. The costs will be paid for by USDA, APHIS.

What are my obligations if I attend the course?

The purpose of this course is to provide student with an opportunity to see what it is like to work with Veterinary Services. In addition to attending lectures, students will be expected to network with Federal Veterinarians outside the course. This would include attending informal or formally arranged dinners and lunches. Students will also be expected to create both a PowerPoint slideshow and a two page write-up detailing their experiences. The PowerPoint should be presented to peers at each student's respective university following his/her attendance.

What is the Deadline for Applying?

Please submit your application by **February 15th, 2009**. After that time, applications will be accepted only if spots remain unfilled.

How do I Apply?

Please email Robert.c.dickens@aphis.usda.gov the following:

- Course or courses you are interested in attending. You may apply for two courses. Please list in order of interest
- Resume including current GPA in veterinary school (MS Word Attachment)
- One page essay detailing your interest in regulatory medicine and your interest in the particular disease or topic offered at the course(s) to which you are applying. Please include in your essay any previous work in regulatory medicine and a statement of career goals. Please also outline your previous work with livestock/poultry (MS Word Attachment)

- Letter of support from a faculty member. This faculty member should be acquainted with your interest in regulatory medicine and should attest to your academic caliber (MS Word Attachment)

The following criteria will be used in evaluating applications:

- 1) The course(s) to which you apply
- 2) Class year
- 3) Demonstrated interest in regulatory medicine
- 4) GPA
- 5) Letter of Recommendation from Faculty

Other information:

- We can work with you if you would like to integrate this course into your school curriculum. In other words, if you would like to take the course as part of a two-week senior block rotation, we can discuss giving you a project for the other week of the rotation
- We will not accept two students from the same school unless we have no other applications
- No two students will attend the same course at the same time
- You may only apply to courses offered by the Professional Development Staff. Please also note that neither the Animal Identification Coordinator Training nor the FADD courses on Plum Island are part of this initiative. **You may, however, apply for the FADP course.**

The following is a link to our VS Training catalog:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/prof_development/downloads/catalog-2009/pds_catalog.pdf

If you have questions, please feel free to contact:

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