TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Veterinary Medicine
& Biomedical Sciences

MS VPHE+DVM

COMBINATION PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The joint **Master of Science in Veterinary Public Health and Epidemiology** (MS VPHE) and the **Doctor of Veterinary Medicine** (DVM) program uniquely prepares graduates to integrate knowledge from both the veterinary and public health disciplines and advance to careers in local, state, federal, and international public health agencies and in academia. Participants can concurrently complete the existing MS VPHE+DVM degrees in four years.

BENEFITS OF THE COMBINATION PROGRAM

Texas A&M University is situated in a prime location to study and train personnel on emerging infectious diseases and public health - near the border of the United States and Mexico. The Texas A&M epidemiology and public health group is committed to training the next generation of scientists to tackle current and future public health issues and work toward One Health solutions.

The MS VPHE/DVM program is specifically designed to meet the need for these well-trained personnel by preparing students to:

- understand the ecological, environmental, and social determinants of health
- conduct research
- apply management and mitigation strategies to improve health both at the individual and population levels

A student collects a sample from the nares of a horse.

Students drag cloth to collect host-seeking ticks at local natural wooded areas.

CURRICULUM

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 24 weeks of basic core rotations, 18 weeks of elective clinical rotations or career alternative electives, 4 weeks of externship and 2 weeks of vacation. The fourth-year curriculum allows students to choose a species-directed career, i.e., equine, companion animal, rural/mixed animal, food animal or a career alternative track. 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 toward completion of both the Master of Science in Veterinary Public Health and Epidemiology and the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine professional degree.

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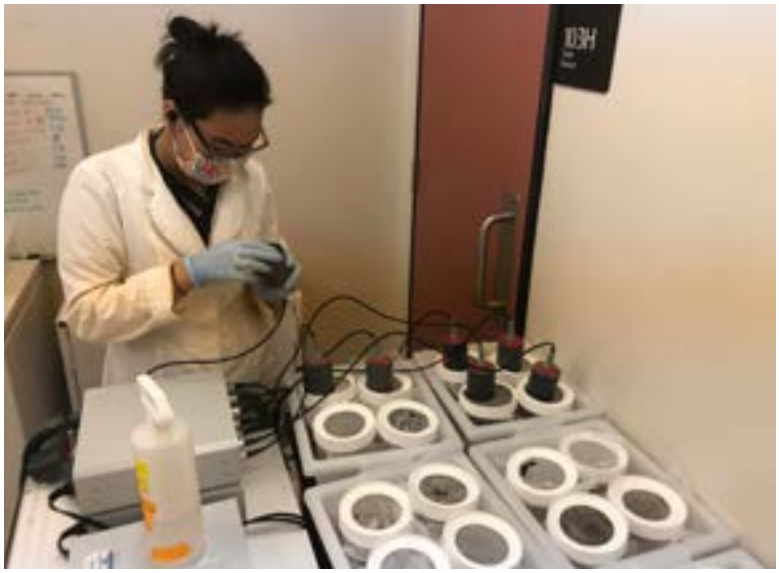
Stressors to the health of humans, wild and domestic animals, and ecosystems, including **the growing human population, globalization, increased travel, energy use, and habitat destruction**, are increasing in number and severity. The health issues caused by these stressors include some of society's biggest problems:

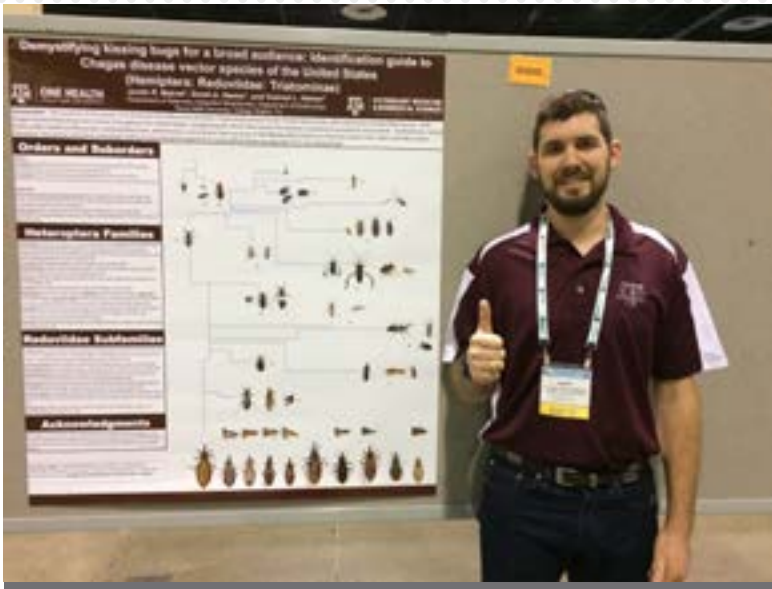
- the resurgence, emergence, and rapid dissemination of infectious diseases, especially zoonoses
- challenges for food production and safety
- concerns for biosecurity.

The veterinary and infectious disease emphasis in our MS VPHE program is specifically designed to meet these challenges, setting it apart from other MPH programs.

An epidemiology faculty member and a student collect blood from a cat for One Health SARS-CoV-2 studies.



MS-VPHE student Kewsick Killets uses an artificial membrane feeding system to provide blood meals to a colony of kissing bugs (vectors of Chagas disease).



MS VPHE student Justin Bejcek presents his research poster at the International Congress of Entomology in Florida.

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

The combined program requires separate applications to the DVM program and to the MS VPHE program. Admission into the MS VPHE program does not ensure admission into the DVM program and vice versa. The DVM application is due September 15, and applications are reviewed via the typical DVM application procedures.

You can apply to the MS VPHE program prior to, during, or after applying to the DVM program. Applications to the MS VPHE program are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis, with decisions typically made within 2 months.

If submitted as part of your DVM application, official transcripts, letters of recommendation, and test scores do not need to be resubmitted with your MS VPHE application.

For more information. **tx.ag/DVMadmiss**

For more information, please visit our program website: **tx.ag/VPHEcombo**
or contact Dr. Christine Budke at 979.458.2154 or cbudke@cvm.tamu.edu.