

MS VPHE



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

School of Veterinary Medicine
& Biomedical Sciences

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The **Master of Science in Veterinary Public Health & Epidemiology** (MS VPHE) prepares students for leadership roles in epidemiological study design, evaluation, and professional research, in both animal and human populations. Career opportunities for program graduates include positions in county or state health departments, vector control programs, and federal agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In addition, students have enrolled in veterinary school, medical school, or PhD programs upon completion of the MS VPHE degree.

BENEFITS OF THE 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 emerging public health issues and work toward One Health solutions.

The MS VPHE 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

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



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



Epidemiology & Public Health students have opportunities to gain experience in research labs on campus.



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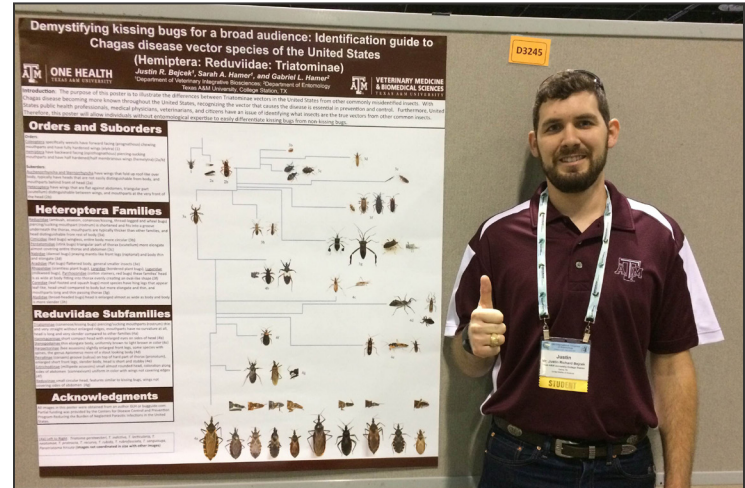
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CURRICULUM

The degree can be completed in 1.5-2 years, and is offered as either a thesis (32 credit hours) or non-thesis (36 credit hours) option. Core program requirements include courses in statistics, epidemiologic methods, and participation in an epidemiology seminar series.

In addition to traditional classroom training, the MS VPHE degree program encourages students to participate in a directed studies project or professional internship. Directed studies projects engage students in the field of epidemiology and public health with hands-on laboratory or field experience.

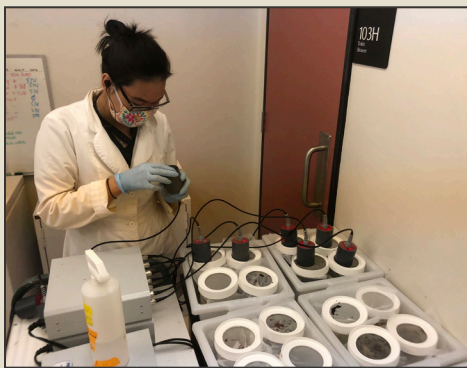
Enrolled students have a primary advisor in addition to a graduate committee of at least 2 additional members.



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

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Applications to the MS VPHE program are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis, with decisions typically made within 2 months. In general, we recommend that prospective students apply in October for a starting date the following fall semester (i.e. almost one year in advance of the proposed start date). The GRE is currently being waived for all applicants.



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).



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



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

For more information, please visit our program website: vetmed.tamu.edu/epidemiology or contact Dr. Christine Budke at 979.458.2154 or cbudke@tamu.edu.