

## What is Veterinary Public Health?

Veterinary public health is defined by the World Health Organization as "the sum of all contributions to the physical, mental, and social well-being of humans through an understanding and application of veterinary science."

Public health is a multidisciplinary specialty engaging professionals in epidemiology, administration, and many other fields to promote healthier and longer lives. Likewise, veterinarians play an integral role in public health and are employed in many areas.

"Because we live in a global community, the public health role of the veterinarian has never been more important," says Dr. Michael Blackwell, former dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

All veterinarians are engaged in some aspect of public health. Public health veterinarians address food safety, food and animal production, zoonotic diseases, diseases foreign to the United States, bio- and agro-security, public policy, emergency preparedness, environmental health, immunizations, disease investigations, and other programs directly aimed at human health.



## MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCENTRATION IN VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

### For further information

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PROMOTING HEALTHIER AND LONGER LIVES



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## The UT Master of Public Health Program

Mission Statement: The graduate public health program at the University of Tennessee provides quality education and leadership to promote health in human populations through interdisciplinary instruction, research and community service.

The UT MPH program is the first nationally accredited program outside a school of public health and has maintained full accreditation since 1969. Students may focus on one of three concentrations: community health education; health planning and administration; or veterinary public health. The curriculum consists of 42 semester hours:

### Core Courses (17 semester hours)

- Environmental and Occupational Health
- Public Health Policy and Administration
- Biostatistics
- Principles of Epidemiology
- Health and Society
- Graduate Seminar in Public Health

### Concentration and Electives

(19 semester hours)

### Field Practice/Internship or Master's Essay

(6 semester hours)

Students enrolled full-time can finish the degree in one and a half to two years. Veterinary students may complete much of the course work in parallel with their veterinary curriculum but may need additional time for field practice and/or further course work after receiving the DVM degree.



### Veterinary Public Health Concentration

In an effort to serve the growing demand for veterinarians skilled in public health, the UT College of Veterinary Medicine has partnered with the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences to offer the Master of Public Health degree with concentration in veterinary public health.

The VPH concentration is open to graduate veterinarians and students enrolled in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Most public health courses are offered in the evenings and summers to allow veterinary students the opportunity to complete much of the graduate program in parallel with their veterinary education.

The Master of Public Health degree will prepare veterinarians to sit for the certifying examination of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, once the qualifying criteria are met.



## Where Are Public Health Veterinarians Employed?

- Government
- State and Local Health Departments
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Food and Drug Administration
- United States Department of Agriculture
- National Institutes of Health
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Uniformed Services
- Academic Institutions
- Non-profit Organizations
- International Organizations
- World Health Organization
- Pan American Health Organization

## How to Apply

Graduate veterinarians apply directly to the Graduate School and the MPH program. Veterinary students at UT may apply to the MPH program or enroll in core public health courses during their first year. Students must be accepted in the MPH program to take more than 10 hours of public health courses. Enrollment in some courses may be limited to students admitted to the public health program.

## For Application Materials

**The UT Graduate School:**  
<http://gradstudies.utk.edu/appro.shtml>

**The UT Public Health Program:**  
[http://hes.utk.edu/grad/public\\_health.html](http://hes.utk.edu/grad/public_health.html)

**MPH Application Deadlines**  
October 1 for spring semester  
February 1 for summer semester  
April 1 for fall semester