

Approved by the Board of Trustees  
January 16, 2020

Board Meeting  
January 16, 2020

ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF VETERINARY SCIENCE IN LIVESTOCK  
SYSTEMS HEALTH, COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND THE  
GRADUATE COLLEGE, URBANA

**Action:** Establish the Master of Veterinary Science in Livestock Systems Health, College of Veterinary Medicine and the Graduate College

**Funding:** No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Graduate College to establish the Master of Veterinary Science in Livestock Systems Health.

The proposed Master of Veterinary Science degree with a major in Livestock Systems Health (MVS in LSH) will increase the depth and breadth of professional knowledge for currently practicing veterinarians by providing a holistic approach to animal health and disease management in livestock production systems. Forgoing the traditional focus on individual animals, the MVS in LSH will redirect veterinarians to consider animal health challenges at the population and systems levels, with particular focus on the economic and food safety/public health aspects of disease management and prevention. By targeting graduates with a Doctorate or Bachelors of

Veterinary Medicine, the proposed program targets a unique audience unreached by existing programs on campus. The MVS in LSH is designed in recognition that the impact of livestock disease on food production is a global issue that veterinarians in many non-U.S./European countries are unaware and inadequately trained in systems-based approaches to health management and disease prevention.

Changes in animal-based food production have resulted in a significant and growing shortage of individuals around the world who have the necessary systems-based veterinary and scientific skills to work in the intensive animal-based food production industry. In parallel with the growth in the livestock industry, there has been expansion of the companion animal population in established economies such that the majority of veterinarians now work in companion animal health care. The change in demand for veterinary services has resulted in a shift in university curricula toward companion animal medicine. The proposed program directly addresses the need for highly specialized post-graduate training opportunities for those veterinarians employed in intensive livestock production systems in North American, European, and developing markets. By completing the proposed MVS in LSH, graduates will acquire and demonstrate knowledge and decision-making skills that will enhance their veterinary careers and meet the growing global workforce demand for systems-based veterinary scientists.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The*

*General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.