Approved by the Board of Trustees

May 22, 2025

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Board Meeting

May 22, 2025

ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF VETERINARY SCIENCE IN APPLIED VETERINARY SCIENCES, COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, URBANA

**Action:** Establish the Master of Veterinary Science in Applied Veterinary Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine and the Graduate College

**Funding:** No new funding required

The chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and vice president, University of Illinois System, with the advice of the University of Illinois 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 Applied Veterinary Sciences (MVS in AVS).

The proposed MVS in AVS is a crucial step toward addressing significant knowledge gaps for veterinary professionals. Currently, the College of Veterinary Medicine’s MVS in Livestock Systems Health, which attracts a diverse group of students working within the livestock industry, helps address this gap as it relates to the traditional livestock production specialization area. The new major in Applied Veterinary Sciences is designed to align with the educational backgrounds of students entering the animal health industry. It will allow them to enhance their existing knowledge, skills, and abilities through a customized educational experience and empower them to make a significant impact in their own careers and within the broader field of animal health.

Applied veterinary scientists play a critical role in society, ensuring the health and welfare of animals. They play a vital role in safeguarding public health by controlling zoonotic diseases and ensuring the safety of the food supply by overseeing animal health. Veterinary scientists assist wildlife conservation efforts, protecting biodiversity and contributing to controlling invasive species and addressing ecological challenges related to human activity. They contribute to biomedical research. By optimizing the health and productivity of farm animals, veterinary scientists help promote sustainable agriculture, ensuring a reliable supply of food while minimizing environmental impact.

Funding from the provost’s Investment for Growth Program enabled the creation of the College of Veterinary Medicine’s i-Learning Team, which supports the MVS in Livestock Systems Health and will support the MVS in AVS. This team consists of an academic advisor, instructional designers, media producers, medical illustrators, administrators, marketers, and allocation of faculty appointments to develop and deliver courses. The teams’ salaries are paid through tuition revenue in a self-supporting model. Faculty have had their appointments strategically adjusted, modifying their clinical obligations, to ensure they are able to allocate sufficient time to teach in the existing MVS in Livestock Systems Health program. The courses within the proposed MVS in AVS are taught by these faculty, and there is no alteration in the faculty teaching load. MVS in AVS students will use existing advising and career placement resources, no new facilities or adjustments to existing facilities are necessary, and the University Library’s resources are sufficient to support the program.

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 of Illinois System recommends approval. This action is subject to further review by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.