

**Agreement for Cooperative Admissions Program  
for Students Interested in Rural Veterinary Medicine  
between  
Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine  
and  
Department of Animal Science  
College of Agricultural Sciences  
University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez**

**The Program:**

Through the Cooperative Admissions Program for Students Interested in Rural Veterinary Medicine (PROGRAM) between the Department of Animal Science of the College of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez (DEPARTMENT) and Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine (MSU-CVM), undergraduate students who seek a career in the practice of food animal and/or rural veterinary medicine will be provided an opportunity for pre-selected admission into the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree program at MSU-CVM.

Selected undergraduate students will be current students in the DEPARTMENT and follow the Program of Studies in the Pre-Veterinary or the Animal Science curricula outlined by the DEPARTMENT. Students in good standing will apply for admission to MSU-CVM at the end of their third year of study. Matriculation to the DVM program would follow completion of their bachelor of sciences degree at the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez and acceptance by the MSU-CVM Admissions Committee.

Upon acceptance of the proposed agreement by both the DEPARTMENT and MSU-CVM, MSU-CVM agrees to offer admission to its DVM program to up to **two (2) PROGRAM students** per year.

Selection of students will be the responsibility of the DEPARTMENT. Admission to the PROGRAM will be competitive and based on the qualifications of the applicants. The College of Veterinary Medicine will not invite students unless he/she meets MSU-CVM's minimum academic standards and he/she is recommended by the DEPARTMENT's Selection committee. Both the Admissions Committee of MSU-CVM and the DEPARTMENT's Selection Committee must agree that the students are appropriate for matriculation into the DVM program at MSU-CVM.

**Admission to the PROGRAM does not guarantee admission to the DVM program at MSU-CVM.**

**Dismal from the PROGRAM will not preclude the student from applying to MSU-CVM through the regular admissions process.**

## Part 1: Selection of students

### General information


1. Applicants must be full-time students in the DEPARTMENT
2. Students will apply at the end of spring semester of their first year in the DEPARTMENT
3. Students will be selected during summer semester by the DEPARTMENT's Selection Committee.
4. A maximum of two (2) seats will be reserved each year
5. One alternate will be selected each year.

### Admission into the PROGRAM by the DEPARTMENT

Selection of students for admission to the PROGRAM will be the responsibility of the DEPARTMENT's Selection Committee with agreement of the MSU-CVM Admissions Committee.

The Admissions Committee of MSU-CVM may be consulted for advice on developing selection criteria and/or selection of applicants to the PROGRAM. In the event the DEPARTMENT wishes to alter the criteria set forth in this document, those alternations must be approved by MSU-CVM.

### Selection Committee



The members of the Selection Committee will be chosen by the Chair of the DEPARTMENT and ratified by both the Dean and Director of the College of Agricultural Sciences and the Chancellor of the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez. The DEPARTMENT is encouraged to include one or more practicing veterinarians who are familiar with the needs of rural veterinary medicine. The Admissions Committee of MSU-CVM will approve the designated committee.

### Selection Criteria

1. GPA
  - a. Must meet minimum GPA required by the CVM
  - b. Minimum grades in pre-requisite courses of 2.0, or as required by CVM
  - c. Completion of all suggested first-year courses in the Program of Studies in Pre-Veterinary curriculum or a curriculum approved by the Selection Committee
2. Minimum Admission Index (IMI) Scores
3. Difficulty of course work and course load
4. Leadership and extracurricular activities
5. Personal statement of intent
6. Three letters of recommendation

- a. One must be from a faculty member in the Department of Animal Sciences, one from a practicing food animal or mixed-animal veterinarian, and the third may be of candidate's choice.
7. List of Animal experience/veterinary experience/industry experience
  - a. These may be farm background, participation in 4-H or FFA, experience with a food animal or mixed-animal veterinarian, research related to food animals, or other similar experience such as work on a poultry farm, agribusiness, or government agency such as USDA-APHIS, FSIS, or ARS.
8. A personal interview with two or more faculty from the DEPARTMENT'S Selection Committee

### **Part 2: Requirements for students accepted into the Cooperative Admissions Program for Students Interested in Rural Veterinary Medicine**

1. Each student will be assigned at least two advisors from the DEPARTMENT. One advisor must be a veterinarian.
2. Students should meet with their advisors once per semester. The student must submit a course of study to the co-advisors for approval
3. The student must maintain a minimum of a 3.3 accumulative GPA and a 3.2 GPA in required math-science courses.
4. The student must maintain grades of at least 2.0 in required CVM pre-requisite courses
5. The GRE<sup>®</sup> General Exam must be completed prior to October 1 of the year preceding matriculation to the CVM
6. Students will be required to complete two approved externships prior to matriculation
7. Students must demonstrate continued interest in food animal medicine or rural veterinary medicine through activities and course of studies
8. Students must continue to make satisfactory progress towards bachelor of science degree
9. Students are encouraged to attend Pre-Veterinary Circle and Animal Science Student Association meetings and events whenever possible.
10. The DEPARTMENT'S Selection committee will evaluate students annually for satisfactory progress. Students who fail to meet requirements will be excused from the program and the alternate will fill their position

### **Part 3: Final Admission to MSU-CVM**

1. **Final approval prior to admission to MSU-CVM is the responsibility of the Admissions Committee of MSU-CVM**
2. Meet minimum requirements for GPA as required by MSU-CVM
3. Submit an application through Veterinary Medical College Application (VMCAS)
4. Completion of all prerequisite courses
5. Completion of requirements for the bachelor of science degree
6. Demonstrate oral and written communication skills in English

7. An interview conducted face-to-face or via video link with members of MSU-CVM's Admissions Committee
8. Letter of approval from the DEPARTMENT's Selection Committee


Admission to the PROGRAM does not guarantee admission to the DVM program at MSU-CVM.

**Program Review**

In order to evaluate the success in maintaining excellence in the program, the chair of the MSU-CVM Admissions Committee and a member of the DEPARTMENT will review the program at intervals of no greater than five years. Either institution may request the review at shorter intervals. This agreement may be terminated by either party upon written notice to the other party.

  
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Dr. Jerome A. Gilbert  
Provost  
Mississippi State University

4-9-12  
Date

  
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Dr. Jorge Rivera Santos  
Chancellor  
University of University of Puerto Rico  
Mayaguez

Nov. 22, 2011  
Date

*Addendum – University of Puerto Rico – Contractual Clauses*

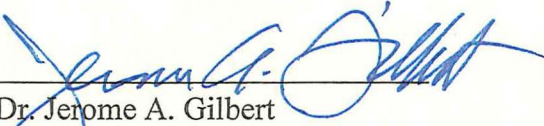
Agreement for Cooperative Admissions Program for Students Interested in Rural Veterinary Medicine between MSU-CVM and Department of Animal Science, College of Agricultural Sciences, UPRM.

1. The two parties state that in their practices and proceedings there will be no discrimination on the basis of sex, race, color, place or date of birth, nation origin, social status, physical or mental handicap, political or religious beliefs, or status as a military veteran.
2. The two parties are committed to maintaining records of all reports, timesheets for jobs or assistantships, and all other documents related to the services discussed in this Agreement, in order that they be available for examination or copying by the Office of Internal Auditors of the University of Puerto Rico, or by the Office of the Comptroller of Puerto Rico in its auditing of the University of Puerto Rico. Audits will be carried out at reasonable times during the course of the services or after their completion, in accordance with generally recognized auditing practices. Said documents will be kept for a period of no less than six (6) years or until the Office of the Comptroller of Puerto Rico has made its investigation, whichever occurs first.
3. MSU-CVM shall not use the name of the University of Puerto Rico, its initials UPR, its stamp, logos, seal, or any other identifying emblem or symbol distinctive of the Institution, for any matter related to the activities that are object of this agreement, without express and written authorization by the University of Puerto Rico. The Department of Animal Science, College of Agricultural Sciences, UPRM, shall not use the name of Mississippi State University, its initials MSU, its stamp, logos, seal, or any other identifying emblem or symbol distinctive of the Institution, for any matter related to the activities that are object of this agreement, without express and written authorization by the University of Puerto Rico.
4. MSU-CVM certifies and guarantees that during the performance of this agreement it will comply with the Executive Order 1 1246 of September 24, 1965, Subpart B, Section 202 (41 CFR 60-1.4); the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 (41 CFR 60-250.5); the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 503 (41 CFR 60-741.5), all as amended, and any other appliance rules and regulations of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP). MSU-CVM is therefore deemed to have complied with these regulations, unless otherwise exempted under the rules, regulations and orders of the Secretary of Labor. MSU-CVM recognizes that the absence of truth in this statement will constitute sufficient cause for the University of Puerto Rico first to cancel, terminate or suspend, in whole or in part, this agreement and that MSU-CVM may be declared ineligible for further agreements with the University of Puerto Rico. MSU-CVM also certifies that it has a valid Assurance of Compliance on file.

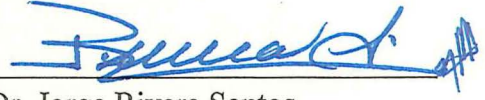


MSU-CVM

UPR-Mayaguez Campus



Dr. Jerome A. Gilbert  
Provost and Executive  
Vice-President



Dr. Jorge Rivera Santos  
Chancellor