APPROVAL FORM FOR

DEGREE PROGRAMS

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

NOTE: This form is a cover sheet that must accompany the degree program change proposal. The actual proposal should be prepared in accordance with format requirements provided in the *Guide and Format for Curriculum Proposals* published by the UCCC. Both cover sheet and proposal should be submitted to UCCC Mail Stop 9702 (281 Garner Hall), Phone: 325-9410.

College: Veterinary Medicine **Department:** Clinical Sciences

Contact Person: Dr. Kristie Chavez **Mail Stop:** 9825 **E-mail:** krc43@msstate.edu

Nature of Change: New Program **Date Initiated:** 01/06/2025

Current Degree (BS, MS, etc.): Certificate

Current Major: Veterinary Medicine

Current Concentration(s):

Current Campus(es): ☑ Starkville ☐ Meridian ☐ Distance ☐ Gulf Coast*

*Gulf Coast campus for Bagley College of Engineering onl

New Degree (BS, MS, etc.): Certificate

Effective Date:

Semester	Year
Fall	2025

Proposed Major: Veterinary Medicine

Proposed Concentration(s):

**Any new program or modification desiring a starting semester other than fall must include a justification

Proposed Campus(es)

☑ Starkville
☐ Meridian
☐ Distance
☐ Gulf Coast*

*Gulf Coast campus for Bagley College of Engineering c

Summary of Proposed Changes:

The MSU College of Veterinary Medicine is proposing to add a Certificate in Rural Veterinary Practice. This certificate targets currently enrolled DVM students and provides training in technical (spectrum of care treatment and diagnostic approaches) and non-technical skills (veterinary business management and communication) essential for success in a mixed animal rural veterinary practice. Students will gain skills and confidence to engage in rural practice and may ultimately choose rural practice as a career.

Approved:	Date:
Dr. Andrew Mackin Digitally signed by Dr. Andrew Mackin Date: 2025.01.03 07:40:57 -06'00'	01/03/2025
Department Head	
Director of Academic Quality	1/8/2025
George Horsell III	1/13/2025
Chair, College or School Curriculum Committee	
Nick Frank Digitally signed by Nicholas Frank, DVM, PhD, DACVIM DN: cn=Nicholas Frank, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, o=Mississippi State University, ou=College of Veterinary Medicine, email=nicholas.frank@msstate.edu, c=US Date: 2025.01.14 13:56:57 -06'00'	
Dean of College or School	
Chair, University Committee on Courses and Curricula	
Chair, Graduate Council (if applicable)	
Chair, Deans Council	

FOR OIRE USE ONLY

- ☐ Substantive Change to SACSCOC
- ☒ Notification to SACSCOC
- ☐ No significant departure

OIRE Representative Initials

PROPOSED New Degree

Degree: Professional Certificate in Rural Veterinary Practice
Major: Veterinary Medicine
Concentration:

New Degree Description

CVM Professional Certificate in Rural Veterinary Practice. Prerequisites: Enrollment in the DVM program and consent of Director. Students must enroll prior to entering DVM year 3. Fifteen credit hours earned within the DVM program. The certificate is designed to provide training in technical and non-technical skills essential for long-term success in rural veterinary practice.

Rural America makes up 97% of the US land area and is home to 18% of the population. In Mississippi, 65 of the 82 counties are considered rural, and are home to over 50% of Mississippians. Rural areas are characterized as economically poorer, with inhabitants being older and less educated than urban counterparts. Businesses in rural areas must acknowledge and address these population characteristics.

Livestock production is a major industry that occupies rural America and is essential for US food and economic security. Additionally, rural communities have higher levels of dog ownership than urban centers, placing a larger burden on rural populations for companion animal care. There is a widely acknowledged shortfall of veterinarians in rural areas of the US. This shortage situation negatively impacts animal and public health and animal welfare. It compromises animal disease control and response, endangering the national food supply and creating economic peril should a high consequence disease be introduced. Professional DVM students mirror the nation demographically in that they are largely from urban areas, with limited exposure to rural conditions. To serve the state of Mississippi and the nation MSU CVM proposes to offer a certificate program to professional DVM students to specifically meet the needs of rural veterinary practices. The goal of the Rural Veterinary Practice Certificate Program is to provide exposure to technical and non-technical skills essential for long-term success in rural veterinary practice. It is expected that students will gain the skills and confidence essential to engage in rural practice and that ultimately more students will choose rural practice as a career. Students must maintain good standing in the DVM program for entry to the Rural Veterinary Practice Certificate Program and must maintain good standing through completion.

Proposed Curriculum Outline	Required Hours
Required Coursework: CVM5692 Veterinary Art and Business Management (2 credits) (Prerequisites: Consent of Instructor). Two hours lecture. Lecture, group discussion, and focused independent study of the art and business of veterinary medicine. This course will emphasize non-technical veterinary skills. (Phase 2 elective).	10 total required credits

CVM 5294 Enhanced Clinical Practicum (4 credits) Supervised clinical rotation at approved veterinary practices throughout the US where veterinary students participate in all aspects of veterinary practice to enhance understanding of previously learned medical concepts and skills. Must be mixed animal caseload, ≥ 30% farm animal, and located in a rural area. Must be in addition to the single required ECP in rural practice. Must be approved by the Director. CVM 5000 Directed Individual Study in CVM (4 credits) Must involve a series of case-based experiences. Must be approved by the Program Director. One to two credit hours per semester, total of 4 credits required for certificate completion.[a] [a] A formal course is in development to replace CVM 5000 for this requirement. CVM 5000 DIS is simply an alternative path that meets the immediate student demand for this experience.	
Elective Coursework: CVM5864 Bovine Production Medicine (4 credits) (Prerequisite: Enrollment in the CVM professional curriculum). Four hours lecture. Reproductive and nutritional management, record-keeping, data analysis, herd health programs, and other advanced bovine production topics will be covered, building on student's core veterinary education. CVM5764 Advanced Equine Reproduction (4 credits) (Prerequisite: Consent of instructor). Four hours lecture. Phase 2 elective emphasizing review of basic equine reproduction and exposure to advanced diagnostic and therapeutic modalites. CVM5722 Small Ruminant Production Medicine (2 credits) (Prerequisite: CVM 5276). Two hours practicum. An elective focused on sheep and goat production. Experience in common surgery/treatment procedures provided. Small ruminant production medicine topics and current literature review discussed. CVM 5301 Clinicopathological Conference (1 credit) Advanced communication skills. Professional writing and public speaking to a scientific audience. Must involve a topic in rural veterinary practice. CVM 5510, 5520, 5530, 5540, 5550 Veterinary Medicine/ Animal Industry Externship 1-5 credits. Maximum of 4 credits for certificate. Supervised clinical rotation at approved facilities	5 total elective credits

throughout the US providing primary veterinary care in a mixed animal rural practice. Must be mixed animal caseload, ≥ 30% farm animal, and located in a rural area. CVM5182 Veterinary Disaster Management (2 credits) (Prerequisite: Enrollment in the professional veterinary degree program. Not open to students who have completed CVM 4180/CVM 6180). Veterinary disaster management concerning animal health and well-being before, during, and after disasters. Includes general incident management training for local, state and federal levels. CVM5221 Elective Rotation in Shelter Medicine (1 credit) (One Week). One hour practicum. This elective rotation will serve as introduction to discipline of shelter medicine and to provide students with real-world, hands-on learning experiences including, but not limited to, the medical, behavioral, and surgical problems encountered in animals confined to shelters and rescue groups. CVM5332 Shelter Medicine Spay/Neuter Rotation (2 credits) (Two hours practicum). This is a two-week clinical rotation providing in depth understanding and practical experience in dealing with issues surrounding pet overpopulation, responsible pet ownership, shelter medicine and surgery. CVM5862 Equine Lameness (2 credits) Two hours practicum. Advanced study of equine lameness. Provides opportunities to develop and use problem-solving skills in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of lameness and related topics. CVM5652 Equine Podiatry (2 credits) (Prerequisite: Enrollment in CVM professional curriculum). One hour lecture. Two hours laboratory. Includes fundamentals of horseshoeing, anatomy, diseases of the equine digit, and therapeutic techniques.	

Program-Level Student Learning Outcomes

A. **Demonstrate ability to practice on the spectrum of care by offering diagnostic and treatment plans for farm and companion animals in circumstances where veterinary and client resources are limited.**
B. **Demonstrate competency in personal finance, including formulating a budget, managing debt, and accessing net worth. Demonstrate understanding of basic**

business management and finance principles (community engagement, human resources management, cash flow, equity, revenue/profit, depreciation, debt, etc.) and how they are managed in a small business.

C. Apply disease control principles at the group/herd level in farm and companion animal populations. Demonstrate ability to formulate and triage herd/group health recommendations when resources are limited.
D. Demonstrate ability to communicate complex medical concepts to clients of differing educational levels.
E. Demonstrate competency in common medical and surgical procedures performed in rural veterinary practice.

Program Mapped Assessment of Learning Outcomes

Required Courses

Outcome	CVM 5692	CVM 5294	CVM 5000
A	D	M	D
B	M	D	I
C		M	D
D	D	M	I
E		M	I

I = Introduced; D=Developed; M=Mastered

Elective Courses

Outcome	CVM 5864	CVM 5764	CVM 5722	CVM 5301	CVM 5510-5550
A	D	D	M	D	M
B	D				D
C	M	D	M	D	M
D		D	D	D	M
E		M	M	D	M

Outcome	CVM 5182	CVM 5221	CVM 5332	CVM 5862	CVM 5652
A		D	D	D	D
B				I	
C	M	M	D		
D		M	D	D	D
E		M	M	M	M

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MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
PATHOBIOLOGY AND POPULATION MEDICINE

P.O. Box 6100
240 Wise Center Drive
Mississippi State, MS 39762

P. 662.325.1300
F. 662.325.4548
www.vetmed.msstate.edu

January 2, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

We, the undersigned MSU CVM faculty, support the creation of a professional certificate program in rural veterinary practice at the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine. The program will provide exposure to technical skills (diagnostic, prevention and treatment) and non-technical skills (personal and business finance, communication) that are required in rural mixed animal practices. As such, the program will create self-confidence and facilitate students' success in rural practices.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kristie Chavez
Assistant Clinical Professor
Department of Clinical Sciences
Krc43@msstate.edu

Dr. Isaac Jumper
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Department of Pathobiology &
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Dr. William Epperson
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Sincerely,

Dr. William Epperson
Professor and Department Head
Department of Pathobiology & Population Medicine
epperson@cvm.msstate.edu

Dr. Andrew Mackin
Professor and Department Head
Department of Clinical Sciences
mackin@cvm.msstate.edu

Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine
Professional Certificate in Rural Veterinary Practice Timeline Form

Student Name/Date: _____

Class Year: _____

	1st Year		2nd Year			3rd Year			4th Year			
Core Courses	Fall	Spr	Sum	Fall	Spr	Sum	Fall	Spr	Sum	Fall	Spr	Certificate Credits
Vet Business (CVM5692)												2
ECP (CVM5294)(requires prior approval) *												4
Directed Individual Study - Case-Based (CVM5000) 4 Credits Required												4

*ECP Location: _____

Elective Courses (list)												
Total Electives												10

	Externship *	Externship *	CPC *
Location	_____	_____	_____
Dates	_____	_____	_____

*Requires approval from Dr. Kristie Chavez at time of registration

Instructions:

1) It is recommended to take the three core courses at the times indicated by the gold boxes, though white boxes are also options. Dark boxes are not options.

Note:

This is just an estimated timeline of what you think you may take to earn your 15 credits for the certificate. It is understood that this may change as you progress through your DVM curriculum.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Rural Veterinary Practice Certificate Program
Application Form

As part of the application process, please provide the following documentation to Dr. Kristie Chavez via email (krc43@msstate.edu) with the subject headline "Last Name – RVPCP Application".

1) Completed application form (This page)
2) Resume/CV

Student Name: _____
Class Year (Anticipated year of graduation: _____
Net ID: _____
MSU ID Number: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Do you have a bachelor's degree? [a] _____ Yes/No _____
CVM Mentor(s)(First-Year and/or Clinical): _____
DVM/PhD Program (Yes/No, Advisor if yes): _____
Residency Status (In-State or Out-of-State): _____

The annual application deadline is July 15 with application review taking place over 2 weeks. Applicants will be notified about their application decision and assigned a certificate program mentor in August.

[a] You must have a bachelor's degree to enroll in the RVPCP.

INTENT TO OFFER, MODIFY, OR DELETE A CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Institutional Request Form – Appendix 16
(Submit in PDF format with signatures.)

Institution:	Mississippi State University
Date of anticipated implementation:	August 2025
Notification of intent to:	☒Offer a certificate ☐Modify an existing certificate ☐Delete a certificate
Certificate title as it will appear on Academic Program Inventory:	Professional Certificate in Rural Veterinary Practice
Six-digit CIP code (and four-digit IHL sequence code if this is a modification or deletion):	01.8101
Total credit hours:	15
Responsible academic unit:	Department of Clinical Sciences
Unit head:	Dr. Kristie Chavez
Phone:	662.325.1266
Email:	krc43@msstate.edu

OFFERING or MODIFYING a certificate - *Complete this section if the intent is to offer or modify a certificate.*

Vocational certificate:	☒Yes	☐No
Credit-bearing program:	☒Yes	☐No
Title IV financial aid eligible:	☐Yes	☒No

Which of the following best describes this certificate program?

☐ **Pre-Baccalaureate (Less than 1 Year)** - Undergraduate program with duration of less than one academic year; designed for completion in less than 30 credit hours

☐ **Pre-Baccalaureate (At Least 1 Year)** - Undergraduate program with duration of at least 1 year; designed for completion in at least 30 hours; does not meet requirements for associate or bachelor's degrees

☐ **Post-Baccalaureate** - Program designed beyond the baccalaureate degree but does not meet the requirements for a master's degree

☐ **Post-Master's** - Program designed beyond the master's degree but does not meet the requirements for a doctoral degree

☒ **Other** - Other certificate program not meeting one of the four criteria above **(This is a professional DVM certificate for students enrolled in the DVM Program).**

Program summary:

The professional certificate in Rural Veterinary Practice is a 15-credit hour program of study offered by MSU CVM. It is designed to provide training for professional DVM students who are contemplating entering practice in a rural area. Rural America makes up 97% of the US land area and is home to 18% of the population. In Mississippi, 65 of the 82 counties are considered rural, and are home to over 50% of Mississippians. Rural areas are characterized as economically poorer, with inhabitants being older and less educated than urban counterparts. Businesses in rural areas must acknowledge and address these population characteristics.

Livestock production is a major industry that occupies rural America and is essential for US food and economic security. Additionally, rural communities have higher levels of dog ownership than urban centers, placing a larger burden on rural populations for companion animal care. There is a widely acknowledged shortfall of veterinarians in rural areas of the US. This shortage situation negatively impacts animal and public health and animal welfare. It compromises animal disease control and response, endangering the national food supply and creating economic peril should a high consequence disease be introduced. Professional DVM students mirror the nation demographically in that they are

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_____ _____
Chief Academic Officer Signature – Date Institutional Executive Officer Signature – Date

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Dr. Perkins,

Attached is a proposal for a new professional certificate program from the CVM. This certificate is for students currently enrolled in the DVM program. The certificate is composed of a series of currently approved electives. We plan to add new electives in time.

Dr. Kristie Chavez is the director of the certificate program, but I am serving to get this approved. So either Kristie or I can serve as contact for questions. We would like to start this program in August 2025 so we are submitting to you in hopes that UCCC can approve in the near future.

Please contact Dr. Chavez or me with questions.

Bill Epperson