

School of Veterinary Medicine University of California, Davis
VETERINARY SCIENTIST TRAINING PROGRAM

Terms and Conditions

The goal of the Veterinary Scientist Training Program is to increase the number of veterinarians with interest and training to pursue careers in academic veterinary medicine. The veterinary program will coordinate with a similar program in the School of Medicine, with fellows participating in annual retreats, quarterly colloquia and joint courses.

AMOUNT OF FELLOWSHIP FUNDING

All VSTP fellows are guaranteed a minimum annual stipend of \$17,000 during their four professional school years (V1-V4). Stipends disburse as two equal payments of \$8,500 at the beginning of August and at the end of December. Additionally, full professional school tuition, fees, and health insurance (UCSHIP) are provided while the Fellow is enrolled in the DVM program. VSTP fellows in V1/V2 are also eligible for competitive NIH NIGMS T32 Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) and SVM Summer STAR awards. Although this additional funding isn't guaranteed, it provides a mechanism for the student to increase their stipend during the DVM years above \$17,000.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Fellows appointed to the program must comply with the following:

- Fellow must maintain a combined GPA of 3.25 in the DVM and PhD programs in order to ensure continued funding.
- Fellow will participate in monthly joint journal clubs with MD/PhD fellows in the School of Medicine.
- Fellow must apply for other funding sources in each year of the joint degree program: School of Veterinary Medicine Summer STAR awards as a DVM student and graduate funding when a PhD student (T32s, internal/external fellowships, and NIH F30 award).
- Continuing support for the VSTP fellowship is dependent upon satisfactory progress toward the DVM/PhD.
- Fellow must participate in meetings with the VSTP Advisory Committee and provide them an annual progress report.
- Following the first or second year in the DVM program (V1/V2), the Fellow is expected to take a minimum three year leave to complete graduate course requirements and perform laboratory research.
- Should a fellow decide to withdraw from the program, repayment must be made in accordance with institutional policies regarding the payment of said fund source (VSTP donor funding, other fellowships, or grant(s)). For NIH T32 MSTP trainees, NIGMS does not require (nor permit institutions

- to receive) payback of NRSA funds by students who start training, but do not complete one or both degrees.
- Students will **NOT** be allowed to return to DVM year 3 (V3), unless they have filed their dissertation with the Office of Graduate Studies

FACULTY MENTOR

Fellows will submit the name of their preferred faculty mentor to the VSTP Advisory Committee for review. The mentor must provide complete support (stipend/tuition fees and research funds) for the Fellow when they are enrolled in graduate study. PhD mentors are only allowed to advise one VSTP student at any given time. Faculty mentors will outline the Student Support and Mentoring Plan for said VSTP fellow at the time the student joins the lab by completing and returning the “VSTP Major Professor Support Plan” to the VSTP Coordinator and Director. Faculty mentors acknowledge that it is a VSTP program requirement that every student apply for a NIH F30 award and that it is their obligation to actively support the student to prepare and submit the fellowship application. Student will be discouraged from joining labs that are unable to provide appropriate funding during the PhD years (up to the graduate group’s compensation plan).