

KSU College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas

Summary: The Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas (VTPRK) was established by the Kansas Legislature in 2006 to provide a financial incentive for graduates to practice in rural Kansas communities. Program participants receive \$20,000 annually to support tuition for not more than four years. Each student in the program is required to participate in additional activities beyond minimum requirements for their veterinary degree. The scholars have specifically-designed learning opportunities in cattle production, technical skills, small business management, marketing and public health.

Upon completion of their Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, each student is required to work at a full-time veterinary practice in one of 92 Kansas counties with fewer than 35,000 residents. For each year the student works in rural Kansas, \$20,000 of their loan is forgiven.

Tuition and Fees: At the inception of VTPRK (2006), annual resident tuition and fees was approximately \$14,000. The 2021-2022 resident tuition rate is approximately \$26,718 per year. The annual state appropriation of \$400,000 (\$20,000/year per student, 5 students/class, 4 classes) has not been adjusted to account for tuition increases since inception.

Recipients to Date

- 80 students have been admitted to the program.
- 33 males, 47 females; 80/80 Kansans
- 98% of graduates have/are fulfilling their obligations to practice in a rural community.
- Beyond the 4-year obligation:
 - 94% are practicing in a qualifying county.
 - 77% remain in the practice of origin.

Educational Objective: Prepare graduates for long term success as a veterinary practitioner in rural Kansas. To achieve this goal, purposeful training opportunities were designed to prepare students for rural practice. Many of these opportunities are available for all veterinary students, but are required for VTPRK students.

Program Requirements:

Complete Food Animal Veterinary Certificate (FAVC) (Available to all veterinary students)

Each VTPRK student will complete 14 credit hours including:

- Issues in Rural Practice
- Rural practice management
- Rural business management
- Production medicine

FAVC students must pass a technical skills assessment and present a capstone seminar.

Attend KS June Veterinary Continuing Education Conferences (Available to all veterinary students)

Each VTPRK student should attend June Conference and initiate networking with other KS practitioners.

Attend monthly VTPRK student meetings

Monthly meetings to expose VTPRK students to a variety of topics including visiting with current rural practitioners, discussing aspects of business management, regulatory medicine, and other timely topics. Monthly meetings involve VTPRK students from all stages of the program and allow interaction among classes and peer discussions for relevant topics.

Participate in VTPRK summer activities

One-week tour of KS agricultural production facilities potentially including dairies, cow-calf operations, purebred operations, feed yards, packing plants, and rural veterinary facilities.

