

Frequently Asked Questions about the CAHFS Veterinary Public Health Residency position

Q: Are there benefits beyond the salary?

A: In addition to salary, the University of Minnesota provides low-cost health insurance, paid vacation and sick time. Your tuition costs are waived as a University employee however, you will be required to pay some course fees. CAHFS provides a laptop computer and funds for professional development and continuing education.

For more detailed information about medical and dental benefits, please refer to the University of Minnesota Human Resources website:

<http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/employment/university/benefits.html>

Q: Will I be board certified by ACVPM as a result of the residency program?

A: The residency is intended to train & provide experiences that qualify and prepare you for taking the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (ACVPM) board examination.

This is the only ACVPM-certified residency training program currently available to veterinarians.

ACVPM board certification requires a combination of training and experience and an examination, therefore the residency alone does not guarantee board certification.

For more information about ACVPM certification, please refer to ACVPM website:

www.acvpm.org

Q: Why is it called a residency? It seems like there is little or no clinical work.

A: This is a post-DVM training program that is tailored to provide practical experiences in public health, preventive medicine and population medicine practice. The American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine has recognized this as an approved "residency" that can count toward the credentials needed to sit for the board certification exam.

Q: How many residents are there?

A: Currently, the number of residents varies between 6 and 7, depending on overlap between new fellows starting and others completing their residency. On average three new residents are hired each year. Residents can be hired to begin at any time of the year.

Q: Is there a lot of laboratory work?

A: No. Bench laboratory experiments are not routinely part of the research that CAHFS fellows are involved in. Instead, an emphasis is placed on delivery of services through:

- applied epidemiologic studies
- public health surveillance
- policy collaborations
- educational and outreach initiatives
- data analysis

In contrast to clinical veterinary practice, the public health residency focuses on population health issues. Our clients span government, industry, and agricultural organizations.

Q: What types of projects do the fellows work on?

A: The various projects range from local to international in scope, and involve partnerships with governmental, corporate, and university stakeholders. Integration and application of basic science, epidemiology, and population medicine are used to affect policy and educate about public health, animal health, and food safety issues.

Examples of ongoing projects include:

- Conducting risk assessments for the movement of eggs and egg products for Veterinary Services of the US
- Developing risk communication training materials for intentional foodborne events and foreign animal disease investigations
- Assisting Minnesota state departments in their efforts to improve animal agriculture and public health with projects focusing on tuberculosis, chronic wasting disease, and avian influenza.

Q: Do I get to pick which projects I work on?

A: Projects are matched based on a fellow's interests and the Center's needs. Each resident will have a variety of projects spanning multiple species in order to gain a wide breadth of experience.

Q: What does a 75% appointment mean?

A: Employment is based on 40 hours per week, with 30 hours allotted to Center for Animal Health and Food Safety initiatives, and 10 hours allotted to coursework in the Masters of Public Health program.

Q: Is this position full time or can I work at another job at the same time?

A: The position involves the entire work week. Due to the variability of scheduling involved in projects, holding another position at the same time is not encouraged.

Q: Does the application process for the residency also serve as the application process for to the School of Public Health's Master's program?

A: Fellows have to enroll in the Executive program at the School of Public Health (SPH) separately. At the current time, potential students must apply through an online application through the School of Public Health Application Service (SOPHAS), with the annual deadline occurring in March for admission in May. If a fellow begins their residency before this time, they can take classes at the SPH as a non-degree student and then transfer the credits into the MPH program once they are accepted.

The website for SOPHAS can be found at: <http://www.sophas.org/>

Q: If I already have an MPH or advanced degree, can I still be considered for the residency?

A: Although the residency was originally intended to allow a student to concurrently pursue an executive MPH program, it is not a requirement. An applicant with previous MPH training may also be considered for the residency, in which case they may have an opportunity to work at a 100% appointment.

Q: I'm an international applicant. What do I need to know to work at the University of Minnesota?

A: For more information on a services provided for international students please visit the University of Minnesota, International Student & Scholar Services:
<http://www.iss.umn.edu/>