



Mississippi State College of Veterinary Medicine Marine Animal Veterinary Externship (Gulfport, MS)

About MSU College of Veterinary Medicine

MSU CVM captures a unique balance of world-class research in animal and public health, quality learning experiences, and cutting-edge veterinary care, all with a family-like atmosphere. We have one of the largest teams of aquatic animal health specialists and board-certified veterinary epidemiologists among U.S. colleges of veterinary medicine. Our faculty specialize in microbiology, parasitology, toxicology, pathology, and immunology of aquatic organisms, as well as disease outbreak investigations.



Program Description

MSU CVM offers externships for veterinary students (preference given to third and fourth year students) and veterinary technician

students with our faculty located at the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies (IMMS) in Gulfport, MS. Externships are seasonal (February-August) with a central focus on rescue, rehabilitation, and release of stranded sea turtles and disease investigations of stranded cetaceans. Externs will work directly with the MSU CVM veterinarians, veterinary staff, and the IMMS Stranding Department staff to participate in many aspects of care, including physical exams, minor surgical procedures, ultrasound, phlebotomy, gastroscopy, field- and laboratory-based necropsy, anesthesia, daily rounds, and collecting diagnostic samples. Externs may also gain experience with animal trainers, researchers, and aquarists. Veterinary student externships are 3-4 weeks in duration and veterinary technician student externships are 2-3 weeks in duration.

AT A GLANCE:

- Seasonal externship program (February-August)
- Focus on veterinary care associated with rescue, rehabilitation, and release of stranded marine wildlife
- Veterinary student and veterinary technician student externships offered

Extern Responsibilities

All externs are required to adhere to MSU CVM policies. Externs are expected to work Monday through Friday from 8 am – 5 pm, with the potential for extended, weekend, and on-call hours as needed to accommodate potential emergency and rescue events. Externs will be expected to give a 30-minute presentation during the last week of the externship on an assigned topic. There is no compensation offered to externs. Transportation and housing are not provided; however, IMMS staff members can help identify housing arrangements if needed.

Application Process

Applications are due August 1 for externships in February-August of the following year. Applicants should submit a letter of intent expressing specific interests and experiences in aquatic animal health and preferred externship dates, [completed application questions](#), a resume or CV, and two professional letters of recommendation. Selected applicants must provide proof of a current tetanus vaccination and results from a recent TB test.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- www.vetmed.msstate.edu/clinics-locations/marine-mammal-studies/marine-animal-externship or use the QR code on this flyer.
- For more information or to submit application materials, please contact **Dr. Christa Barrett** at christa.barrett@msstate.edu.

