



Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine

Tuskegee Veterinary Scholar Program (TVSP)

**Sub-program supported by
The National Institutes of Health (NIH T35) Veterinary Scholar Program
(T35-VSP)**

Description

The NIH T35 VSP is a 12-week summer research experience (SRE) program coordinated between Tuskegee University and Mississippi State University (MSU) Colleges of Veterinary Medicine. During the SRE weeks, students will be exposed to all aspects of biomedical research. Working with their mentors, students will be engaged in research related to the mentor's expertise and mutual research interests. The trainees will conduct high quality research by learning about research design, basic laboratory experiments, data collection and analysis, and scientific presentations. They will also participate in various Career, management and business-oriented seminars and journal clubs in the college. Through these, the scholars will develop a better understanding of the career options in research that exist for them when they graduate e.g. industry research, academia or governmental agencies. At the end of the 12-week period, all T35 students will prepare posters and present their research at the AAVMC National Veterinary Scholars Symposium (NVSS). The next NVSS will be hosted in August 2021 by Iowa State University. All expenses for participation in the symposium will be covered by the program.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we are still not certain if in-person meetings will be held in August. Unless circumstances change, the symposium will be held virtually as it was in 2020.

Scholarly Research Training and Activities

1. The total number of work hours per week is 40 hours
2. Prior to their engagement in research, scholars will attend training sessions related to
 - a. Institutional animal care and use policies
 - b. Laboratory animal center policies and procedures
 - c. Research ethics and proper response to allegations of scientific misconduct
 - d. Biohazards and biosafety policies

3. Scholars will start an introductory orientation by faculty or mentors to learn about expectations, experiences and goals
4. Scholars will confer with their mentors and discuss their summer research
5. During the first week or later, in agreement with the mentor, scholars will have the option to rotate through the different laboratories and observe the different projects and techniques utilized by our researchers in their laboratories
6. Scholars will then:
 - a. Learn appropriate technique to conduct the proposed work
 - b. Learn appropriate laboratory protocols related to conducting proper research e.g. bookkeeping, measurements, animal handling and injections, making graphs and analyzing data etc.
 - c. Attend laboratory meetings and journal clubs
 - d. Attend various college seminars
 - e. Attend seminars by invited speakers
 - f. Attend and present at the Annual Biomedical Research Symposium or at the Phi Zeta Veterinary Research Day
7. The research faculty will have a weekly journal club or meeting with the scholars to discuss their progress and expectations
8. Scholars will attend training activities co-organized with **MSU CVM**
9. At the end of the 10-week training period, scholars are expected to fill out a Program Evaluation and have an exit interview with the Program Director to summarize and document their experience and future goals, and to provide any feedback
10. All scholars are expected to do at least one oral presentation and one poster presentation during their training
11. All scholars are expected to participate in the Phi Zeta Research Day and if possible, the Annual One Health Symposium held at the TUCVM
12. Scholars will each receive a **CERTIFICATE of COMPLETION**

Research Interests:

TU mentors research areas include, but not limited to:

- Cancer and Cancer Therapeutics
- HIV / AIDS
- Immune functions
- Food Safety and Microbiology
- Nanotechnology and Drug Delivery Systems
- Reproductive Physiology
- Control of Food Intake
- Small ruminants

For complete list of investigators and their interest areas, please visit: [TU Faculty Mentors](#) and [MSU Faculty Mentors](#)

Scholars will also learn about:

- Scientific writing and presentations
- Preparing resumes and cover letters
- Writing grant proposals
- Using library resources to support research
- Leadership and Teamwork

- Making career choices

Stipends

Student trainees receive a competitive stipend for the entire **12-week period (\$517/week)**. Stipend amount may vary depending on whether the scholar conducts the SRE at TU or MSU. Please contact the Program Director for details.

Application Process

At the time of application, prospective scholars must be **enrolled in a veterinary program** accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Each student should have no less than a 2.5 GPA.

Prior experience in research **is not required**. Tuskegee University is the number one diverse veterinary college in the United States. We encourage applicants from under-represented groups to join our program.

Due to the limited number of spots available & certain program requirements, **application to more than one TVSP sub-program is recommended**. Please read carefully the descriptions of each.

To Apply to TVSP:

- Follow the Application Link **(APPLICATION PORTAL)**
- Fill out the application and **submit** (follow the instructions)
- If you have a preferred mentor, contact him/her to see if there is a project that might interest you. If you are accepted to TVSP summer research, you have the option to work with the mentor.
- You will be contacted by the TVSP manager about the next step.

Application Deadline is **Friday, Feb 26, 2021** and selections will be made and students will be informed by **Friday, March 12, 2021**. The program will officially begin on **Monday, May 24, 2021**.