

The Proposal for Discontinuation

The proposal for discontinuation should include the following information:

1. Name of administrator, department or group originating the proposal. Include the name of contact person(s).

Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine

Contact:

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Rm 2020

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2. Name of the program.

Degree: Master of Science:

Major: Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine

3. Name of the department(s) which administers the program.

Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine

4. Rationale for discontinuation.

The Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine (VDPAM), is the administering department for two very similar graduate majors: Preventive Veterinary Medicine graduate major and Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine graduate major. Based on the catalogue descriptions, these programs have a very similar focus (Table 1).

The circumstances that led to this duplication were the following: VDPAM was formed in 1997. The formation of the department led to re-assignments whereby faculty with expertise in preventive medicine, as well as other specialties, were placed in VDPAM. (At present, all faculty in the College of Veterinary Medicine with board certification in Veterinary Preventive Medicine (n = 5) are in VDPAM.) The VDPAM graduate faculty began the process of creating a departmental graduate program shortly after the formation of the department; this graduate program (M.S. in VDPAM) was approved in 2002. Nearly simultaneously, the Veterinary Preventive Medicine major (M.S.) was transferred from the Department of Veterinary

Microbiology and Preventive Medicine into VDPAM because the expertise of the faculty were in this area.

The similarity of the programs within the department has several negative impacts. Students interested in the programs are confused about the differences in the program and this affects recruiting. Further, the similarity of purpose of the two graduate majors dilutes the number of students in any one graduate major, therefore, reducing our competitiveness for training grants and national prominence. Finally, only one student has been enrolled in the Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine graduate major since 2005 and this student graduated in 2006.

TABLE 1

Graduate Study in Veterinary Preventive Medicine

Veterinary Preventive Medicine is a multidisciplinary program focused on the study of health and disease in populations. The various disciplines represented in the program are unified by a common approach based on the application of statistical methods to problem solving in populations. Through their research and course work, students will learn to understand and apply a variety of disciplines, principles, and techniques to population health issues involving environmental, ecological, nutritional, genetic, infectious, or non-infectious diseases.

Graduate study in Veterinary Preventive Medicine will provide valuable skills and experience to persons interested in public health, food safety, emerging infectious diseases, zoo or wildlife health management, and livestock health. A degree in Veterinary Preventive Medicine may be valuable for individuals considering a future in the biological or pharmaceutical industries, government regulatory agencies, public veterinary practice, or international service agencies responsible for population health.

Veterinary Preventive Medicine is an interdepartmental major administered by the Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine (VDPAM) with participating faculty from colleges and departments across the University and collaborators from the National Animal Disease Center (USDA:ARS) and the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (USDA:APHIS) located in Ames, Iowa.

Both thesis and nonthesis options are available and require the completion of a minimum of 30 graduate credits for thesis and 36 graduate credits for nonthesis and a final examination.

Graduate Study in Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine

Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine masters degree is a program focused on the assessment of health and disease in populations of animals and the development of methods to study populations of animals. The various disciplines represented in the program are unified by a common approach based on the application of epidemiological and statistical methods to enable quantitative evaluation and critical appraisal of clinical and research data to continuously establishing best production practices for health assurance; further to provide the principles and tools for design and execution of hypothesis-based research in production animal units or in research trials supporting animal health issues. Through their research and course work, students will learn to understand and apply a variety of disciplines, principles, and techniques to population health issues involving environmental, ecological, nutritional, genetic, infectious, or non-infectious diseases. This includes gaining knowledge of current principles of diagnostic evaluation and critical to best support decisions about animal health programs and practices.

Graduate students will be provided experiences in production animal medicine by involvement in the animal health and food supply decision making processes of modern production systems. Graduate study in Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine will provide

valuable skills and experience to persons interested in public health, food safety, food policy, emerging infectious diseases, wildlife health management, and livestock health assurance. A degree in Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine may be valuable for individuals considering leadership positions in food supply veterinary medicine.

Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine is administered by the Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine (VDPAM) with participating faculty from colleges and departments across the University and collaborators from the National Animal Disease Center (USDA:ARS) and the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (USDA:APHIS) located in Ames, Iowa.

Both thesis and nonthesis options are available and require the completion of a minimum of 30 graduate credits for thesis and 36 graduate credits for nonthesis and a final examination.

5. Availability of similar programs at other Regent's institutions.

The other programs that is very similar is the major Veterinary Preventive Medicine. As discussed this program has almost exactly the same course requirements and targets the same audience.

6. Enrollment data for current and previous four years.

No students are currently enrolled in the program in 2008.

In May 2007, the last student enrolled in the program graduate from this program.

Enrolment in 2007- 1 student

Enrolment in 2006- 1 student

Enrolment in 2005- 2 student

Enrolment in 2004- 2 student

5 students have ever enrolled in the program since 2000.

Only four students have graduated with an M.S. in Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine since 2000.

7. Information required by the Board of Regents:

- a) A survey of students currently enrolled in a program to determine the impact of the discontinuance on their academic plans. The survey should attempt to identify students who wish (i) to complete the program; (ii) to transfer to other programs at the same institution; and (iii) to leave the institution.

No students are currently enrolled in the program. However, termination of the program will not affect students interested in this area of study as they will have the opportunity to work in the same area with a different major name "Veterinary Preventive Medicine". Further, the title "Veterinary Preventive Medicine" is more widely recognized. For example, one of the specialist boards in veterinary medicine is the [American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine](#), the umbrella organization for epidemiologists in the USA is the Association of Veterinary

Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine. International organizations also use the term "Preventive Veterinary Medicine" such as The Canadian Association of Veterinary Epidemiology Preventive Medicine/l'Association Canadienne d'Épidémiologie et de Médecine Préventive Vétérinaire (CAVEPM/ACEMPV) and the European, The Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine. Further, a major veterinary journal in the field is titled "Preventive Veterinary Medicine".

- b) On the basis of the data collected, a projection of faculty and staff needed to accommodate student needs in order to maintain program quality, and both a time frame for, and the costs of, program phase-out.

As no students are currently enrolled in the major we do not anticipate any costs of program phase out.

- c) A description of the amount of money, if any, that would become available for redirection under the institution's strategic plan as a result of the discontinuance of a program.

No amount of money will be available for redirection. We expect increased resource efficiency with the termination of the Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine graduate major as only one program will be used, and only one Director of Graduate Education.

- d) A description of the impact the discontinuance will have on other programs offered by and the overall mission of the institution.

If the Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine graduate major does not exist, we anticipate no change for ISU, as currently no students are in the program, and only 3 students have graduated from the program in the past 7 years. All the opportunities in this program are available through the Veterinary Preventive Medicine graduate major, which has 12 students enrolled (Spring 2008).

- e) A description of the impact on minorities and on women.

There will be no impact of minority and women with the termination of this program, as currently no students are enrolled and suitable alternatives are available.

- f) A description of the potential faculty and staff reductions or reassignments that would result from the discontinuance.

As no students are currently enrolled in the program and no courses were taught exclusively for Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine graduate major, so no faculty teaching assignments will be affected.

- g) A description of how existing facilities and equipment freed by the discontinuance would be utilized.

As no students are currently enrolled in the program and existing facilities and equipment were used exclusively for Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine graduate major, so equipment will be affected by the discontinuation of this program.