



Mississippi Aquarium Veterinary Preceptorship/Externship Program

Mississippi Aquarium (MSAQ) provides veterinary students the unique opportunity to gain experience in the field of aquatic animal medicine. The aquarium houses animals from the brown waterways of Mississippi to blue oceans of the Gulf of Mexico and beyond. Externs will be exposed to a variety of species including invertebrates, freshwater and marine teleosts, elasmobranchs, avian and non-avian reptiles, and mammals.

Mississippi Aquarium has state-of-the-art diagnostic capabilities with equipment comparable to that found at a teaching hospital or in specialty practice, as well as a growing clinical partnership with Mississippi State University. There are two full time clinical veterinarians and one veterinary technician.

Preceptorships/externships lasting a minimum of 4 weeks and a maximum of 6 weeks are available. Preference will be given to 3rd and 4th year veterinary students. Work hours are typically 7:30 – 5:00 but may vary depending on the medical needs of the animals. The work week will be Monday to Friday. However, students should be flexible if asked to work on weekend days or after-hours.

Housing is the responsibility of the student. There *may* be opportunities for students to rent rooms from staff members. Students should provide their own transportation to and from the aquarium as there is limited public transportation. Proof of health insurance is required. COVID-19 vaccination is recommended. Students will be required to adhere to the Mississippi Aquarium's policies and procedures, including the COVID-19 policy. If you are unable to obtain a COVID-19 vaccination prior to the start of your externship a negative COVID-19 PCR test will be required 7 days before starting.

Students will spend time working with the veterinary team; they will assist with clinical cases and aid in performing necropsy examinations. Students may also spend time with the water quality and research teams. Externs will complete a research or special project and give a PowerPoint presentation to MSAQ staff during the last week of the preceptorship.

Externships are available the following months for 2021 (subject to change):

June-October 2021

Required application materials:

Letter of intent

Curriculum vitae/resume

2 letters of recommendation

3 sets of available dates in order of preference

Submit application materials to vet@msaquarium.org with "Vet Extern Program" in the subject line.

Incomplete applications will not be considered. It is the student's responsibility to check that their information packet is complete. Your application will be reviewed by Dr. Alexa Delaune and Dr. Sean Perry.

All materials must be submitted by **April 1st 2021** for externships during 2021. Decisions being made by **April 15th**.

For additional questions or inquiries, please e-mail vet@msaquarium.org