



# USDA Pathways Program: Saul T. Wilson, Jr., Internship

In carrying out our safeguarding mission, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) works to ensure the continued health of our Nation's livestock and poultry. Within APHIS, the Veterinary Services (VS) staff serves as the veterinary authority for the United States. It is our job to protect and improve the health, quality, and marketability of U.S. animals, animal products, and veterinary biologics.

Increases in global trade, the emergence of zoonotic diseases, and the threat of agroterrorism demand a comprehensive approach to protecting animal and public health. VS brings a wealth of skills and expertise to this effort—from global disease surveillance and animal health certification to disease eradication and emergency preparedness. In all of this work, we follow One Health principles to promote a collaborative, all-inclusive approach and make sure our decisions are grounded in the best science and information available.

The USDA Pathways Program offers different "pathway" opportunities for students and recent graduates to work in agriculture, science, technology, math, environment, management, business, and many other fields. One of these pathways is the USDA Internship Program, which provides paid work experiences for students. VS participates in this program, offering the Saul T. Wilson, Jr., Internship to help ensure a steady stream of talented veterinarians on our staff.

## Who Is Saul T. Wilson, Jr.?

Dr. Wilson dedicated his professional career to public veterinary medicine, first within APHIS and then at Tuskegee University after he retired in 1989. During his Federal career, he made outstanding contributions to the health of the Nation's livestock and poultry industries. He also played an essential role in eradicating foot-and-mouth disease from Mexico in the 1950s, helping protect our country

against reinfection from this devastating animal disease. He made a long-lasting impact on APHIS and the field of public veterinary medicine. Today, his actions inspire veterinary students to practice public veterinary medicine.

## Internship Experiences

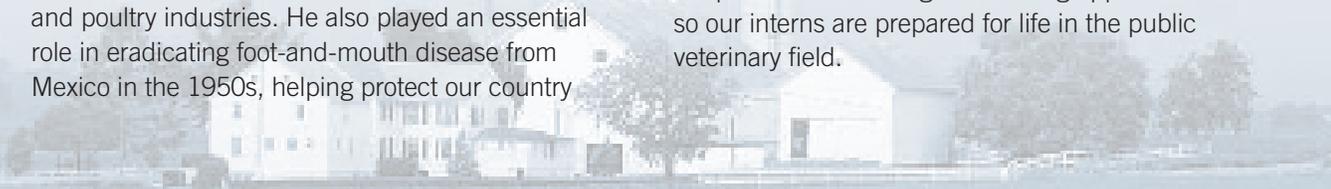
As a Saul T. Wilson, Jr., intern, you will experience the real-world situations facing Federal regulatory veterinarians every day. Working in the field, you may:

- Assist with veterinary technician duties;
- Observe and/or conduct testing and identification activities to support disease management programs for livestock such as cattle, swine, and cervids;
- Contact owners to schedule animal disease testing;
- Attach animal identification tags and help with recordkeeping;
- Draw blood samples for laboratory testing;
- Brand animals that react to certain tests; or
- Help supervise disinfection and cleaning at affected sites.

Working in one of our animal health laboratories, you may conduct routine tests, log in test samples, track test results, or prepare specimens.

In an office setting, you may assist our disease programs with information gathering and data collection; data verification, tracking, coding, and entry; document review and literature searches; statistical, quantitative, or qualitative analysis; or producing preliminary analytical reports.

We provide a wide range of learning opportunities so our interns are prepared for life in the public veterinary field.



## Internship Benefits

The Saul T. Wilson, Jr., Internship provides students:

- 1) Up to \$7,500 per year for undergraduate studies and up to \$15,000 for graduate studies for tuition, books, tutors, and laboratory fees.
- 2) Paid employment during summer and school breaks as a Veterinary Student Trainee, participation in the Federal Employees Retirement System and Thrift Savings Plan (401K), and paid vacation and sick leave. Based on the length of the work periods, compensation may also include health insurance benefits.
- 3) The possibility of conversion, without further competition, to a permanent appointment with APHIS upon successful completion with a D.V.M degree, training, and other work requirements.

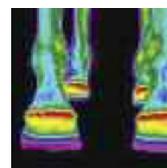
After completing all of the mandatory requirements for the program, the student must become a full-time agency employee for at least 1 calendar year (12 months) for each school year (2 semesters, 3 quarters, or the equivalent) that the student was covered by the internship. If the student intern does not accept an APHIS employment offer, he or she must reimburse all financial assistance received under the Wilson internship program. If the intern fails to serve the entire length of the mandatory APHIS employment period, the student must reimburse the agency a prorated share of the funds awarded.

## Application and Eligibility

Interested students must apply online via [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov). Locate the announcement using the key words "Saul T. Wilson" in the search engine under the "Student and Recent Graduates" tab. Please note that you must have a USAJOBS account to apply. The announcement will open in the spring for approximately a 2-week period. Upon entrance on duty, you must:

- 1) Be a U.S. citizen,
- 2) Be enrolled as a full-time student and/or accepted for enrollment in an accredited veterinary college or university within the United States—

- a. Undergraduate applicants must have completed at least 2 years (60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours) of a 4-year preveterinary medicine or other biomedical science curriculum.
  - b. Graduate student applicants must have completed not more than 1 full academic year of study in veterinary medicine.
- 5) Be in good academic standing, and
  - 6) Agree to work for the agency during school breaks for a minimum of 640 hours prior to completion of studies.



## Required Documents

The online application system will prompt you to answer self-assessment questions and to submit the following:

- 1) Resume;
- 2) Transcripts for all completed college work to date;
- 3) Proof of current enrollment on a full-time basis and/or, if applicable, a letter of acceptance to veterinary school; and
- 4) A copy of your DD-214, if you are claiming Veterans' Preference.

Additional supplemental information and documentation will be requested at a later date if you meet eligibility and initial application requirements.

### For More Information

This internship may be available annually.

To check availability or learn more, call the VS Management Support Staff at (301) 851-3573 or visit our Web site:

[www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/recruitment](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-health/recruitment)