



**Application open
August 1 - October 15**



WICHE Loan-for-Service VetMed Program

The Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE) Loan-For-Service Program provides financial support to New Mexico students who enroll at selected out-of-state graduate or professional programs not offered at New Mexico public universities with a commitment to return to work in New Mexico upon completion of a degree.

WICHE exchange students benefit from preference in admission, reduced or in-state tuition rates, and are eligible for New Mexico's Loan-for-Service VetMed Program. New Mexico pays a support fee to the admitting school to help cover the cost of students' education as part of the interstate agreement.

As a condition of each loan, students must declare their intent to return to New Mexico to practice as a professional in veterinary medicine. For every year of service provided, a portion of the loan will be forgiven. If the entire service agreement is fulfilled, 100% of the loan is eligible for forgiveness. Penalties will be assessed if the service agreement is not satisfied.



WICHE VetMed Loan-for-Service Awards 2021-2024

School Year	# of Applicants	Total Awards	Budget	Support Fee
2023-2024	27	8	\$1,108,800	\$34,650
2022-2023	27	8	\$1,067,850	\$33,900
2021-2022	32	8	\$1,093,950	\$33,150

The New Mexico Higher Education Department currently funds eight slots for veterinary students via the WICHE VetMed program. NMHED has requested an increase to 10 slots in FY25, pending approval by WICHE.



Participating Veterinary Schools

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
Midwestern University, Glendale, AZ
Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR
Washington State University, Pullman, WA

“ New Mexico’s WICHE VetMed program is absolutely essential for supporting students who want to give back to our home state. I know that New Mexico is in desperate need of veterinary professionals, and I feel honored that I will be able to come back home and serve my community.”

**Lara Carrica, 3rd Year Veterinary Student
Colorado State University**

Date: October 4, 2023

PURPOSE OF HEARING:
Companion Animal Rescue,
Population Management
and Veterinary Training
Opportunities

PREPARED BY:

Dr. Patricia Trujillo
Acting Cabinet Secretary

Heather Romero
Financial Aid Manager

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*Financial Aid Program
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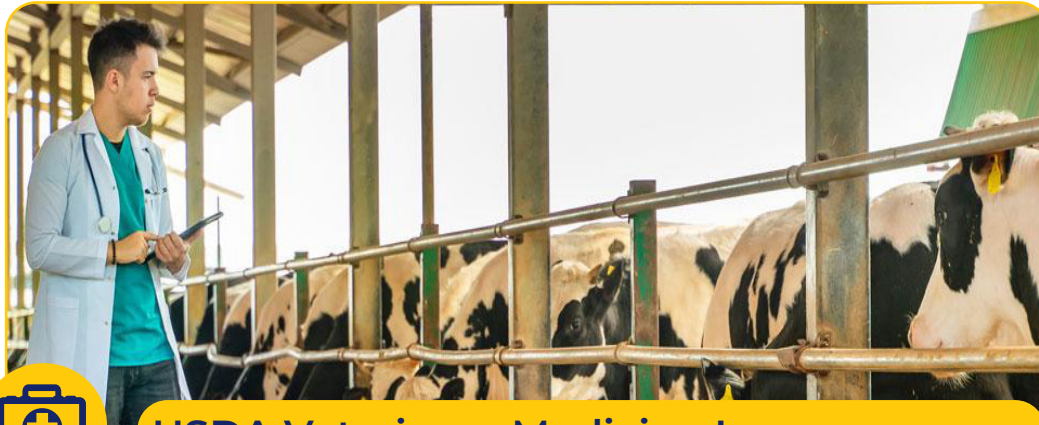
Program Eligibility Requirements

- U.S. Citizen or permanent resident alien.
- Graduate of a New Mexico public accredited high school or New Mexico resident for three consecutive years prior to application to the program (*tax forms required for all three years*).
- Attend an eligible partnering public or private school for Veterinary Medicine



The WICHE application period is between August 1 – October 15.

Applications are reviewed by the New Mexico Higher Education Department to determine if the applicant is a bone fide resident. If the applicant meets the residency requirements, the applicant will be "certified" and eligible to be considered for WICHE support. Applicants must apply directly to the professional school(s) in which they would like to enroll. The professional school(s) determine whether or not the applicant is admissible to their program. The Financial Aid Division at NMHED informs WICHE headquarters of certified applicants along with the number of students it will support for Veterinary Medicine. WICHE administration conducts ranking as necessary to determine which certified students will be offered WICHE support and forwards the names to the Financial Aid Division at the New Mexico Higher Education Department.



USDA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program

The USDA's Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program helps qualified veterinarians offset a significant portion of the debt incurred in pursuit of their veterinary medicine degrees in return for their service in certain high-priority veterinary shortage situations.

The Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) is a nationally competitive opportunity for qualified veterinarians to reduce their educational debt by agreeing to provide professional veterinary services for three years in designated, high priority, veterinary food supply shortage situations throughout the US and its insular areas.

The VMLRP will pay up to \$25,000 each year towards qualified educational loans of eligible veterinarians who agree to serve in a NIFA-designated veterinarian shortage situation for a period of three years.

The National Veterinary Medical Services Act (NVMSA, as amended) does not identify any areas of veterinary practice as ineligible. However, it does specify that priority should be given to food animal medicine shortage situations, and consideration should be given to specialty areas such as public health, epidemiology, and food safety. Accordingly, all nominated veterinary shortage situations will be considered eligible for submission, however competitiveness of nominations will reflect Congressional intent. NIFA anticipates that the most competitive nominations will be those directly addressing food supply veterinary medicine shortage situations.



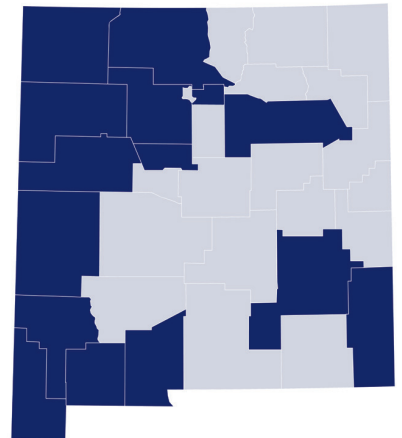
U.S. AVMA-Accredited Veterinary Schools

Auburn University
Tuskegee University
University of Arizona
Midwestern University
Western University of Health Sciences
University of California
Colorado State University
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Illinois
Purdue University
Iowa State University
Kansas State University
Louisiana State University
Tufts University
Michigan State University

University of Minnesota
Mississippi State University
University of Missouri
Cornell University
Long Island University
North Carolina State University
Ohio State University
Oklahoma State University
Oregon State University
University of Pennsylvania
Lincoln Memorial University
University of Tennessee
Texas A&M University
Texas Tech University
Virginia Tech University
Washington State University
University of Wisconsin

Program Eligibility Requirements

- Possess a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM (or equivalent)) degree from a college of Veterinary Medicine accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education (COE).
- Have qualified educational loan debt of a combined minimum of \$15,000.
- Ability to secure employment in a designated veterinary shortage situation within 90 days of award notification.
- Met all other terms and conditions of the application process.



The following New Mexico counties are considered shortage situation areas under the program:

Bernalillo	Luna
Catron	McKinley
Chaves	Rio Arriba
Cibola	Sandoval
Doña Ana	San Juan
Grant	San Miguel
Hidalgo	Northern Santa Fe
Lea	



The Application Period for the USDA Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program will be February through April 2024.



The USDA is accepting nomination of shortage areas for future VMLR Program cycles from October 2 through November 13, 2023.

Visit nifa.usda.gov for application and instructions

Financial Aid Division
1-800-279-9777
fin.aid@hed.nm.gov

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