

**Organization/Company:** Vanderbilt University Medical Center

**Location:** Nashville, TN

**Websites:** <http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/comparativemedicine>

<http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/tpsr>

**Pathology Environment:** Academic Medical Center

**Discipline/Field of Study:** Anatomic pathology

**Duration:** 2-6 weeks

**Time of Year:** Any

**Funding/Stipend:** None

**Housing Provided:** None

**Description of Externship:**

The Division of Comparative Medicine (DCM) in the Department of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) offers current veterinary students an in-depth Comparative Pathology externship experience in an active, university-hospital-based biomedical research environment. VUMC's comprehensive Animal Care and Use Program supports cutting-edge research in multiple disciplines. These include unique animal models and state-of-the-art core capabilities such as the Translational Pathology Shared Resource (TPSR), which functions as the home laboratory for pathology externs.

Two to four-week externships in Comparative Veterinary Pathology at VUMC are offered to veterinary students entering their 3rd or 4th year. The focus of the externship can be tailored to the student's interests and level of experience. Externs will have the opportunity to perform necropsies and microscopic evaluations on a variety of laboratory animal species, as well as rotate through the histology laboratory. The extern will work closely with two ACVP-board certified pathologists, will have access to ~9 laboratory animal veterinarians (faculty and residents) and our specialized laboratory animal medicine and pathology library. Opportunities to shadow a clinical veterinarian are also available.

The TPSR is a robust research histology core, providing immunohistochemistry and other special staining support for Vanderbilt University (VU) and VUMC investigators, where externs can participate in assay development, validation, and QC with experienced histotechnologists and pathologists. Attendance at resident case rounds, multi-institutional pathology rounds, and monthly Pathology Conference seminars is prioritized, as well as relevant resident didactic lectures. Externs are required to give a short presentation at the conclusion of their visit and longer externships may have the opportunity for a research project leading to an abstract submission to the ACVP Annual Meeting or preparation of a manuscript for submission to a relevant journal. Enthusiasm and initiative are important characteristics, as prior background reading for diagnostic cases is expected. Financial support may be available through the ACVP Externship Scholarship program.

To apply for an externship, please provide the following documents:

1. A copy of your most recent Curriculum Vitae.
2. A letter of intent which includes a focused area of interest or your goals for the experience and proposed dates and duration of the externship.
3. A letter of good standing from your institution's Office of Academic Affairs.

4. A letter of reference from faculty/veterinary colleague who is knowledgeable about your professional experience.

Contact: Printha McCallum, Senior Program Manager, Division of Comparative Medicine  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center, 1161 21st Avenue South, MCN-AA6206, Nashville, TN  
37232-2130

Email: [printha.k.mccallum@vumc.org](mailto:printha.k.mccallum@vumc.org)