

Colorado State University  
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

**Combined MBA/DVM Program Guidelines**

**Introduction:** The College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (CVMBS) and the College of Business offers a combined 5-year program of study that can result in earning both the *Master of Business Administration* (MBA) degree and the *Doctor of Veterinary Medicine* (DVM) degree. Successful applicants matriculate in the Professional MBA Program during the first year of the combined program (8-10 credits per semester with 4-5 credits in the summer session, evenings). Upon successful completion of the first year of the Program, students will earn a position in the first year of the professional Veterinary Medical (DVM) Program. Students will complete the remaining requirements of the Professional MBA Program concurrently with the first two years of the DVM Program.

**Admission:** Application to the combined degree program occurs concurrently with the regular DVM application process. Applicants fill out the entire VMCAS application as well as the entire Colorado Supplemental Application. Applicants who apply to the 5-year combined program must complete a special section of the Colorado Supplemental Application and mark the MBA/DVM box.

Evaluation of applicants to the combined program will be based on the same criteria as those applying for regular admission to the DVM Program. In addition, MBA/DVM applicants will be evaluated based on the quality of a separate narrative that specifically addresses their motivations for participating in the combined program, as well as complementary experiences as revealed in the body of the regular application. Previous professional work experience is ESSENTIAL, and preference will be given to those with longer or full-time professional work experiences. Applicants accepted into the combined program will be required to fill out a Graduate School Application and College of Business Applicant Data Sheet in addition to the VMCAS application packet.

Note: If a candidate receives an OFFER to the MBA/DVM program, he/she will not be further considered in the regular admissions pool, regardless of whether or not he/she accepts or declines the offer.

If an applicant indicates that s/he wishes to be considered for the combined program but is designated as an alternate or a deny in a combined program, his/her application will automatically be considered in the regular DVM admission cycle.

**Program Details:** Admitted MBA/DVM students have committed to completing a 5-year program leading to the combined degrees.

1. **MBA Program Overview –**

The Professional MBA Program serves as a basis for the combined MBA/DVM Program and provides a fresh, relevant approach to graduate business education.

Content is cross-functional, and has a strong emphasis on entrepreneurship, global business, and corporate citizenship. This 40-credit program is designed to serve the needs of working professionals and future veterinarians. The first year consists of the following: 1) two 16-week semesters, each divided into two 8-week sessions, in which the student earns 16-18 credits; and 2) one 8-week summer session in which the student earns 4-6 credits. Thus the first year of the combined program is defined as the first 20-24 hours of the MBA Program. The remaining 16-20 credits of courses are taken simultaneously with the first two years of the DVM Program. The final MBA capstone course is completed in the spring semester of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the DVM Program. Beginning in August 2011, classes meet Tuesday and Thursday evening; this scheduling minimizes the impact on busy work schedules or concurrent registration in daytime courses like those of the traditional DVM Program. The Tuesday/Thursday evening class schedule will be maintained throughout the MBA program. Combined MBA/DVM students may begin classes in the fall semester only.

All accepted students will be required to attend the College of Business' orientation for new students one evening in the week preceding the first evening of classes. In addition, MBA/DVM students will be required to attend a half-day orientation hosted by the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (date and time to be announced), as well as selected portions of the DVM Freshman Orientation during the daytime the week before classes. Students will be introduced to faculty advisors and MBA/DVM student mentors at the onset of the program. Social activities to promote group interaction and collegiality with involved faculty will be sponsored each semester by the College. Combined MBA/DVM students will have the opportunity to participate in DVM student social activities and veterinary student clubs beginning with the first MBA-devoted year of the Program.

## **2. Guaranteed Admission to the DVM Program –**

- Students who successfully complete the first year of the MBA Program will be granted a Colorado sponsored position in the subsequent DVM class.
- Non-Colorado resident students enrolled in the MBA Program may be eligible to convert their tuition classification to Colorado prior to matriculating into the DVM program. Applicants who are domiciled (not the same as "residency") in Colorado for one year or more prior to the date of matriculation in the DVM program are eligible to be included in the Colorado pool, and if qualified, will have their obligation to pay a support fee funded by the State of Colorado. For information about establishing domicile, go to the tuition classification website (<http://sfs.colostate.edu/I29000.cfm>). Questions concerning eligibility for Colorado support should be directed to the Colorado State University Office of Student Financial Services, 103 Administration Annex (970)491-6321, (<http://sfs.colostate.edu/>). Students who do not become domiciled in the State of Colorado in time will be offered Non-sponsored positions in the DVM Program. Please know once you have matriculated into the DVM program in a Non-sponsored position you cannot later change to a Colorado sponsored position.

- If the student receives less than a 3.0 cumulative GPA at the end of the first year of the combined program (defined as the first 20-24 hours of the MBA Program), he/she will not be eligible for guaranteed admission to the DVM Program. The student will be encouraged to apply to the DVM Program through the regular admission process.
- Successful completion of the first year of the MBA program is defined as completing the required list of courses (first 20-24 credit hours) with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better.
- Students who are dismissed from the combined program for failing to maintain minimum requirements may appeal the decision within 30 days of notification of such dismissal from the CVMBS Office of the Dean. Appeals must be in writing and directed to the Associate Dean for the DVM Program.
- Successful MBA students do not have to fill out a VMCAS application and will only need to update the Colorado Supplemental Application prior to being accepted and matriculating into the DVM program at the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the 5-year combined program. Updates to the Colorado Supplemental Application (personal contact information and tuition classification sections) to their prior year's supplemental application must be submitted online by the 10:00AM MDT October 1, 2010 deadline. No additional application fees are required.
- If a student wishes to drop out of the MBA Program after beginning, but prior to completion, of the first year of the combined program, s/he will lose the status of guaranteed admission to the DVM Program. S/he must reapply for admission to the DVM Program through the regular admission process.

### **3. Continuation in the Combined Program**

- It is expected that students in the combined program will complete the remaining requirements of the MBA Program during the first two years of the DVM Program. Consideration of extending completion of the MBA Program after matriculation in the DVM Program has begun will be given on an individual basis by the Associate Dean for the DVM Program.

### **4. Federal Financial Aid Issues**

- Federal Student Aid for graduate MBA students is based on numbers of credits per semester. Students are eligible for "tuition only" levels of aid at 5 semester credits. Since the MBA program requires 8 credits per semester during the first year of the combined program, MBA/DVM students would be credit-eligible for "full cost of education" financial aid.
- During the summer term of the first year of the MBA program, 4 semester credits of the MBA core are offered as well as 1-credit tutorials allowing students to qualify for Federal Financial Aid during this summer term. Students without financial aid are welcome to register for additional courses but are advised that tuition commiserate with the number of additional credit hours will be charged.

### **5. Jobs at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital**

- Incoming MBA/DVM students are given “first priority” for student hourly jobs at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH). Admitted students are advised to contact the VTH hiring authority (Karin Miller) the summer prior to matriculation and express interest. Jobs are not guaranteed, students must be qualified for the specific desired position, and the numbers of positions may be limited.

**6. First-Year DVM Credit Load Reduction Option**

**The Combined MBA/DVM Program is organized as a 5 year program. In year 1, students take 20-24 credit hours total in the MBA Program and have the option to take up to 4 credits of DVM classes in each of the fall and spring semesters. The goal is to reduce the workload in future years of the combined program. In Years 2 and 3 of the program students will be enrolled in coursework in both the DVM and the MBA Programs.**

- Courses available to students in the fall semester include VM 606 Veterinary Immunology (3 credits) and VM 601 Perspectives (1 credit) OR VM 680A1 Research in Veterinary Medicine (1 credit). In the spring semester students may elect to take VM 623 Veterinary Nutrition and Metabolism (2 credits), VM 648 Food Animal Production and Safety (2 credits) and VM 780A1 Professional Writing (1 credit). Students will attend classes and take all exams and assignments with the first-year veterinary students; however, they will not officially register for the courses until their first year in the veterinary program. At that time, the grade they earned the previous year will be assigned, e.g. they will not have to attend the classes while completing the first year of the veterinary program, but the official grade assignment will occur at that time.
- Students will be responsible for the information presented in VM 623, VM 648, and possibly VM780A1 on their first capstone exam which will take place the first day of the start of the sophomore year of the PVM program. Note – this is greater than 1 year following the completion of this coursework. The capstone exam is geared to assist students to integrate their knowledge of subjects covered in the PVM curriculum and to help students prepare for the national licensure exam.

**7. Award of the Combined MBA/DVM Degrees**

- When the student has successfully completed the requirements for the MBA degree, it will be awarded by the College of Business.
- When the student has successfully completed the requirements for the DVM degree, it will be awarded by the CVMBS.