

Colorado State University
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Combined MPH/DVM Program Guidelines

Introduction: The College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (CVMBS) and the Colorado School of Public Health (CSPH) have created a combined 5-year program of study that can result in earning both the *Masters in Public Health* (MPH) degree and *Doctor of Veterinary Medicine* (DVM) degrees. Successful applicants will matriculate in the MPH Program during the first year of the combined program and will complete approximately 32 of the required 42 semester credit hours of core and elective courses in three semesters, including summer. The summer term will include the practicum and Master's Project. Upon successful completion of the first year of the MPH program, students will earn a position in the first year of the Professional Veterinary Medical Program. During the first two years of the DVM program students will be able to take up 10 credits of DVM coursework that can transfer in to the MPH program to complete the 42 credits requirement. The total number of credits that are transferrable from the DVM program to the MPH program may vary slightly depending on which campus the student selects for the home campus for the MPH degree program. Additionally, some of the MPH coursework can be completed in the summer before fall enrollment in the MPH program which can help to reduce the higher courseload of the first two semesters of the MPH degree 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 regular Colorado supplemental application. Applicants who apply to the 5-year combined program must complete a special section of the supplemental application and mark the designated application status box. Candidates **offered admission** must also complete the CSPH application for the MPH Program.

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, MPH/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 experience in advanced academic studies related to Public Health, Preventive Medicine, Epidemiology, and related fields is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**, and preference will be given to those with more extensive experiences.

Note: If a candidate receives an OFFER to the MPH/DVM program, he/she will not be further considered in the regular admissions pool for the DVM program, 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 denied or designated as an alternate, his/her application will automatically be considered in the regular DVM admission cycle. Applicants wishing to be considered *separately* as a graduate student in the CSPH need to apply directly to the graduate program.

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

1. **Graduate Degree Program in Public Health Program Overview**
<http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/Psychology/gpph.shtml>

The MPH program includes a core of 17 hours of required courses, 4 hours for the practicum experience and the Master's Project, and a choice of 21 hours of electives that enable the student, in consultation with a faculty adviser, to plan an individual course of study that is responsive to the student's needs and interests. Completion of the degree program requires 42 semester hours. A maximum of 15 semester hours of previous graduate work in appropriate areas of study may be transferred with departmental approval.

The Colorado School of Public Health grants the MPH degree; thus students must meet all requirements of the School as specified in the School's website (<http://publichealth.ucdenver.edu>). Combined MPH/DVM students must begin classes in the summer or fall semesters only.

It is expected that accepted students attend the orientation for new students at their designated campus during the week before the first day of classes. In addition, MPH/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). Students will be introduced to faculty advisors and MPH/DVM student mentors. Combined MPH/DVM students will have the opportunity to participate in DVM student social activities and veterinary student clubs beginning with the first MPH-devoted year of the Program.

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

Students who successfully complete the first year of the MPH Program will be granted a Colorado position in the subsequent DVM class.

- Successful MPH students do not have to fill out a VMCAS application and will only need to update the Colorado Supplemental Application (with no fee) prior to being accepted and matriculating into the DVM program at the beginning of the 2nd year of the 5-year combined program.
- Non-Colorado resident students enrolled in the MPH 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 (a Non-sponsored position cannot be later changed to a Colorado position).

- If the student receives less than a 3.0 cumulative GPA at the end of the first year of the combined program (i.e. in the 1st year MPH courses), 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.
- 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.
- If a student wishes to drop out of the MPH 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 MPH Program during the first two years of the DVM Program.
- Consideration of extending completion of the MPH 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. **Award of the Combined MPH/DVM Degrees**

- When the student has successfully completed the requirements for the MPH degree, it will be awarded by the CSPH.
- When the student has successfully completed the requirements for the DVM degree, it will be awarded by the CSU CVMBS.