

Colorado State University
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

**STUDENTS' GUIDE TO THE COMBINED MPH/DVM PROGRAM
(Commonly Asked Questions)**

- 1. Is this for real?** Indeed it is! The College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (CVMBS) at Colorado State University (CSU) and the Colorado School of Public Health (CSPH) accepts outstanding students out of the group of applicants who express interest in the combined MPH/DVM Program. Upon successful completion of the first year of the MPH Program, you will be granted admission to the veterinary program and will be expected to complete the remaining requirements of the MPH Program concurrently with your first two years of the veterinary program.
- 2. What is this program all about?** A Special Report commissioned by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, entitled “Veterinarians in Population Health and Public Practice: Meeting Critical National Needs” presented an analysis of the veterinary profession and documented the need for additional specialists in this important area. The entire report can be viewed at http://aavmc.org/JVME_hoblet.htm. As stated in the report “Veterinarians are a unique national resource, as they are the only health professionals trained in multi-species comparative medicine. As a result of this training, the veterinary profession is able to provide an extraordinary link between agriculture and human medicine. The uses made of this link have been extensive, with multiple benefits to society. In fact, public support for veterinary medical education has, as its historical basis, the profession’s relationship with food production and the control of zoonotic diseases.” The CSU-CSPH MPH/DVM Program specifically addresses one of the principal recommendations in the AAVMC report that “Colleges should develop regional or national partnerships to provide specialty training in population health or public practice.”
- 3. How much is this going to cost?** You will have to pay graduate tuition and fees for courses taken in the first year of the MPH Program (approximately \$950 per semester credit hour for non-residents for the 2009-10 academic year, and approximately \$530 per semester credit hour for Colorado residents). Additional costs will include institution fees, books and general cost of living expenses. For the 2008-09 school year, CSU fees totaled approximately \$3300. Costs for books and living expenses will vary for each student. All financial aid for the MPH Program is handled through the University of Colorado Denver, the administrative hub of the Colorado School of Public Health. This means student loans use the UCD code number, and tuition and fees are paid to UCD (even if you’re on the CSU campus for your MPH program).

Combined Program students are expected to obtain Colorado domicile in order to permit the DVM Program to reserve the Colorado positions. 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/>). If you obtain Colorado domicile, you will be admitted to the DVM Program in fall 2012 in a Colorado position. DVM costs for Colorado positions are approximately \$18,858 for the 2010-2011 academic year. If you do not obtain Colorado domicile, you will be admitted to the DVM program in fall 2012 in a Non-sponsored position. DVM program costs for non-sponsored positions are approximately \$47,958 for the 2010-2011 academic year. Additional costs on a credit hour basis may be incurred for the MPH Program once in the DVM Program.

- 4. Once I accept the offer, how do I enroll for summer/fall public health courses for the MPH/DVM Program?** Accepted candidates for the combined MPH/DVM Program will be required to complete a CSPH online application at <https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=UCHSC-G>. You will not need to resubmit your transcripts or letters of recommendation, or have your GRE scores sent again. You can use your MPH/DVM statement as your personal statement in the CSPH online application. This is not a second application, but simply a formality and a means of getting your information entered into the CSPH system. If you have any questions about the online application please contact Kendra Bigsby at CSU (970-491-5800).

The administrative hub of the CSPH is the University of Colorado Denver (UCD), and all MPH students, regardless of what campus they have chosen, are UCD students. Once you are entered into the UCD system you will be given your UCD student ID. This ID will allow you to register for courses. Regardless of which campus you are taking classes at, you will register for classes through the UCD registration system. All students are emailed by the UCD Registrar's Office when registration on the various campuses opens. Before registering for classes it is recommended that you have an advising appointment with the appropriate person on the campus that you have chosen as your "home campus." This is especially important for MPH/DVM students since you are only in the MPH program for 12 months and you need to make sure you are meeting all requirements.

- 5. Do I have to apply again to the Professional Veterinary Medical Program?** No! All students who are admitted to and successfully complete the first year of the combined program will be automatically admitted to the DVM Program the following year. However, you will be asked to update the personal and tuition classification sections of your supplemental application and re-submit it online by the 10:00AM MDT, October 1, 2010 deadline. No additional application fees are required.
- 6. Under which category will I be admitted to the Professional Veterinary Medical Program?** It is expected that all combined Program students will be admitted to Colorado sponsored positions, and thus will pay Colorado-sponsored tuition and fees once in the veterinary program (approximately \$18,858 per year for 2010-2011). It is suggested that you move to Colorado at least a month (mid-late July) in advance of the

start of the orientation in order to have the time to establish Colorado domicile. For information on Colorado domicile, go to the following website:

<http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/cvmb/resreq.htm>

- 7. Are there scholarships associated with the Program?** The CSPH offers limited financial assistance for first-year MPH and MPH/DVM students. Some students are able to obtain fellowships, assistantships, or scholarships through the Office of Student Financial Aid, please see <http://www.ucdenver.edu/student-services/resources/CostsAndFinancing/AnschutzMedicalCampus/Pages/AnschutzMedicalCampus.aspx>. The Colorado School of Public Health does award a few small scholarships every year. We are actively seeking additional scholarship funding. All veterinary students are eligible to apply for competitive CVMBS scholarships (total amount exceeding \$1M per year). More information is available at <http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/cvmb/scholar.htm>.
- 8. What is the curriculum of the MPH Program?** The coursework for each of the areas of study can be viewed here: <http://www.cudenver.edu/Academics/Colleges/PublicHealth/ProspectiveStudents/Degrees/Pages/MastersPrograms.aspx>. A listing of all courses currently available to students, including electives, can be viewed at <http://www.cudenver.edu/Academics/Colleges/PublicHealth/Academics/coursesandregistration/Pages/CourseOfferings.aspx>.
- 9. If I receive an offer to the MPH/DVM program, will my application still be evaluated in the regular admissions pool?** No. If a candidate receives an OFFER to the MPH/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, his/her application will automatically be considered in the regular DVM admission cycle.
- 10. Must I have completed my undergraduate degree in order to be admitted to the combined program?** Yes, although you may be accepted to the DVM Program without completing a Bachelor's degree, it is still required for you to begin the MPH Program. You may apply for admission to the combined MPH/DVM Program prior to receiving your undergraduate degree, but you must have been awarded the Bachelor's degree prior to matriculation in the fall.
- 11. Do you have any hints for what should be covered in the separate narrative submitted as part of my Combined Program application?** Applicants to the Combined Program must submit a separate narrative that specifically addresses their motivations for participating in the Program, as well as a description of complementary experiences they have had. Tell us what past experiences in your life have contributed to your interest in combined training. Perhaps they were work experiences, or observations of one or more public health professionals in action, or previous collegiate training in Public Health, Preventive Medicine, Epidemiology, and related fields. Tell us what you

know about the importance of public health training to the role of veterinarians in society. Tell us how you think the combined training will affect your career and how your career as a veterinarian with an MPH might contribute to our profession. Consider addressing your ability to handle the additional course work with examples of why you feel capable of successfully completing this program. It is very important to summarize your previous Public Health experience, as candidates with significant experience will be given preferred consideration.

12. **What is CSU like in general?** As you may be aware, CSU's veterinary program was recently ranked as #2 in the nation by US News and World Report. It is the anchor to the CSU campus. For more information about the CSU campus, access the general website at <http://welcome.colostate.edu/> . The CSU Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine Program is considered one of the best in Northern America. This program has graduated many veterinary epidemiologists who lead national and international efforts to develop global public and animal health issues (<http://www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/aphi/>).
13. **What is CSPH like in general?** The Colorado School of Public Health (<http://publichealth.ucdenver.edu>) offers various graduate level programs in public health including the collaborative Master of Public Health professional degree. The academic programs are nationally accredited and will retain program accreditation until the new school receives accreditation (anticipated 2010). The Colorado School of Public Health provides workforce and research support through education and research, consulting and workforce education. The main Denver location is at the new Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, Colorado (<http://www.uchsc.edu/anschutzmedicalcampus/>) with collaborating locations at CSU (Ft. Collins) and UNC (Greeley). The new Colorado School of Public Health is the first and only school of public health in the Rocky Mountain Region, attracting top tier faculty and students from across the country, and providing a vital contribution towards ensuring our region's health and well-being.
14. **How do I get around Fort Collins and the CSU campus?** There is a bus system that many students utilize, as well as well-designed bicycle lanes and paths throughout the city. Information on the Transfort system may be accessed at <http://fcgov.com/transfort/>, and information on bicycling at <http://fcgov.com/bicycling/bike-maps.php>.