

Colorado State University
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

**STUDENTS' GUIDE TO THE COMBINED MBA/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 (CSU) University accepts up to five outstanding students per year out of the group of applicants who express interest in the combined MBA/DVM Program. Upon successful completion of the first year of the Professional MBA Program, you will be granted admission to the veterinary program and will be expected to complete the remaining requirements of the MBA program concurrently with your first two years of the veterinary program.

2. **What is this program all about?** The American Veterinary Medical Association, American Animal Hospital Association, and Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges commissioned KPMG LLP in April 1998 “to analyze and prepare a comprehensive study of the veterinary profession to examine issues of supply, demand, income, gender, market forces, and characteristics of successful veterinary professional and business practices.”

The study suggested that there are serious problems exerting economic pressures in some segments of the profession. The study identified opportunities that may not be realized unless the veterinary profession “is able to adapt and change our current business practices and attitudes, and habitual ways of delivering services that may be incompatible with our future success.” Because the study suggested that our traditional skills and knowledge might not be sufficient to capitalize on future economic opportunities, the CVMBS has undertaken a major initiative to improve training of our students in veterinary practice management and business skills. While there is ample evidence that the scientific and clinical skills of our graduates remain very high, there is also evidence that these additional capabilities may promote greater economic success. One way in which we will offer additional training opportunities to address the issues identified in the KPMG study issues is to offer combined training in the DVM and business programs at CSU.

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 MBA program (approximately \$1,000 per credit hour for non-residents for the 2008-2009 academic year, and \$349.00 per credit hour for Colorado residents). A Professional Program Assessment is added by the College of Business to the overall tuition at the rate of \$9600 for the entire program; this amount is pro-rated for each semester enrolled in the MBA program. You may consult the Colorado State University College of Business website at <http://www.biz.colostate.edu/grad/tuition.htm> for more information.

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 domicile 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 2011 in a Colorado position. DVM costs for Colorado positions are approximately \$16,547 for the 2009-2010 academic year. If you do not obtain Colorado domicile, you will be admitted to the DVM program in fall 2011 in a non-sponsored position. DVM program costs for non-sponsored positions are approximately \$44,647 for the 2009-2010 academic year. The tuition and Professional Program Assessment will continue to be incurred for the Professional MBA Program once in the DVM Program.

4. **How do I get admitted/enrolled at CSU for the fall MBA graduate semester?** Only admitted candidates for the combined MBA/DVM Program will be required to submit an online Graduate School Application available at <http://www.graduateschool.colostate.edu/>. This online form along with the College of Business Applicant Data Sheet is required by the College of Business. When filling out the online Graduate School Application indicate you are applying for BUSA-VM-MBA program. We will forward your veterinary application materials and original transcripts to the College of Business to complete their files. The College of Business will pay the admission fee of \$50. If additional documentation is required, you will be notified.
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 sponsorship sections of your supplemental application and re-submit it online by the 10:00AM MDT, October 2nd 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 positions, and thus will pay Colorado-sponsored tuition and fees once in the veterinary program (approximately \$16,547 per year for 2009-10). It is suggested that you move to Colorado at least a month in advance of the start of classes in the first year of the combined program in order to have time to take the steps necessary to establish domicile. For information about Colorado domicile, go to the following website: <http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/cvmb/resreq.htm>.
7. **Are there scholarships associated with the Program?** The College of Business offers assistantships for first-year MBA/DVM students who register for eight or more credits of course work. Many students are able to obtain scholarships through the Office of Student

Financial Services (<http://sfs.colostate.edu/>). Federal Student Aid for 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.

- 8. Are there paid positions available for combined students to earn a living while enrolled in the Program?** Yes! 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 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. These positions pay approximately \$8-\$10 per hour, depending on prior experience and availability of job opportunities. They provide the opportunity to work in clinical or business management sections of the VTH. In addition, the College of Business offers graduate assistantships for first-year MBA students. MBA/DVM students could qualify for assistantships, based on availability for work approximately 10 hours per week. Assistantships pay approximately \$650 per month and cover the cost of resident tuition or one-half of out-of-state tuition.
- 9. What is the curriculum of the MBA Program?** We will discuss this in detail at the orientation. A copy of the curriculum and course schedule is available for download from our web site at http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/cvmb/MBA_DVM.htm.
- 10. If I receive an offer to the MBA/DVM program, will my application still be evaluated in the regular admissions pool?** No. 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, his/her application will automatically be considered in the regular DVM admission cycle.
- 11. 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, this is still required for you to begin the MBA Program. You may apply for admission to the combined MBA/DVM Program prior to receiving your undergraduate degree, but you must have completed all your degree requirements for your Bachelor’s degree prior to matriculation in the fall.
- 12. Are students with real world work experience given priority?** Yes. MBA coursework is interactive and those with work experience are better able to both contribute to class discussions and understand concepts that are being discussed. For that reason, applicants are required to have full-time professional work experience.
- 13. Wow. It sounds like taking graduate business classes along with the first-year veterinary classes would be quite a challenge. Is there any way to offset the credit**

load? Yes! In order to reduce the numbers of credits MBA/DVM students must complete the first two semesters of the DVM program, students are offered the option to take up to 4 credit hours of DVM program courses in each of the fall and spring semesters of the first year of the combined program (the year prior to the start of the DVM Program). Optional DVM coursework includes Veterinary Immunology and either Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine or Research in Veterinary Medicine in the fall semester and Veterinary Nutrition and Metabolism and either Food Animal Production and Safety or Professional Writing in the spring semester of the MBA year of the combined program. 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.

14. **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 Combined 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 private practices' business procedures, or previous collegiate training in business, finance, or public administration. Tell us what you know about the importance of practice management training to the success of veterinarians in private or corporate practice. Tell us how you think the combined training will affect your career and your career as a veterinarian with an MBA 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 business experience, as only candidates with significant work experience will be considered.
15. **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. The College of Business has been designated in the top 20% of all business schools by Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, Kiplinger magazine named Colorado State University's Distance MBA Program as one of the best in the country. The Princeton Review named the Colorado State University MBA Programs as the #1 Best Administered in the nation (2007). For more information about the CSU campus, access the general website at <http://welcome.colostate.edu/>.
13. **How do I get around town?** There is a bus system that many students utilize, as well as well-designed bicycle lanes and paths throughout the city.

07.22.09