

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’ Professional MBA Program website at <http://www.biz.colostate.edu/professionalMBA/applicationProcess/Pages/tuition.aspx> 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 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. The tuition and College of Business' 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 and the College of Business' Applicant Data Sheet. You will find both of these forms at <http://www.admissions.CSUma.com>. 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 tuition classification sections of your supplemental application and re-submit it online by the 10:00AM MDT, October 1, 2010. 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 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. Assistantship applications are due to the College of Business Office of Graduate Admissions on or before May 1, 2011. MBA/DVM students qualified for assistantships are expected to work, approximately 10 hours per week for one of the Business departments. The assistantship pays the in-state tuition in the first fall and spring or ½ of the out-of-state tuition. Additionally, there is a stipend of about \$650 per semester (2 semesters total) to use toward the Professional Program Assessment, fees, textbooks, or other academic fees. Assistantships do not cover the Professional Program Assessment nor the 1-credit BUS690 tutorials that are part of the MBA program.

- 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.cvmbs.colostate.edu/cvmbs/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 application based and team oriented; 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. **What opportunities are available for MBA/DVM students during the day as the MBA classes are held in the evenings during the first year. Would it be possible for me to work at the VTH in the Director's Office during the day to practice the business skills I learn in the classroom setting?** You will be granted an assistantship within the College of Business for 10 hours per week. This is a daytime commitment and is valuable to offset the difference between in-state and out of state tuition and provides you with a stipend as described above. The work within the College of Business could range from assisting professors in their business classes, to conducting research or working on projects with professors or administrators. There is much to learn in the College of Business. In addition, MBA/DVM students are given preference for available hourly positions at the VTH.
15. **Can I take MBA classes this upcoming summer 2010 as I claim residency and move to Colorado in June 2010?** It is possible to take some of the electives in summer; it could be beneficial to take the Accounting tutorial and/or the Excel tutorial. These are one credit classes but could be beneficial to a student beginning the MBA this fall. If you do not have a strong math background then you may find the Mathematics for Managers useful. You may contact our MBA advisors at 800 491-4622 ext 4 or at MBAAAdvisor@business.colostate.edu.
16. **What summer opportunities are available for MBA/DVM students? Does CSU help with the costs for these opportunities?** There are summer opportunities for students.

Note: these are generally arranged by the student, some funding comes through CSU sources, most from outside CSU. Here is a selection of opportunities to consider:

- **Merck Merial research scholar summer positions:** students apply to work on a specific project in the lab of a CSU Principle Investigator. Merck Merial pays a stipend to support the student during this summer project. At the end of the summer the student presents a poster at research day and may have the opportunity to publish (depends on the project and status). Sometimes these turn in to hourly paid positions in lab in which the student worked for the summer.
<http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/MerialVeterinaryScholarsProgram/applicationInformation.htm>
- **Hill's summer leadership experience:** a few MBA/DVM students have taken advantage of the opportunity to work with Hills in Topeka, KS for a summer leadership development experience. This is a paid position and housing may also be provided.
- Other research experiences are available and information is available on this website:
<http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/cvmb/CurrentPVMStudentInfo.htm>
- **Integrated Livestock Management Program:** See this website:
<http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/ilm/participants/summerstudent.htm>. A stipend may be provided for participation in this program in the summers after years one and two of the PVM Program. Dr. Frank Garry is the contact person for this program and the website is:
<http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/ilm/>.
- **Comparative Orthopedics Laboratory:** under the mentorship of Dr. Simon Turner students are given the opportunity to care for research sheep, participate in research studies – including scrubbing in for surgeries, and pain management protocols for the sheep. These are paid hourly positions based at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
- Other: the possibilities are endless for summer opportunities that are student self arranged. The College maintains an internal website (<http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/cvmb/InternshipSites.htm>) with contacts and information for DVM students seeking short-term preceptorships and externships (summer, winter break, etc.). Students typically arrange experiences on their own. These experiences range from working at a veterinary clinic to working in a laboratory, to participating on an international or domestic spay/neuter trip. Note: there are many more opportunities for students, many of which may be paid.

17. What international opportunities are available for MBA/DVM students? Does CSU have partnerships with international veterinary colleges or institutions? Does CSU help with the costs for international experiences?

- An exchange program is available with the Royal School of Veterinary Studies in Scotland and students may participate in exchanges with that school. This is a new program and the first set of exchanges are set to occur in the summer of 2010. More information will be forthcoming.
- The Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association lists some international opportunities for students on this website:
<http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/SCAVMA/organizations/ivsOverview.html>

- The MBA program now offers an opt-in International Business Study trip for its students; this summer the MBAs will travel to Shanghai and Beijing visiting many businesses and agencies as well as the World Expo which is a showcase of many countries around the world. This study trip is part of the electives offered within the MBA program.

18. Is the DVM curriculum taught through lectures/labs or problem-based learning? How are students assessed/graded in the courses they take? How are they ranked against one another?

- A combination: many classes are taught in a didactic lecture format with PBL (problem based learning) components. There is a PBL elective in the second year. This is a course taught by clinicians from the VTH in small group format. In this situation they are resources to the students as they work through a variety of cases.
- Please see the student handbook for an explanation of student evaluation, academic standards and class rank:
<http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/cvmb/CurrentPVMStudentInfo.htm> The link to the handbook is in the lower right corner. In the table of contents refer to: “scholastic standards policy and class rank explanation.”

19. Do DVM students have the opportunity to interact with patients during their first year? What type of patient contact, interactions, and clinical skills do they learn during their first year?

- There are no formal rotations in the first year in the hospital. Refer to the curriculum guide for courses in each of the 4 years of the veterinary curriculum:
<http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/cvmb/CurrentPVMStudentInfo.htm>.
- However, there are opportunities to interact with animals through VM 616 (Functional Anatomy): both cadaver and live animal labs (healthy animals to learn normal anatomy) are core to this course.
- First-year students may also sign up for after-hour clinical experiences such as “Large Animal Emergency Service” and “Foal Watch” and other opportunities. See the following link for a detailed list of hands-on experiences for first and second year DVM students: http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/cvmb/Hands_on_Experience.pdf.
- MBA/DVM students may become active in veterinary related student clubs starting in their first year in the combined program. There are numerous hands on learning experiences available through club labs and events. Most of these clubs are sponsored by SCAVMA (Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association) and this website provides a list: <http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/scavma/>.

20. Where have past MBA/DVM students ended up after completing the program? What is the average compensation of MBA/DVM graduates? How do most MBA/DVM graduates find their first job? Do institutions/organizations look to CSU first to recruit MBA/DVM graduates or do MBA/DVM graduates have to proactively look for organizations that are searching for such graduates? These are big questions from my family

- **Outcomes Assessment:** This information will be available in the fall semester of 2010. Drs. Lori Kogan and Christine Hardy from the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and Susan Meyer from the College of Business are collecting information from an outcomes assessment survey for the MBA/DVM students.
- **Average compensation:** Anecdotally, we believe the starting salaries for graduates of this program to be 10-20% higher than the average new veterinary graduate and believe their compensation increases at a faster rate than other veterinarians. Please note: internship positions and residency positions are traditionally very low paying (average of \$25,000 for an internship and \$35,000 for a residency position). Salaries for other veterinary positions are significantly higher.
- **How do students find their first job?** Students that go into internships do so through the internship match program (<http://www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/careers/>). Other graduates of the MBA/DVM Program found their first jobs through connections they had established through the program or a search of a geographic target area. There is a career liaison through the college of veterinary medicine that some students utilize (<http://www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/careers/>). In general, this is a self directed activity. Information about job search strategies is covered in VM 712, Professional Development in the 3rd year. Note: this program has gotten quite a bit of attention from practice owners and companies. As such some students have been actively recruited into positions. Anecdotally all graduates report to have secured their first choice position post graduation.
- As of May 2010, there have been 16 graduates of the program thus far. Here is the list of what their current positions are:
 - 1 = policy work in Washington
 - 1 = Hill's Leadership Development Program (1st year practice in Kansas and is now working at Hill's corporate)
 - 1 = academia/administration
 - 6 = internship (of these individuals 1 is currently in a residency program, one is an emergency veterinarian and one is a medical director of a VCA clinic and 3 are entering an internship position)
 - 7 = private practice (1 mixed animal, all of the others are in small animal practice)

21. 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 there 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 full-time professional experience, as only candidates with significant work experience will be considered. Typically, clinical technician experience is not sufficient to qualify as full-time professional experience.

- 22. 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 ranked in the top 70 of business schools by both Business Week and US News and World Report, 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/>.
- 23. 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.

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