

MPH/DVM Program Guidelines

Introduction: The College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (CVMBS) and the Colorado School of Public Health (ColoradoSPH) have created a combined 5-year program of study that can result in earning both the *Master of Public Health* (MPH) degree and *Doctor of Veterinary Medicine* (DVM) degree. Successful applicants will matriculate in the MPH Program during the first year of the combined program and will complete approximately 30 of the required 42 semester credit hours of core and elective courses in three or four semesters, including summer. The summer term before the start of the DVM Program will include the practicum and Capstone Project. Upon successful completion of the first year of the MPH program, students will earn a position in the first year of the DVM program. During the first two years of the DVM program students will be able to take up 12 credits of DVM coursework that can transfer in to the MPH program to complete the 42 credit requirement. Only DVM courses where the student received a B or better can be transferred in. 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 course load of the first two semesters of the MPH degree program. Students will complete the remaining requirements of the MPH program with coursework included in 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 VMCAS Application as well as the Colorado Supplemental Application. Additionally, applicants who apply to the 5-year combined program must complete the MPH/DVM section of the Colorado Supplemental Application. Candidates **offered admission** must also complete an additional online ColoradoSPH form for the MPH Program. This is not a second review process, simply a means of getting your information into the ColoradoSPH system.

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, complementary experiences as revealed in the body of the regular application, and which MPH concentration they have selected to be considered for. Previous experience in academic and/or non-academic activities related to public health, preventive medicine, epidemiology, and other related fields is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**, and preference will be given to those with more extensive experience.

Note: If you indicate you wish to be considered for the MPH/DVM program (on the Colorado Supplemental Application), your application will additionally be considered in the regular DVM admissions pool. When decisions are released, if a candidate receives an OFFER to the MPH/DVM program, they will not be further considered in the regular DVM admissions pool, regardless of whether or not they accept or decline the MPH/DVM offer. If you are denied or designated as an alternate for the MPH/DVM program, your application will be considered in the regular DVM admissions pool.

Applicants wishing to be considered *separately* as a graduate student in the ColoradoSPH need to apply directly to the graduate program through SOPHAS.

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

1. Master of Public Health (MPH) Program Overview

<http://www.publichealth.colostate.edu>

The MPH program includes a core of 17 hours of required courses, 4 hours for the practicum experience and the Capstone Project, 12-15 credits of coursework for a specific area of study, and an additional 6-9 credits of general electives, enabling the student, in consultation with an academic advisor to plan an individual course of study that is responsive to the student's needs and interests. Completion of the degree program requires 42 credit hours. A maximum of 15 credits of previous graduate work in appropriate areas of study may be transferred with departmental approval.

The ColoradoSPH 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. Students choosing the CSU campus will attend a full day orientation to be hosted by the CSU MPH program to include a brief session with the CVMBS for the DVM portion of the combined program (date and time to be announced). Students will be introduced to faculty advisors and MPH student mentors.

2. Guaranteed Admission to the DVM Program

- Students who successfully complete the first year of the MPH Program will be granted a Colorado sponsored position in the subsequent DVM class, provided they are eligible for Colorado domicile.
 - 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 <https://financialaid.colostate.edu>. 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, please let them know you are applying to the MPH/DVM Program. Students who do not become domiciled in the State of Colorado in time will be offered a Non-sponsored position 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 (i.e. in the 1st year MPH courses), they 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 MPH program is defined as completing the required list of courses 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 College Office. 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, they will lose the status of guaranteed admission to the DVM Program. They must reapply for admission to the DVM Program through the regular admission process.
- Successful MPH students do not have to fill out a VMCAS Application and will only need to update their personal contact information and tuition classification prior to being accepted and matriculating into the DVM Program at the time of the CVMBS MPH/DVM orientation.

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

- MPH/DVM students can apply for graduation from the MPH program in the semester following the completion of their credit requirements. Combined students will need to submit a transfer credit form to the ColoradoSPH and have an official CSU transcript sent to the ColoradoSPH showing DVM courses to be transferred into the MPH program. When the student has successfully completed the requirements for the MPH degree, it will be awarded by the ColoradoSPH.
- When the student has successfully completed the requirements for the DVM degree, it will be awarded by the CSU CVMBS.

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