VET PREP PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Program Overview

The College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University offers a year-long program to assist disadvantaged students in obtaining the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. The program offers coursework and mentoring to selected students who, upon successful completion of the one-year program and requirements, will be admitted to the professional veterinary medical program in a Colorado position at Colorado State University.

Candidate Selection and Eligibility

Because of the limited number of positions in the veterinary program, many qualified applicants are denied admission each year. The Veterinary Admissions Committee ranks qualified disadvantaged* applicants who were denied admission (or ranked as alternates) in the regular admissions process and selects the top 10 applicants to be offered positions in the Vet Prep Program. If an offer is declined, the next-ranked candidate will be offered the position.

*Disadvantaged circumstances are evaluated as one or a combination of economic, educational and cultural-social factors.

- **Economic factors include:** a demonstrated history of low income of applicant and family unit prior to college entrance and pre-veterinary education; level of financial support provided by applicant to the family unit prior and during pre-veterinary education; if applicant has a major financial responsibility to a household; and history of financial aid.

- **Educational factors include:** inadequate early education because of frequent change of schools during elementary and secondary education; unusual number of hours of employment or necessitated other time commitments for supporting self or family unit during high school and pre-veterinary education; lack of exposure to academic role models and of participation in sound educational programs.

- **Cultural/environmental factors include:** born to immigrant parents; reared in an ethnic minority culture; reared in a family with English as a second language; experienced cultural stress as a result of transition from a predominantly ethnic minority community to an academic environment; reared in an economically depressed area; reared by someone other than parents; reared in an environment lacking exposure to opportunities offered by higher education; reared in an environment of abuse such as alcohol, drugs, child abuse and other physical abuse.

Orientation, Tuesday, August 18, 2015

New Vet Prep students will be expected to attend a half-day orientation the week before the fall 2015 semester begins. This orientation will introduce participating faculty and peer mentors and provide details of expectations of the program.
Expectations of the Program

Fall 2015
Vet Prep students have the option to enroll in the one-year Toxicology Master’s Degree program (not required, just an option – see details below, #6).

1. **Critical: Establish Colorado domicile by end of July** (latest date is one year from the planned date of matriculation in the DVM program the following fall). It is the student’s responsibility to take the steps necessary to establish domicile. ALL VET PREP STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED to contact LeAnne Schnader at leanne.schnader@colostate.edu at the Tuition Classification Office for more information. Plan on moving to Colorado, at the latest, by the end of July in order to leave plenty of time to establish domicile by the required date.

2. **Attend the required orientation in August.**

3. **Meet monthly during the fall semester.** The goal of these meetings is to check in with the students regularly during the semester and to aid with any challenges they may be experiencing. Two of these meeting will be as a group and one will be individually schedules for academic advising for the spring semester. Additional meetings will be schedules as needed or by student request.

4. **Update contact information and tuition classification information at time of orientation.**

5. **Toxicology MS Option**
   a. The Toxicology MS program includes a core of 12 credits of core Toxicology courses, 10 credits of Toxicology and seminar electives, and an additional 10 credits of general electives, enabling the student, in consultation with the faculty advisor, to plan an individual course of study that is responsive to the student’s needs and interests. Completion of the degree program requires a minimum of 32 credit hours. A maximum of 9 credit hours of previous graduate work in appropriate areas of study may be transferred with departmental approval.
   b. The academic training in the MS (Toxicology) program will provide a clear understanding of clinical and diagnostic toxicology, pharmacology, toxicological pathology, metabolism and distribution and an exposure to research in the field of toxicology. The ability of highly motivated students within this Program to acquire an advanced degree before entering into the professional veterinary program provides a stepping stone for achieving future residency programs, doctoral programs and/or faculty status at different institutions. The advanced degree of this Program will prepare candidates academically for the professional veterinary medical program as well as for future careers in veterinary toxicology either in academia, the private sector, or research.
   c. General electives within this program will include courses recommended for the VetPrep curriculum.

Spring 2016 *(must enroll at CSU full time – minimum 12 semester credits)*

1. **Course requirements** (depending on previous coursework, and as determined by Program Director)
   o Pharmacology (BMS450)
   o Physiology (BMS300, BMS360 or BMS501, depending on previous physiology coursework)
   o Independent Study (weekly 1-hour session of student-chosen topics facilitated by Program Director)
   o Elective biomedical sciences course (as determined by student in consultation with program director)

2. **Course requirements for Toxicology Program**  The curriculum is designed to promote preparation of students to meet the rigorous demands of the veterinary medicine
curriculum. An integrated approach to learning is used in teaching the Toxicology Program in order to enhance meaning, understanding, and retention of information for the students. The academic training in the MS Toxicology program will provide a clear understanding of clinical and diagnostic toxicology, pharmacology, toxicological pathology, metabolism and distribution and an exposure to research in the field of Toxicology. The advanced degree of this Program will prepare candidates academically for the professional veterinary medical program as well as for future careers in veterinary toxicology either in academia, the private sector, or research.

**Summer Semester-Toxicology Program:** Electives chosen by the student and faculty mentor appropriate for the students, such as Chemistry, Physiology, and Veterinary Anatomy.

**Fall Semester-Toxicology Program:**
- ERHS502 Fundamentals of Toxicology
- ERHS568 Pharmaceutical and Regulatory Toxicology
- ERHS601 Metabolism and Distribution of Toxic Agents
- Physiology (BMS300, BMS360 or BMS501 depending on previous physiology coursework)
- Electives chosen by the student and faculty mentor appropriate for the student

**Spring Semester-Toxicology Program:**
- ERHS566 Clinical and Forensic Toxicology
- ERHS602 Mechanisms of Toxicity
- ERHS603 Toxicological Pathology
- ERHS693C Toxicology Seminar
- Electives chosen by the student and faculty mentor appropriate for the student

**Total Credits required for the MS degree:** 32

3. **Submit FAFSA** (if requesting financial aid for DVM program).

**Summer 2016**

**Course requirement**- VS333 Domestic Animal Anatomy (condensed to 6-week session). Includes gross dissection laboratory (detailed dissection of embalmed canine cadaver plus fresh equine limbs as available – also condensed to 6-week session). **Class attendance is required. Students should plan on being engaged in class activities 8am-3pm daily M-F. This can be considered as an appropriate elective for students in the Toxicology program.**

**Guaranteed Admission to the DVM Program**

In order to meet the guaranteed admissions provision, students must:
1. obtain a C grade or better in all coursework (including fall and spring courses).
2. complete all academic requirements with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (including fall and spring semesters).
3. be eligible for a Colorado position via having established domicile by the appropriate date (alternately student will have the option of a guaranteed Non-sponsored position).

**Cost**
The cost of the program is your cost of tuition minus the $5,000 program award. Students have the option to elect the General VetPrep Program or the Master of Science in Toxicology program (per Program Director approval).

**General VetPrep Program**
In the fall semester some students may opt to pay for one credit of Independent Study fall semester in order to obtain access to student services (such as the health and recreation center). A separate fee is required for student services. Some students enroll full or half-time for other reasons (choosing to take additional courses or a degree program or to maintain financial aid).

Spring semester, you will have to pay undergraduate non-resident tuition and fees (if you are not currently a Colorado resident) as a full-time student (currently approximately $13,000 per semester). Colorado full-time undergraduate tuition and fees are currently approximately $5,000 per semester. The College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (CVMBS) will cover the costs for the 6 credit summer veterinary anatomy course (a contribution of $2,800 for CO residents and $7,800 for non-residents). As a result students do not pay for this class and they audit it. Only courses for which you pay will show up on an official transcript. In addition to the access at no charge to the anatomy class/lab in the summer session you are eligible to receive a program award of $5,000 that will be credited to your student account in January (mentioned above). This will then reduce your cost of tuition for the spring semester. As long as you become domiciled in Colorado, you will be eligible for a Colorado-sponsored position in the veterinary program, currently approximately $14,000 per semester (tuition and fees).

**MS Toxicology Program**
For students who elect for the MS Toxicology program that total cost is approximately $5400/semester for a CO resident and approximately $11,700 per semester for non-sponsored students. The MS Toxicology option is a 32 credit hour non-thesis Master of Science in Toxicology Program. The program award is still given in January and is a total of $5,000 credit towards the student account, thus lowering the tuition cost.

We believe strongly in the value of the VetPrep Program and the students in the program. As such the combined value of the CVMBS support for students is $7,800 for CO residents and $12,800 between the $5,000 program award and the support of the 6 credit summer anatomy course. Non-resident VetPrep students are strongly encouraged to establish domicile in CO to pay the CO-sponsored tuition rate during veterinary school, which will result in a cost savings of at least $130,000.

**Appeals**
Students who are dismissed from the VetPrep Program for failing to maintain minimum requirements may appeal the decision within 30 days. Appeals must be in writing and directed to the Assistant Dean for Veterinary Admissions and Student Services.