Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and Colorado School of Public Health

Combined MPH/DVM Program

Introduction: Based on a MOA (attached), signed by all parties as of August 27, 2008, between the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (CVMBS) and the Colorado School of Public Health (CSPH), the parties have created a combined 5-year program of study that can result in earning both the Masters in Public Health (MPH) degree and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degrees. Successful applicants will matriculate in the MPH Program during the first year of the combined program and will complete 38 of the required 42 semester credit hours of core and elective courses in three semesters, including summer. Upon successful completion of the first year of the MPH program, students will earn a position in the first year of the Professional Veterinary Medical Program. Students will complete the remaining Master’s Project requirements of the MPH Program concurrently with the first year of the DVM Program, although the practicum requirement can be fulfilled during the summer between the MPH and DVM programs. The additional cost of the MPH is approximately $21,000.

Location of the Program: The MPH/DVM is provided through the Colorado School of Public Health which is a formally approved School made up of programs at the University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus, Colorado State University and the University of Northern Colorado. The core MPH coursework may be completed at either the UCD or CSU campus. However, there is a rule that at least 24/42 MPH hours must be completed at the home campus which for these students is CSU. All DVM coursework is completed at CSU.

Admission: Application to the combined degree program occurs concurrently with the regular DVM application process. Applicants fill out the entire VMCAS application as well as the entire regular Colorado supplemental application. Applicants who apply to the 5-year combined program must complete a special section of the supplemental application and mark the designated application status box. Candidates offered admission must also complete the CSPH application for the MPH Program.

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, as well as complementary experiences as revealed in the body of the regular application. Previous experience in advanced academic studies related to Public Health, Preventive Medicine, Epidemiology, and related fields is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED, and preference will be given to those with more extensive experiences.

Candidates receiving an offer of admission to the combined program may change their status and return to the competitive pool of applicants for the 4-year DVM program at any time prior to accepting the MPH/DVM offer. The candidate’s application will then return to the DVM applicant pool to be reviewed competitively with other applicants. It should be noted that the later a MPH/DVM-offered candidate makes the decision to change status, the less likely positions will remain open – regular DVM positions will not be held open for MPH/DVM candidates during the
same year of the application. An offer to the MPH/DVM Program does not guarantee admission to the DVM Program in the regular process of the same year should the candidate change his/her mind. If the applicant changes status and is not admitted that year in the regular process, s/he must reapply through the regular application process again the following year, again with no guarantee of acceptance in either the combined MPH/DVM or DVM Programs. If an applicant indicates that s/he wishes to be considered for the combined program, but is denied that opportunity, his/her application will automatically be considered in the regular DVM admission cycle. Thus, candidates expressing interest in the MPH/DVM Program will not be disadvantaged compared to applicants who apply only for the DVM Program. Applicants wishing to be considered separately as a graduate student in the CSPH need to apply directly to the graduate program.

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

1. Graduate Degree Program in Public Health Program Overview

http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/Psychology/gpph.shtml

The MPH program includes a core of 17 hours of required courses, 4 hours for the practicum experience and the Master’s Project, and a choice of 21 hours of electives that enable the student, in consultation with a faculty adviser, to plan an individual course of study that is responsive to the student's needs and interests. Completion of the degree program requires 42 semester hours. A maximum of 12 semester hours of previous graduate work in appropriate areas of study may be transferred with departmental approval.

The Colorado School of Public Health 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 fall semester only.

It is recommended that accepted students attend the UCD orientation for new students during the week before the first day of classes. In addition, MPH/DVM students will be required to attend a half-day orientation hosted by the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (date and time to be announced). Students will be introduced to faculty advisors and MPH/DVM student mentors. Combined MPH/DVM students will have the opportunity to participate in DVM student social activities and veterinary student clubs beginning with the first MPH-devoted year of the Program.

2. Guaranteed Admission to the DVM Program

Students who successfully complete the first year of the MPH Program will be granted a Colorado position in the subsequent DVM class. Successful completion of the first year of the MPH program is defined as completing the required list of 42 credits with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. Successful MPH students do not have to fill out a VMCAS application and will only need to update the Colorado Supplemental Application (with no fee) prior to being accepted and matriculating into the DVM program at the beginning of the 2nd year of the 5-year combined program. 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 (http://sfs.colostate.edu/129000.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). Students who do not become domiciled in the State of Colorado in time will be offered Non-sponsored positions in the DVM Program (a Non-sponsored position cannot be later changed to a Colorado 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 first year MPH courses), he/she 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.

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 Office of the Dean. 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, s/he will lose the status of guaranteed admission to the DVM Program. S/he must reapply for admission to the DVM Program through the regular admission process.

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 year 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**

When the student has successfully completed the requirements for the MPH degree, it will be awarded by the CSPH. When the student has successfully completed the requirements for the DVM degree, it will be awarded by the CSU CVMBS.
Memorandum of agreement (MOA)

Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

and the

Colorado School of Public Health

This memorandum reflects the working relationship between Colorado State University (CSU), College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (CVMBS), Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program and the Colorado School of Public Health (CSPH) Master of Public Health (MPH) programs. The manner in which the DVM students may obtain a joint degree (DVM/MPH) are outlined in this document.

The operating principles that support this joint degree are as follows:

The DVM/MPH is considered a joint degree program and students must complete all requirements for both academic programs. After completing the first year of MPH requirements, students will matriculate into the DVM program and complete their MPH during the remaining three years (a maximum of four years is allowed to complete the MPH degree).

Final approval of individual program details and schedules is the responsibility of the MPH/DVM director at CSU and the MPH director at the CSPH.

CSU CVMBS DVM program staff market the joint degree to potential applicants.

Applicants are screened for eligibility for admission to the joint program at CSU.

A list of applicants, without priority order, is sent to the Associate Dean of Education and Students Affairs at CSPH.

The Associate Dean works with the CSPH Admissions Committee to develop a list of applicants in priority order.

The target enrollment in the joint program is currently 5 DVM/MPH students but this number will be reviewed by the CSU DVM and CSPH staff on an annual basis.

CSPH will send a letter of admission to the MPH portion of the joint program providing instructions for submitting required application materials needed for formal admission to the CSPH. Letters of reference provided to CSU will serve as required letters for this stage of the process.

An official letter of admission to the MPH program will be sent upon completion of this process.

The first academic year of the MPH program will be spent in one of the CSPH MPH degree programs. The DVM program will begin at CSU CVMBS in the second academic year.
Joint degree applicants will be provided guidelines with regard to selecting a campus for the first academic year and selecting a concentration for the MPH program that are compatible with all CSPH MPH graduate students.

Should a DVM student be involved in a CSPH honor code violation, the CSPH Associate Dean of Education and Student Services will notify the Associate Dean for the DVM Program under the appropriate legal guidelines.

Nothing in this document will be interpreted to conflict with existing laws, policies and procedures of the CSU Board of Governors or the CU Board of Regents.

All actions of the parties to this agreement will ensure that the policies, practices and activities of this joint program meet the requirements of the relevant accrediting bodies for the individual programs (DVM, MPH).

Should any disagreements arise during the implementation of this agreement; the affected parties will first work to identify an agreeable solution. If this is not possible, the issue will be referred to the Dean, CSPH or his/her designee who will have final authority to decide.

Agreed to by:

Lance Perryman, DVM. PhD
Dean
CSU College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (CVMBS), Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program

Lorann Stallones, PhD
Director
CSU Graduate Degree Program in Public Health

Richard F. Hamman, MD, DrPH
Dean
Colorado School of Public Health
University of Colorado Denver