



## **2024 VET PREP PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

Vet Prep Program Advisor: Director of Veterinary Admissions

### **Program Overview**

The College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (CVMBS) at Colorado State University (CSU) offers a year-long program to assist students who have faced disadvantages during their pursuit of a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree. Vet Prep students have been very successful with a high rate of DVM graduation from CSU. The program offers coursework and mentoring and also includes the option to seek Colorado domicile to selected students who, upon successful completion of the one-year program and requirements, will be admitted to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program in a Colorado sponsored (in-state) position at CSU.

The DVM program receives many more qualified applicants than can be directly admitted. The Vet Prep program offers an opportunity to recruit top students with a guaranteed DVM admission with the commitment to enhancing the diversity of the veterinary program. Vet Prep students are selected because of their outstanding application in addition to a uniquely challenging background. The typical admitted Vet Prep candidate has a disadvantage claim, a strong general application, and some evidence that they could benefit from academic strengthening, professional development, peer networking, or other resource support prior to matriculation into the veterinary program.

### **Candidate Selection and Eligibility**

The Veterinary Admissions Committee considers DVM applicants for Vet Prep in parallel to the traditional DVM admissions review and selects the top 10 applicants to be offered positions in the Vet Prep Program. Candidates who express disadvantaged circumstances are considered. These uniquely challenging circumstances can be demonstrated as one or a combination of the following economic, educational and cultural-social factors:

- Economic factors: low income status of applicant and family unit prior to college entrance and pre-veterinary education; level of financial support

provided by applicant to the family unit or household prior and during pre-veterinary education; history of financial aid need and award.

- Educational factors: 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: 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; experienced environmental challenges as a result of an underrepresented cultural or personal identity.

### **Admission and Enrollment in the Vet Prep Program**

Candidates who accept an offer into the Vet Prep Program may choose from several **Vet Prep Program Enrollment Options** into select CSU undergraduate or graduate programs. Vet Prep candidates should work directly with the Vet Prep Program Advisor to discuss program options and enrollment considerations.

Candidates who pursue a master's degree option will be required to submit the CSU graduate school application for their appropriate program and pay associated application fees. For candidates pursuing the undergraduate option, no additional applications are necessary. DVM Admissions will forward application materials to the CSU Admissions office.

### **Academic Expectations**

The goal of the academic component of the Vet Prep program is to support the readiness of the candidate for the rigor of the DVM program. All enrollment options for the Vet Prep program provide foundational coursework for the DVM program with the intent to reduce the academic burden on the student during the DVM program by lessening the "newness" of the material, introducing the students to CVMBS faculty and facilities, and connecting the student to CSU and CVMBS resources prior to DVM program entry.

Regardless of the **Vet Prep Program Enrollment Option** selected, all Vet Prep students have basic requirements that must be met for guaranteed admittance to the DVM program

in the year following the Vet Prep year. Vet Prep students must meet the following expectations:

- Achieve a cumulative 3.0 GPA by the end of the Spring semester of the Vet Prep year.
- Achieve a C- or better in all coursework with the understanding that earning a D or F will result in an automatic dismissal from Vet Prep including denied admittance into the DVM program.
- Students pursuing the Professional Master's options are expected to pass their comprehensive final exams or complete the scholarly paper related to their program to complete the MS degree.

### **Guaranteed Admission to the DVM Program**

All students who are admitted to and successfully complete all Vet Prep program requirements will be automatically admitted to the DVM Program for the following year.

To meet the provision for **guaranteed admission to the DVM Program**, 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 sponsored position via having established domicile by the appropriate date** (alternately student will have the option of a guaranteed Non-sponsored position).
4. **Have Updated the Colorado Supplemental application** at the time of Vet Prep orientation.

### **Administrative Expectations**

- **Critical: Establish Colorado domicile by end of July 2024**
  - Vet Prep students must establish domicile one year prior to the planned date of matriculation into the DVM program, fall 2025. Both physical presence and evidence of intent must be in place to initiate the domicile year. Colorado residency requires a domicile in Colorado for twelve continuous months prior to DVM matriculation, fall 2025.
  - It is recommended the candidate move to Colorado by the end of July 2024 to initiate and complete the steps required to establish domicile by the required date – one year prior to DVM matriculation.
  - It is the responsibility of the Vet Prep student to take the steps necessary to establish domicile.
  - If the Vet Prep candidate chooses an online MS program option, this does not exempt them from the requirement to move to Colorado by the end of July to establish domicile.

- The Vet Prep candidate assumes all risk to their domicile status if they do not reside in the state of Colorado while attending the online MS option.
- VS 495 Independent Study/Seminar (1 credit; weekly 1-hour session of leadership development and other topics facilitated by the Vet Prep Advisor).
- Colorado residents do not leave the state for an extended period of time or for other employment.
- **Required Vet Prep Orientation, Monday, August 12, 2024 at CSU**
  - New Vet Prep students are required to attend a half-day orientation in Fort Collins to meet participating faculty, staff, and peer mentors to review program expectations and details.
  - Details will be provided during the summer via email.
- **Update Colorado Supplemental Application**
  - Candidates must update their contact and residency information in the CSU DVM Colorado Supplemental Application in early August 2024.
- **Submit FAFSA form** if requesting financial aid for the Vet Prep year. The student will need to submit/modify this information in preparation for entry into the DVM program as well.

## Vet Prep Program Enrollment Options

**Fulltime Undergraduate Option** - *the “Undergraduate” option is only available for those who have not completed a Bachelor’s degree or are not admissible to the graduate school*

Vet Prep students selecting this option must enroll full-time, in at least 15 credit hours, in both the fall and the spring semesters of the Vet Prep year. If a Bachelor’s degree has been completed prior to Vet Prep matriculation, students will be registered as a second-degree Neuroscience candidate in CVMBBS. Exception will be considered for students who have not earned enough credits to complete a Bachelor’s degree prior to Vet Prep matriculation. These candidates may then seek transfer to CSU and award of a Bachelor’s degree.

There is no need to apply to CSU's undergraduate program as DVM application materials will be forwarded to the CSU Admissions Office. If additional documentation is required, the candidate will be notified.

With advisement from the Vet Prep Advisor, **required** course work includes:

### Fall Semester

- 4 credits of Physiology (BMS300 or BMS500 and 501), dependent on candidate’s previous physiology coursework)
- VS 495 Independent Study (1 credit; weekly 1-hour session of leadership development and other topics facilitated by the Vet Prep Advisor)

- 10 credits of 300+ level science electives

### **Spring Semester**

- BMS 305 Domestic Animal Gross Anatomy (4 credits)
- BMS 531 Domestic Animal Gross Anatomy Laboratory Dissection (3 credits), is a recommended concurrent elective to BMS 305
- VS 495 Independent Study/Seminar (1 credit; weekly 1-hour session of leadership development and other topics facilitated by the Vet Prep Advisor)
- 7 credits of 300+ level science electives

### **MsPro Graduate Options** (three options)

CSU CVMBS offers several Professional Master's Degree (MsPro, non-thesis, Plan B) options. A Master's degree will be conferred on the candidate after successful completion of the MsPro program requirements.

All MsPro students will be required to complete the following coursework required by the Vet Prep program through MsPro core required courses or elective coursework.

### **In addition to or as part of the MsPro Program, the Vet Prep student must complete in the Fall semester:**

- 4 credits of Physiology (ex: BMS300 or BMS500)  
\*MSPro in MIP exempt– see program description below.
- VS 495 Independent Study (1 credit; weekly 1-hour session of leadership development and other topics facilitated by the Vet Prep Advisor)

### **In addition to or as part of the MsPro Program, the Vet Prep student must complete in the Spring Semester:**

- BMS 305 Domestic Animal Gross Anatomy (4 credits, Spring offering only)
- VS 495 Independent Study/Seminar (1 credit)

### **Graduate Program Options in Toxicology, Biomedical Science, or Microbiology-Immunology**

Select one of the following master's degree (Professional/Non-thesis) options:

- ❖ **Toxicology MSPro (1 year) Option** –Master's degree (Professional/Non-thesis) in Toxicology. *For priority consideration, applications are due April 1<sup>st</sup>* - application deadline of July 1<sup>st</sup> for domestic candidates.

<https://vetmedbiosci.colostate.edu/degree-programs/graduate/ms-toxicology/toxicology-1-year/>

- **Overview:** 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 DVM 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 DVM program as well as for future careers in veterinary toxicology either in academia, the private sector, or research.
  
- **Courses:** 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.
  - The program includes 13 credits of core Toxicology courses, 9 credits of Toxicology and seminar electives, and an additional 10 credits of general electives, enabling the student, in consultation with the Toxicology faculty advisor, to plan an individual course of study that is responsive to the student's needs and interests.
  - General electives within this program will include courses for the VetPrep curriculum as stated above.
  - Recommended Toxicology Courses for **Fall**:
    - ERHS502 Fundamentals of Toxicology
    - ERHS603 Toxicological Pathology
    - Electives chosen by the student and faculty mentor
  - Recommended Toxicology Courses for **Spring**:
    - ERHS601 Metabolism and Distribution of Toxic Agents
    - ERHS602 Mechanisms of Toxicity
    - Electives chosen by the student and faculty mentor
  - Recommended Toxicology courses for **Summer**:
    - Electives chosen as needed by the student and Tox faculty mentor as appropriate for the student.
  
- **Comprehensive Examination:** is taken early in the summer to fulfill the requirements for the MS degree. They are given the second week after spring finals. A scholarly paper option is also available.
  
- ❖ **Biomedical Sciences MSPro (1 year) Option** – Master's degree (Professional/Non-thesis) in Biomedical Sciences. Rolling application process – *recommended application deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>*. A denial in application to the MSB-BMS will NOT affect Vet Prep status.

<https://vetmedbiosci.colostate.edu/degree-programs/graduate/ms-bms/anatomical-and-physiological-sciences/>

- **Overview:** The MS in Biomedical Sciences (professional) emphasizes anatomy, physiology, and cellular processes and features animal cadaver laboratories as part of the standard curriculum. Home to more than 30 specialty research and teaching laboratories, the department of Biomedical Sciences allow students to gain hands- on learning experiences tailored to individualized interests in One Health. The Master's program also provides students with a challenging curriculum in a nurturing environment, including small cohort sizes, cutting edge virtual anatomy instruction, and unique opportunities which prepare you for the rigors of professional school and your professional career. Vet Prep students will select the **Animal Anatomy** concentration, alternatively, if the Animal Anatomy program is full, Vet Prep students may enroll in the **Neurobiology** concentration while completing the animal anatomy coursework.
- **Courses:** The BMS MSPro option requires completion of 32 hours of coursework consisting of a core curriculum plus electives. The electives may be selected from university-wide offerings as long as they are 300-level or greater.
  - This program is intended to build students scientific reasoning skills and requires a background in science not unlike the expanded CSU DVM pre- requisites. Although applicants' background coursework is evaluated on an individual basis, the strongest applicants have had some biology, chemistry, physiology, cell biology, genetics, etc. and will build upon these skills to become lifelong scientific learners.
  - **Background course work in physiology or completion of BMS300 may be required** prior to entry for students who do not have a strong science background. There is an online BMS 300 option that is available the Summer prior to matriculation.
  - Core required courses for the Animal Anatomy concentration include:
    - Managing a Career in Science BMS610A (1 credit; Fall)
    - Mammalian Physiology I - BMS500 (4 credits; Fall)
    - Mammalian Physiology II - BMS501 (4 credits; Spring)
    - Neuroanatomy - BMS545 (5 credits; Spring)
    - Domestic Animal Dissection - BMS531/633 (5 credits; Spring)
    - Applied Food and Fiber Animal Anatomy (BMS304) is a new elective that students are encouraged to take in the Fall semester to build critical thinking and communication skills related to anatomy and animal welfare.

- Students are advised to carefully review their electives choices and the timing of prerequisite courses with their program advisor or the program coordinator. The program requires 32 credits, but some students complete up to 36 or 40 credits over the course of the program to complete the BMS MSPro, which will increase the overall cost associated with the MS program. Students are advised to work with the MS program advisor to select courses that will best prepare them for success in the MS and for the DVM program.
- **Comprehensive Examination:** This is subject-base exam that all students take over 4 days (1 subject each day) early in the summer to fulfill the requirements for the MS degree. The dates for this exam are typically the last week in May, with two retake dates for students who do not pass all subjects the first time. These dates are provided at the time of orientation.

❖ **Microbiology-Immunology MSPro (1 year) 'ONLINE' Option** – Master's degree (Professional/Non-thesis) in Microbiology-Immunology. Application deadline is June 15th. A denial in application to the MSB-MIP will NOT affect Vet Prep status.

Note: Because the MIP program is offered online, students in this program will have an additional \$7,000 campus-wide registration charge in the Spring semester for the BMS 305 course, and an additional campus-wide registration charge of \$1,000 each semester for VS 495.

<https://vetmedbiosci.colostate.edu/degree-programs/graduate/ms-microbiology/microbiology-immunology/>

- **Overview:** A master's in microbiology-immunology prepares you to meet the exciting industry growth in biotechnology and industry specialization in microbiology. The Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Pathology is a recognized leader in infectious disease basic and translational research with over \$144 million in active extramurally funded research programs, many interfacing with industrial partners.
- **Online Option:** This program is offered online to candidates; however, all Vet Prep students will be required to meet in person for VS 495 Vet Prep seminar in the Fall and Spring semesters and BMS 305 in the Spring semester. It is the responsibility of the Vet Prep candidate to ensure that they attend all required in-person courses and meet the requirements of Colorado domicile.



\* NOTE: MIP students will have an additional \$7,000 campus-wide registration charge in the Spring semester for the BMS 305 course.

- **Courses:** A minimum of 30 semester credits (300 level or above) in coursework is required; 16 credits will be track-specific core courses 500 level or above.
  - Vet Prep students who select the MsPro option in MIP will be exempt from the Physiology requirement as the coursework dedicated to virology, microbiology, and immunology will provide foundational coursework that will support the candidate's success in the DVM program.
  - MIP-MS B students will still be required to complete the Vet Prep seminar VS 495 (Fall and Spring) and Anatomy BMS 305 (Spring) requirements. The BMS 305 requirement will increase the total program credit load to 34 credits.
  - Required for MsPro in MIP:
    - MIP611 Advanced Laboratory Techniques – Theory and Practice 4 Credits (Fall)
    - MIP613 Applied Microbiology and Virology – 4 credits (Fall)
    - MIP616 Modern Molecular Biology – 4 credits (Fall)
    - MIP612 Applied Immunology – 3 credits (Spring)
    - MIP617 Principles of Biodefense and Emerging Pathogens – 3 credits (Spring)
    - MIP614 Medical Microbiology – 3 credits (Spring)
    - MIP619A MIP MS-B Topics – 2 credits (Fall/Spring)
    - MIP619B MIP MS-B Topics – 2 credits (Spring)
    - \*VS 495 Independent Study (Seminar) – 1 credit taken both Fall and Spring semesters
    - \*VS 495 will satisfy the MIP618A + MIP618B MIP MS-B Seminar Series requirement of the program
- **Completion of a Scholarly Paper:** A scholarly paper will be required of each student as a requirement for the degree. The content and style of the paper will be determined by the Masters of Science (professional) Graduate Committee.

## Costs and Scholarship

Students in the Vet Prep Program will have to pay tuition based on their tuition classification as of Fall 2024. To help offset tuition costs during the Vet Prep year, each student will receive a \$10,000 and \$950 scholarship when enrolled in either the

undergraduate or graduate program option. This \$10,950 award is given in August 2024 (\$5,950) and again in January 2025 (\$5,000) to the student's CSU tuition account. If a candidate is dismissed during the first semester, they will not receive the second semester scholarship.

Candidates should consider if they have loan funds available for either program. In some cases, a student may find that they have reached their undergraduate loan maximums and are not eligible for financial aid. Financial Advising is available through the Office of Financial aid or by contacting [specialprograms@colostate.edu](mailto:specialprograms@colostate.edu) for one on one advising. Candidates should visit [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov) to view their full history and amount of student loan borrowing prior to meeting with an advisor. More information regarding annual and aggregate loan limits can be found at <https://financialaid.colostate.edu/studentloans/>.

- **Fulltime Undergraduate Option:** *the "Undergraduate" option is only available for those who have not completed a Bachelor's degree or are not admissible to the graduate school*  
Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 semesters will have to pay undergraduate tuition and fees as posted on <https://financialaid.colostate.edu/cost-of-attendance/>. Colorado sponsored full-time undergraduate tuition and fees are, currently, approximately \$12,432 a year. If you are not currently a Colorado resident, full-time undergraduate non-resident tuition and fees are approximately \$31,712 a year.
- **MS Program Option**  
Candidates who elect a MSPro option, the total cost is approximately \$17,500 for a CO resident and approximately \$33,400 for non-resident students (tuition, fees, and special program charges). Fees are on a per credit basis. Total costs will vary between MsPro options due to credit requirement differences. Costs of attendance may be viewed at <https://financialaid.colostate.edu/cost-of-attendance/>

We strongly believe in the value of the Vet Prep Program and the students in the program. Non-resident Vet Prep students are strongly encouraged to establish domicile in CO to become eligible to pay the CO-sponsored tuition rate during veterinary school, which will result in a cost savings of at least \$104,000. Once a candidate matriculates into the DVM Program, they are eligible to apply for the many scholarships that are given to DVM students annually. The College gives over \$900,000 dollars a year to current DVM students. Currently there are two specific DVM scholarships eligible to only Vet Prep students.

## **Appeal of Dismissal**

Students who are dismissed from the Vet Prep Program for failing to maintain minimum grade requirements may appeal the decision within 30 days. Appeals must be in writing and directed to the Director of Veterinary Admissions.

## **About CSU and Fort Collins**

CSU's veterinary program is ranked as #2 in the nation by US News and World Report. It is the anchor to the CSU campus. For more information about the CSU campus, access the general website at [www.colostate.edu](http://www.colostate.edu). Please also visit our DVM program website at <https://vetmedbiosci.colostate.edu/dvm/>. CSU focuses on sustainability by providing safe alternative means of transportation options and encourages stewardship, conservation, and protection of the world in which we live, work, and play.

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