

## **MBA/DVM PROGRAM FAQs**

1. Is this for real? Indeed it is! The College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (CVMBS) at Colorado State University (CSU) 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 Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program (DVM), 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. A Graduate Differential Tuition is added to the overall tuition. You may consult the Colorado State University College of Business’ Evening MBA Program website at <https://biz.colostate.edu/academics/graduate-programs/mba/evening/tuition-and-aid> 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 <https://financialaid.colostate.edu/doctor-veterinary-medical-students>. 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, please let them know you are applying to the MBA/DVM Program. If you obtain Colorado domicile, you will be admitted to the DVM portion of the Combined Program in fall 2023 in a Colorado sponsored position. DVM costs for Colorado positions are approximately \$39,000 for the 2020-21 academic year. If you do not obtain Colorado domicile, you will be admitted to the DVM portion of the Combined Program in fall 2023 in a Nonsponsored position. DVM program costs for Nonsponsored positions are approximately \$63,000 for the 2020-21 academic year. Tuition and Graduate Differential Tuition will continue to be incurred for the Evening 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, complete soft skills assessment through GMAC, and complete the College of Business' Applicant Data Sheet. You will find both of these forms at <https://biz.colostate.edu/academics/how-to-apply>. When filling out the online Graduate School Application indicate you are applying for BUSA-VM-MBA program. The CVMBS will forward your veterinary application materials and transcripts to the College of Business to complete their files. The College of Business will pay the application fee of \$60 as well as the soft skills assessment of \$65. If additional documentation is required, you will be notified.
5. Do I have to apply again to the DVM Program? No! All students who are admitted to and successfully complete the first year of the combined program with a 3.0 GPA or greater will be automatically admitted to the DVM program the following year. However, you will be requested to accept an offer to the DVM program and in August asked to update your personal contact information/tuition classification. It is not necessary to submit a second VMCAS Application. No additional application fees are required.
6. Under which category will I be admitted to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine 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 \$39,000 per year for 2020-21). It is suggested that you move to Colorado at least a month (mid-late July) 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 Colorado *domicile*. For information about Colorado domicile, go to the following website: <https://financialaid.colostate.edu/doctor-veterinary-medical-students>.
7. Are there financial awards associated with the Program? Yes! There is a graduate assistantship through the College of Business. This will reduce the cost of the program.
  - The College of Business offers assistantships for first-year MBA/DVM students who register for eight or more credits of course work. Assistantship applications are due to the College of Business Office of Graduate Admissions on or before March 1<sup>st</sup>. MBA/DVM students qualified for assistantships are expected to work approximately 10 hours per week for one of the Business

departments. The assistantship pays ½ of the tuition (in-state or out-of-state) for the first fall and spring semesters. Additionally, there is a stipend of about \$845 pre-tax per semester (2 semesters total) to use toward the Graduate Differential Tuition, fees, textbooks, or other academic fees. Assistantships do not cover the Graduate Differential Tuition.

- In addition, many students are able to obtain scholarships through the Office of Student Financial Services (<https://financialaid.colostate.edu/doctor-veterinary-medical-students>). 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. If I receive an offer to the MBA/DVM program, will my application still be evaluated in the regular admissions pool? If you indicate you wish to be considered for the MBA/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 MBA/DVM program, he/she will not be further considered in the regular DVM admissions pool, regardless of whether or not he/she accepts or declines the MBA/DVM offer. If you are denied or designated as an alternate for the MBA/DVM program, your application will be considered in the regular DVM admissions pool.
  9. What is the curriculum of the MBA/DVM Program? This will be discussed at the orientation. A copy of the curriculum and course schedule is available for download from our web site at <https://vetmedbiosci.colostate.edu/dvm/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2019/05/dvm-mba-course-schedule.pdf>.
  10. 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.
  11. 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 encouraged to have full-time professional work experience.
  12. Taking graduate business classes along with the first-year veterinary classes could be quite a challenge. Is there any way to offset the credit load? Yes! In order to reduce the number of credits MBA/DVM students must complete in the first two semesters of the DVM program, students are offered the option to audit 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/or Veterinary Science-Research and Methods in the fall semester and Veterinary Nutrition and Metabolism and/or

Food Animal Production and Safety 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 DVM 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 DVM program, but the official grade assignment will occur at that time. The DVM Admissions office will solicit the student's interest in auditing coursework.

13. Can I take MBA classes this upcoming summer as I claim residency and move to Colorado in June? It may be possible to take electives offered in summer during this time. You may contact Catie Rohloff at [catie.rohloff@colostate.edu](mailto:catie.rohloff@colostate.edu) or 970-491-5634 for information about elective course offerings.
14. 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. The "Foundations of Veterinary Medicine" course spans the first two years of the curriculum and is taught mainly in a small-group format. Students will work in groups of 10-20 students and complete a variety of hands-on labs (physical exam skills, surgical skills, animal handling) as well as case-based discussion sessions. These activities are led by clinicians from the VTH and private practice as well as specially trained veterinary technicians.
  - Please see the student handbook for an explanation of student evaluation, academic standards, class rank, and grades: <https://vetmedbiosci.colostate.edu/dvm/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2019/05/dvm-policy-class-standings.pdf>.
15. 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?
  - Students interact with animals as 1<sup>st</sup> year students in order to reinforce student knowledge of normal/appropriate anatomy and function.
  - First-year students may also sign up for after-hour clinical experiences such as "Large Animal Emergency Service" and "Foal Watch" and other opportunities.
  - 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).
  - There are no required 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: <https://vetmedbiosci.colostate.edu/dvm/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2019/06/dvm-curriculum.pdf>.

16. 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?

- Average compensation: From our first outcomes assessment survey the respondents indicated a starting salary was on average 20% higher than the mean starting salary for other graduates. Please note, this figure excludes those individuals who entered internship or residency positions after graduation because they all are significantly lower in compensation than a non-internship position. The survey also indicated an average increase in salary of >100% from their first salary until they took the survey (at most 4 years post graduation). This is a significantly higher rate of salary increase 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, <https://vetmedbiosci.colostate.edu/dvm/support-services/>. 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. In general, this is a self directed activity. Information about job search strategies is covered in VM 712, Professional Development in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Note: this program has received quite a bit of attention from practice owners and companies. As such some students have been actively recruited into positions.
- What difference does the MBA make with respect to career options after graduation? All respondents of the outcomes survey indicate the MBA was very beneficial in securing their first position out of veterinary school. All responded they secured their first choice position. For some respondents the MBA was critical for their jobs. Many responded they utilize the MBA skills/knowledge in their daily job, is an important factor in their job satisfaction, advancement opportunities, job customization to their interests, salary, autonomy, and leadership opportunities. All reported the MBA was beneficial for their career.
- As of May 2018, there have been 69 graduates of the complete program thus far. Some positions that graduates of the program have landed include:
  1. Medical director
  2. National policy work in Washington D.C.
  3. Industry
  4. Academia/administration
  5. Small business ownership
  6. Residencies
  7. Internships

## 8. Private practice associate

Additionally, some have established businesses separate from their veterinary work.

17. What should be covered in the separate narrative submitted as part of my Combined Program application in the Colorado Supplemental 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. Share any pertinent work experiences, observations of practices' business procedures, or previous collegiate training in business, finance, or public administration. What is the importance of practice management training to the success of veterinarians in private or corporate practice? How will the combined training affect your career and uniquely contribute to the profession. Consider addressing your ability to handle the additional course work with examples. 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.
18. What is CSU like in general? As you may be aware, CSU's veterinary program was recently ranked as #3 in the nation by the 2014 US News and World Report. The Evening MBA is exceptional. The program is digitally produced with a video production team who collaborates with faculty and staff to present world-class academic content and digital learning experiences using cutting-edge equipment and technology. Colorado State University's Online Evening MBA is ranked among the top programs in the world according to the Financial Times' Online MBA Ranking 2017. CSU's online MBA program ranks No. 1 in Colorado, No. 34 among public universities, and in the top 17% of programs in the United States.
19. 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. Information on the Transfort system may be accessed at <http://fcgov.com/transfort/>, and information on bicycling can be accessed at <http://fcgov.com/bicycling/bike-maps.php>.

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