

MPH/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) and the Colorado School of Public Health (ColoradoSPH) accepts outstanding students out of the group of applicants who express interest in the combined MPH/DVM Program. Upon successful completion of the first year of the MPH program, you will be granted admission to the DVM program and will be expected to complete the remaining requirements of the MPH program concurrently with your first two years of the veterinary program.
- 2. What is this program all about?** A Special Report commissioned by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, entitled “Veterinarians in Population Health and Public Practice: Meeting Critical National Needs” presented an analysis of the veterinary profession and documented the need for additional specialists in public health. As stated in the report, “Veterinarians are a unique national resource, as they are the only health professionals trained in multi-species comparative medicine. As a result of this training, the veterinary profession is able to provide an extraordinary link between agriculture and human medicine. The uses made of this link have been extensive, with multiple benefits to society. In fact, public support for veterinary medical education has, as its historical basis, the profession’s relationship with food production and the control of zoonotic diseases.” The CSU-ColoradoSPH MPH/DVM Program specifically addresses one of the principal recommendations in the AAVMC report that “Colleges should develop regional or national partnerships to provide specialty training in population health or public practice.”
- 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 MPH program (approximately \$1,352 per semester credit hour for non-residents for the 2021-22 academic year, and approximately \$833 per semester credit hour for in-state residents). Additional costs will include institution fees, books and general cost of living expenses. For the 2021-22 school year, CSU fees totaled approximately \$2,300. Costs for books and living expenses will vary for each student. All financial aid for the MPH program is handled through the University of Colorado Denver – Anschutz Medical Campus, the administrative hub of the ColoradoSPH. This means student loans for the MPH portion of the program use the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus code number, and tuition and fees are paid to the University of Colorado (even if you’re on the CSU campus for your MPH program).

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 MPH/DVM Program. If you obtain Colorado domicile, you will be admitted to the DVM portion of the combined program in fall 2024 in a Colorado position. DVM costs for Colorado positions are approximately \$39,000 for the 2021-22 academic year. If you do not obtain Colorado domicile, you will be admitted to the DVM Program in fall 2024 in a Non-sponsored position. DVM Program costs for non-sponsored positions are approximately \$63,000 for the 2021-22 academic year. Additional costs on a credit hour basis may be incurred for the MPH Program once in the DVM Program.

- 4. Once I accept the offer, how do I enroll for summer/fall public health courses for the MPH/DVM Program?** Accepted candidates for the combined MPH/DVM program will be required to complete an additional ColoradoSPH online form. This is not a second application, but simply a means of getting your information entered into the ColoradoSPH system. Students will also be required to submit a background check fee and a tuition deposit which will be applied to their first semester of MPH tuition. If you have any questions about this process please contact Kendra Bigsby at CSU at kendra.bigsby@colostate.edu or at (970) 491-5800.

The administrative hub of the ColoradoSPH is the University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus, and all MPH students, regardless of what campus they have chosen, are CU Denver students. Once you are entered into the University of Colorado Denver system you will be given your CU student ID. This ID will allow you to register for public health courses across all three partner campuses. Regardless of which campus you are taking classes at, you will register for classes through the CU Denver registration system. All students are sent an email when they have access to the registration system. Before registering for classes it is required that you have an advising appointment with the appropriate person on the campus that you have chosen as your “home campus.” This is especially important for MPH/DVM students since you are only in the MPH program for 12 months and you need to make sure you are meeting all requirements.

- 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 to update your personal contact information/tuition classification. It is not necessary to submit a VMCAS Application. No additional application fees are required.
- 6. Under which category will I be admitted to the DVM 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 2021-22). It is suggested that you move to Colorado at least a month (mid-late July) in advance of the start of the classes for the first year of the combined program in order to have the time to take the steps necessary to establish Colorado *domicile*. For information on Colorado domicile, go to the following website: <https://financialaid.colostate.edu/doctor-veterinary-medical-students>.

7. **Are there scholarships associated with the MPH/DVM Program?** The ColoradoSPH offers limited financial assistance for MPH students. Some students are able to obtain other fellowships, assistantships, or scholarships through the Office of Student Financial Aid. The ColoradoSPH does award a few scholarships every year and also funds Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) positions, but the GRA positions are competitive and are not awarded. All veterinary students are eligible to apply for competitive CVMBS scholarships (total amount exceeding \$1M per year). More information is available at <https://vetmedbiosci.colostate.edu/dvm/tuition-and-financial-resources/>.
8. **What is the curriculum of the MPH Program?** The coursework for each of the areas of study can be viewed here: <http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/PublicHealth/Academics/degreesandprograms/Pages/mph.aspx>.
9. **If I receive an offer to the MPH/DVM program, will my application still be evaluated in the regular admissions pool?** 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.
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, it is still required for you to begin the MPH program. You may apply for admission to the combined MPH/DVM program prior to receiving your undergraduate degree, but you must have been awarded the Bachelor's degree prior to matriculation in the summer or fall.
11. **What should I cover in the MPH/DVM narrative submitted as part of my Combined Program/Colorado Supplemental Application?** Applicants to the Combined Program must submit a separate narrative that specifically addresses their motivations for participating in the MPH/DVM program, as well as a description of complementary experiences they have had, and which MPH concentration they wish to be considered for. Tell us what past experiences in your life have contributed to your interest in both public health and veterinary medicine. Include work or volunteer

experiences, observations of public health professionals in action, or previous collegiate training in public health, preventive medicine, epidemiology, and related fields. Indicate what you know about the importance of public health training to the role of veterinarians in society and how you think the combined training will affect your career and contributions to the profession. Consider addressing your ability to handle the additional course work with examples of why you feel capable of successfully completing this program. It is very important to summarize your previous public health experience, as candidates with significant experience will be given preferred consideration.

12. **What is CSU like in general?** The CSU DVM Program has maintained its spot at No. 3 in the nation, based on the newly released 2015 U.S. News and World Report rankings of Best Graduate Schools. We've held a spot among the top three vet schools in the country for at least two decades. In fact, our veterinary school is the most highly ranked graduate program among many stellar offerings at CSU. We're also ranked No. 2 in the nation for federal research funding, according to a 2013 analysis by the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research. For more information about the CSU campus, access the general website at <http://www.colostate.edu/>. The CSU Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine Program is considered one of the best in Northern America. This program has graduated many veterinary epidemiologists who lead national and international efforts to develop global public and animal health issues (<http://www.cvmb.colostate.edu/aphi/>).
13. **What is COLORADOSPH like in general?** The ColoradoSPH (<https://coloradosph.cuanschutz.edu/>) offers various graduate level programs in public health including the collaborative Master of Public Health professional degree. The fully accredited ColoradoSPH provides workforce and research support through education and research, consulting and workforce education. The three partner campuses of the ColoradoSPH are the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus (Aurora), Colorado State University (Fort Collins) and the University of Northern Colorado (Greeley). The ColoradoSPH is the first school of public health in the Rocky Mountain Region, attracting top tier faculty and students from across the country, and providing a vital contribution towards ensuring our region's health and well-being.
14. **How do I get around Fort Collins and the CSU campus?** 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 at <http://fcgov.com/bicycling/bike-maps.php>.

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