

## **Doctor of Veterinary Medicine/Master of Public Health (DVM/MPH) Joint Degree**

Applicants interested in veterinary public health should consider the DVM/MPH joint degree program at the University of Florida. UF is fortunate to have both a College of Public Health and Health Professions and a College of Veterinary Medicine on main campus, making the joint DVM/MPH degree unique in the state of Florida. Veterinarians with MPH degrees are increasingly in demand because of their involvement in all areas of public health, including epidemiology, environmental health, global health, infectious disease investigation and control, and homeland security. Public health-trained veterinarians are uniquely qualified to understand and respond to emerging zoonotic diseases, to address complex global food system problems, and to respond to acts of bioterrorism.

The DVM/MPH degree is offered jointly by the College of Public Health and Health Professions and the College of Veterinary Medicine. If taken consecutively, the DVM and MPH degrees at UF are 150 and 48 credits, respectively, and require 6 years of coursework. The Joint DVM/MPH Program permits sufficient sharing of course credits to allow completion of the program in 4 years plus 1 summer semester for students who enter both programs concurrently. DVM students who choose to enter the joint program after completing one or more years of the DVM program may require an extra semester after completing the DVM. Key elements of the program are described briefly below. Details are in the [MPH Student Handbook](#).

### **Hallmarks of the Program**

- The Joint DVM/MPH Program may be completed within the four-year timeframe required for a DVM degree alone by starting MPH coursework the summer before entering the DVM program.
- Students have the flexibility of the Public Health Practice concentration, which allows selection of courses from two or more concentration areas.
- MPH core courses and select concentration core courses may be taken online.
- The MPH program will accept 12 credits of DVM courses toward the MPH degree, and the DVM program will accept 6 credits of MPH courses towards the DVM degree.

### **MPH Concentrations**

Students will focus on Public Health Practice concentration which allows selection of courses from two or more of the other five MPH concentrations: Biostatistics, Environmental Health, Epidemiology, Public Health Management and Policy, and Social and Behavioral Sciences. Most students choose Epidemiology and Environmental Health due to the significant amount of overlap with veterinary medicine, although they may choose from any of the concentration options. Please visit <http://www.mph.ufl.edu/concentrations/> for a description of each concentration.

## Internship Requirement

Students enrolled in the joint degree program must complete a public health internship. For most students, the internship will be completed, over one or more semesters, near the end of the joint degree program.

## MPH Culminating Experience

Students obtain a broad knowledge base of public health issues and perspectives through the MPH core courses and electives. The concepts presented in these courses are integrated and assimilated through the internship, which provides an opportunity for each student to apply his or her knowledge in the real world of public health. Students may engage in many activities during an internship. However each student must have one special project, which serves as the basis for a major paper and an oral presentation. These final activities of the MPH program are intended to encourage students to understand their projects in the larger context of public health as a cross-disciplinary field and in relation to the competencies expected of all MPH graduates. Student presentations are scheduled on Public Health Days near the end of the fall, spring and summer semesters. The written paper and oral presentation constitute a culminating experience for the MPH.

## Sample MPH Curriculum

A sample of the MPH curriculum for Joint DVM/MPH Program students is in the table below, including a range of electives from which students may choose. The examples here are for the Public Health Practice concentration, with a focus on Epidemiology and Environmental Health. Course below are offered online in semesters shown which allow DVM students to integrate MPH course work.

<b>I. Public Health Core: 18 credits</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>*Semester</b>
PHC 6050/2	Statistical Methods for Health Sciences I (blended) <b>OR</b> Introduction to Biostatistical Methods (online)	3	S,ss
PHC 6001	Principles of Epidemiology (online)	3	S, ss
PHC 6313	Environmental Health Concepts in PH (online)	3	S, ss
HSA 6114	Introduction to US Healthcare Systems (online)	3	ss
PHC 6410	Psychological, Behavioral, and Social Issues in PH (online)	3	S, ss
PHC 6940	Master of Public Health Capstone (online)	3	S, ss
<b>II. Research Methods Course: Choose 3 credits</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>*Semester</b>
PHC 6700	Social & Behavioral Research Methods	3	S,ss
PHC 6000	Epidemiology Research Methods I	3	S
PHC 6053	Regression Methods for the Health and Life Sciences	3	S
HSA 7707	Health Services Research Methods I	3	F
<b>III. Concentration Cores: 21 - 24 credits (Choose 2-3 courses from each of at least 2 concentrations below)</b>			
<b>Biostatistics (Requires PHC 6052)</b>			
PHC 6053	Regression Methods for the Health and Life Sciences	3	S
PHC 6080/81	Epidemiology Research Methods I	3	F,S,ss
PHC 6089	Public Health Computing	3	F,S,ss
PHC 6059	Survival Analysis	3	F
<b>Epidemiology (Requires PHC 6052)</b>			
PHC 6000 & 6011	Epidemiology Research Methods I and II	6	S/ss
PHC 6002	Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases	3	ss
PHC 6003	Epidemiology of Chronic Disease	3	F

<b>Environmental Health (Requires PHC 6052)</b>			
PHC 6937	Environmental Toxicology	3	F
VME 6607	Human Health Risk Assessment	4	F
PHC 6702	Exposure Measurement and Assessment	3	ss
PHC 6316	Health, Risk & Crisis Communications in Public Health	3	ss
<b>Population Health Management (Requires PHC 6050 or PHC 6052)</b>			
PHC 6104	Evidence-Based Management of Public Health Programs	3	F
HSA 6436	Health Economics	3	S
HSA 7759	Public Health Quality & Outcomes	3	S
HSA 6152	Overview of U.S. Health Policy	3	S
PHC 6103	Systems Thinking and Public Health	3	ss
<b>Social and Behavioral Sciences (Requires PHC 6050 or PHC 6052)</b>			
PHC 6700	Social & Behavioral Research Methods	3	S
PHC 6251	Assessment and Surveillance in Public Health	3	Ss
PHC 6405	Theoretical Foundations in Public Health	3	Ss
PHC 6146	Public Health Program Planning and Evaluation	3	F
PHC 6195	Health Information for Diverse Populations: Theory & Methods	3	F
<b>IV. Electives: Optional (Choose from electives in any concentration)</b>			
PHC courses	Public Health coursework offered by other concentrations	3	F,S,ss
<b>V. Internship: 5-8 credits</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>*Semester</b>
PHC 6941	Applied Practice Experience	3-6	F, S, ss

\*F=Fall; S=Spring; ss=Summer. Class schedules are subject to change.

† 42-credit concentration requires previous completion of a terminal health-related degree.

## Accepted Courses for MPH Joint Degree Programs (12 Credits Required)

<b>DVM/MPH (Choose 12 credits)</b>		<b>Credits</b>	<b>*Semester</b>
VEM 5141	Veterinary Infectious Diseases	3	Varies
VEM 5150	Veterinary Parasitology	1	Varies
VEM 5172	Veterinary Toxicology	1	Varies
VEM 5503	Veterinary Epidemiology	2	Varies
VEM 5504	Veterinary Preventive and Production Medicine	2	Varies
VEM 5143	Small Animal Applied Veterinary Microbiology	1	Varies
VEM 5144	Large Animal Applied Veterinary Microbiology	1	Varies
VEM 5153	Small Animal Parasitology	1	Varies
VEM 5154	Large Animal Parasitology	2	Varies
VEM 5176	Poisonous Plants	1	Varies
VEM 5313	Poultry Diseases	1	Varies
VEM 5322	Shelter Medicine	1	Varies
VEM 5324	Forensic Veterinary Medicine	1	Varies
VEM 5352	Dairy Production Medicine	1	Varies
VEM 5363	Diseases of Laboratory Animals	1	Varies
VEM 5501	Clinical Epidemiology	1	Varies
VEM 5571	Emerging Diseases	1	Varies

### What is the Outlook for Veterinarians in Public Health?

Public health career opportunities for veterinarians will continue to expand with the rapidly changing demographics of human and animal populations, increasing urbanization,

increasing poverty, the expanding technology gap between developed and developing countries, and changes in the environment, land use and climate. These changes will present new opportunities for public health-trained veterinarians as part of veterinary and human health systems. (Excerpt from Veterinarians in Public Health, prepared by The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, [www.aavmc.org](http://www.aavmc.org)).

### **Admission Criteria**

Candidates for the Joint DVM/MPH Program must meet the entrance requirements and procedures for admission to both the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and the Master of Public Health degree programs. Acceptance into the Joint DVM/MPH Program is dependent upon acceptance into the DVM program. Please note however, that the joint application may be due prior to student notification regarding acceptance into the DVM program. The joint degree program is not open to students who have already earned either the DVM or the MPH degree. Additional information regarding admission to the DVM program may be found at <http://education.vetmed.ufl.edu/admissions/>

## **Checklist for the University of Florida Joint DVM/MPH Program Application**

The application process for the UF Joint DVM/MPH Program is open to any student accepted into the DVM program. However, due to the timing of several deadlines for the MPH portion of the application process, interested students should apply to the MPH program prior to being notified of acceptance into the DVM program. The Joint DVM/MPH Program application process is coordinated between the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and College of Public Health and Health Professions (CPHHP), and involves the following steps. The stated deadlines must be met in order to begin the Joint DVM/MPH Program in the summer semester of each year:

### **1. Apply to the MPH program for Summer semester immediately prior to the Fall of projected Veterinary Medicine school start.**

- A. Submit the following to the UF Graduate School Office of Admissions by **March 1<sup>st</sup>** of the year you intend to start Veterinary Medicine School.

UF Graduate School Application Applications may be submitted online at <http://www.admissions.ufl.edu>. Your applications should including the following:

- Statement of Intent - The statement should be 750-1000 words, and should convey (1) Why you would like to participate in the Joint DVM/MPH Program. (i.e. What professional interests and/or previous experiences make you believe this program is a good fit for you? (2) What you hope to learn/gain through the Joint DVM/MPH Program; and (3) How completion of the Joint DVM/MPH Program will help you achieve your career goals.
- Letters of Recommendation – Letters of recommendation which were submitted with your UF College of Veterinary Medicine application may be used for the

joint program application. There is no need to request new letters of recommendation. Applicants may request these letters to be sent to the MPH program by contacting Ms. Lynnette Chaparro, Admissions Officer, Office for Students and Instruction, College of Veterinary Medicine, at (352) 294-4244 or [chaparrol@ufl.edu](mailto:chaparrol@ufl.edu).

- \$30 Application fee (See admissions website to verify current fee)

B. Official transcript(s) – these are in addition to the one(s) that were submitted with your UF College of Veterinary Medicine application (i.e. You have to submit these again to UF admissions office, even if the College of Veterinary Medicine already has them).

D. Official GRE scores–Submit GRE scores to UF school code 5812.

E. Official TOEFL scores – **For international applicants only**. Submit TOEFL scores to school code 5812. You must submit these again for graduate school purposes, even if the College of Veterinary Medicine already has them.

**2. Notify the Public Health Programs Office and the CVM Office for Students and Instruction that your MPH application materials have been submitted.**

Please e-mail Mrs. Telisha Martin ([martints@phhp.ufl.edu](mailto:martints@phhp.ufl.edu)) MPH Associate Director and Mr. Dan Bouffard ([dbouffard@phhp.ufl.edu](mailto:dbouffard@phhp.ufl.edu)) Academic Coordinator, in the Public Health Programs Office, to let them know when your UF Graduate School application was submitted. Please copy Ms. Lynnette Chaparro ([chaparrol@ufl.edu](mailto:chaparrol@ufl.edu)), Admissions Officer in the Office for Students and Instruction, on this email so that your letters of recommendation can be sent from the CVM to the MPH program.

**3. Apply for financial aid for Summer semester if needed by March 1<sup>st</sup>. If you do not wish to receive financial aid, you may skip this step.**

To apply for summer financial aid you must complete the application at the same time you apply to the MPH program. (Please Note: to receive summer term aid you must complete the application for the current academic year. For example, if you wish to receive aid for the Summer of 2020, you should complete the financial aid application for the 2019-2020 academic year. The application for 2020-2021 would refer to the upcoming academic year). Any delay in filing the application may impede assignment of funds for the summer term. If you are unsure if you will need financial aid, please apply anyway as you can always decline later (if you do not apply prior to the March 1 deadline and later decide you do need financial aid, it may be too late to receive aid for the summer). Financial aid application information and forms may be found at: <http://www.sfa.ufl.edu/applying/how-to-apply/>

If you have questions regarding financial aid for the first summer term as an MPH student, you may contact **Mr. Vincent Wilson-McCoy**, Student Financial Affairs Coordinator for College of Public Health & Health Professions at 273-6115, [vwilsonmccoy@ufl.edu](mailto:vwilsonmccoy@ufl.edu). For questions about financial aid after beginning Veterinary

Medicine school, you may contact **Ms. Lana Marshall**, Student Financial Affairs Coordinator for professional school programs, [pvmarshall@ufl.edu](mailto:pvmarshall@ufl.edu).

#### 4. Admission notification and acceptance

Successful admission to the UF Joint DVM/MPH Program requires that the following three steps be met by the stated deadlines:

- A. Applicants will be notified whether or not they have been accepted to the UF College of Veterinary Medicine (the DVM program) by **mid March**.
- B. Accepted applicants must return their written acceptance of the DVM program invitation letter to the College of Veterinary Medicine by the posted deadline. Please contact CVM for current acceptance deadline.
- C. Applicants will be notified whether or not they have been accepted to the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions (the MPH program) in mid to late March.
- D. Accepted applicants must return their written acceptance of the MPH program invitation letter (to the Public Health Programs Office) by **April 15<sup>th</sup>**.
  - A Joint DVM/MPH Degree Program Authorization Form must be completed upon the student's matriculation to the Veterinary medicine program in the Fall semester. It will be initiated by the MPH program but must be signed by the student and representatives from both colleges and finally submitted to the UF graduate school. This form is necessary to confirm the student's joint degree status with the Graduate School and to assure that the 12 credits of Veterinary Medicine course work can be shared between the two programs.

#### 5. Classes

Summer classes for the MPH program begin in May of each year. Please check UF official dates and deadlines here for course start and end dates: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/Pages/dates-and-deadlines.aspx#ac>. A plan of study for the MPH program, which will include your summer schedule will be developed and sent to you by Dr. Traci Krueger who will also serve as your faculty advisor for the DVM/MPH program. Her contact information is listed below. Dr. Isaza Romero will also be a point of contact for joint DVM-MPH students within the College of Veterinary Medicine and can advise joint degree student with regards to career paths and elective choices students may want to consider as they pursue their degrees. His contact information is also listed below.

#### 6. DVM-MPH Tuition

Per University of Florida regulations, all students participating in the joint DVM-MPH degree program are converted from MPH only to "Combined Degree" student status upon matriculation into their first Fall semester of Veterinary Medical school. This status requires that students be charged at the Vet Medicine (VM) hourly tuition rate for VM courses and the MPH hourly tuition rate for any MPH courses taken during the

program. Both rates are calculated based on the annual block tuition rate for each program. Specifically, students in the joint DVM/MPH program are currently charged at the MPH per credit hour rate of **\$637.11** for all MPH course work and the DVM per credit hour rate of **\$765.16** for all DVM course work for the duration of their programs. This includes course work taken during all summer semesters which will have required enrollment in either public health or veterinary medicine course work.

It is important to note that this tuition status impacts joint program student fees differently than DVM-only students who are charged the VM block tuition rate. For semesters where the joint DVM-MPH student takes less than 18.75 DVM credit hours in a semester, they will pay less than the VM block rate however in semesters where they enroll in more than 18.75 DVM credits, the joint DVM-MPH student will pay more than the VM block rate. Additionally, during summer months, DVM-MPH students will pay the VM hourly rate for any VM courses taken whereas DVM-only students paying the VM block rate in Fall and Spring semesters will not be charged tuition during summer months.

For more information regarding the tuition and fees for the DVM program, please visit the financial services website <http://www.fa.ufl.edu/bursar/current-students/>. Updated tuition and fees are posted by the University of Florida in late June or July of each year.

## **7. Program contacts and additional information**

If you have questions regarding the MPH program application, please contact Mrs. Telisha Martin, MPH Associate Director, Public Health Programs Office, College of Public Health and Health Professions, at (352) 273-6444 or [martints@phhp.ufl.edu](mailto:martints@phhp.ufl.edu).

If you have questions regarding the DVM application process, please contact Ms. Lynnette Chaparro, Admissions Officer, Office for Students and Instruction, College of Veterinary Medicine, at (352) 294-4244 or [chaparro@ufl.edu](mailto:chaparro@ufl.edu).

If you have questions regarding the Joint DVM/MPH Program (i.e. curriculum, etc), please contact Dr. Traci Krueger, DVM/MPH Program Adviser, College of Public Health and Health Professions, at (352)280-0121 or [kruegert@ufl.edu](mailto:kruegert@ufl.edu).