

Joint Degree Programs

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

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Applicants interested in veterinary public health should consider the DVM/MPH degree at the University of Florida. This joint degree is a unique opportunity since the only College of Veterinary Medicine in the state is located at UF. Veterinarians with MPH degrees are increasingly in demand because they work 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.

Hallmarks of the program

- The DVM/MPH 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 to select an in-depth concentration in the MPH program or to choose 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 must choose from one of the six MPH concentrations: Biostatistics, Environmental Health, Epidemiology, Public Health Management and Policy, Public Health Practice, and Social and Behavioral Sciences. Please visit <http://www.mph.ufl.edu/concentrations/> for a description of each concentration. Many veterinary students may choose Public Health Practice, because of its broad flexibility, although they are free to choose from any of the other concentration options.

Supervisory committee

To facilitate student progress in the joint program, the MPH supervisory committee is comprised of one MPH faculty member and one faculty member from the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Internship requirement

Students enrolled in the joint degree program must complete a public health internship, as described in the MPH program description at <http://www.mph.ufl.edu/programs/masterspublichealth.htm>. 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 attain a depth in public health knowledge and skills by selecting one core area for their concentrations. They 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 a 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 one or two *Public Health Days* near the end of 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 DVM/MPH students may follow, including a range of electives that students may choose from, is in the table below. The examples here are for the Public Health Practice concentration, although students may choose from any concentration.

I. Public Health Core: 16 credits		Credits	Semester*
PHC 6001	Principles of Epidemiology	3	ss-0C(online)
PHC 6102	Introduction to Public Health Administrative Systems	3	ss-0C(online)
STA 6166	Statistical Research Methods I	3	ss-1A
PHC 6313	Environmental Health Concepts in Public Health	3	ss-0C(online)
PHC 6406	Psychological, Behavioral, and Social Issues in Public Health	3	F-4(online)
PHC 6931	Seminar in Contemporary Public Health Issues	1	ss-0B
II. Concentration Core: choose 13-15 credits from 2 or more MPH concentrations. (Concentration)			
VME 6605	Toxic Substances (EH)	3	ss-C(online)
PHC 6002	Infectious Disease Epidemiology (Epi)	3	ss-A
PHC 6107	Introduction to Veterinary Public Health (EH)	1	ss
PHC 6702	Exposure Measurements and Assessment (EH)	3	ss-C
VME 6602	General Toxicology (EH)	3	F (online)
FOS 5205	Current Issues in Food Safety (EH)	3	F (online)
PHC 6937	Risk Communication (EH)	2	ss-B
PHC 6xxx	PH Disaster Prep. and Emergency Response (EH)**	3	ss-C(online)
PHC 6xxx	Bioterrorism and Public Health (EH)**	3	ss-C(online)
PHC 6716	Survey Research Methods (Epi)	3	ss-C

III. Courses Accepted from DVM Program: choose 12 credits			
VEM 5150	Veterinary Parasitology	1	S (DVM-1)
VEM 5141	Veterinary Infectious Diseases	3	F(DVM-2)
VEM 5172	Veterinary Toxicology	1	F(DVM-2)
VEM 5503	Veterinary Epidemiology	2	S (DVM-2)
VEM 5510	Exotic and Emerging Diseases of Animals (VIN)	1	S/F(DVM-3/4)
VEM 5571	Emerging Diseases	3	S/F (DVM-3/4)
VEM 5504	Preventive and Production Medicine	2	S (DVM-2)
VEM 5153	Parasitology, Small Animal	1	F (DVM-4)
VEM 5154	Parasitology, Large Animal	2	F(DVM-4)
VEM 5143	Microbiology, Small Animal	2	S/F(DVM-3/4)
VEM 5144	Microbiology, Large Animal	2	S/F(DVM-3/4)
VEM 5931	Seminars in International Veterinary Medicine	1	S(DVM 1-4)
VEM 5506	International Veterinary Medicine	1	S(DVM 1-4)
IV. Public Health Internship: 5-7 credits			
PHC 6946	Public Health Internship:	5-7	ss-3

- * F=Fall; S=Spring; ss=Summer
0, 1, 2, 3, 4 = DVM year of study
A, B, C = summer session
- ** To be offered Summer 2009

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).

Admission criteria

Candidates for the 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 requires the student has been accepted into the DVM program. Please note however, that the joint application is due prior to student notification regarding acceptance into the DVM program and joint program acceptance is contingent on DVM program acceptance. 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 each program may be found at www.vetmed.ufl.edu/cvmadmissions/ and www.mph.ufl.edu/admissions/.

How to apply

The application process for the joint DVM/MPH degree can begin **only after you have been offered an interview by the College of Veterinary Medicine**. The process involves the following steps with deadlines that must be met in order to enter the program during the summer prior to the start of your DVM program.

1. Develop a statement of intent

A statement of intent is very important for acceptance into the joint program. The statement should not exceed 2 pages and may be considerably shorter, but it must convey your understanding of how an MPH degree would enhance your career goals. See below for instructions on submitting your statement of intent.

2. Apply to the University of Florida Graduate School on or before March 14

Please note that you are required to submit duplicate materials to both the UF Office of Admissions and to the MPH Program.

Submit the following to the UF Office of Admissions no later than March 14:

- Application form
 - Applications may be made online or by US Mail. In either case, they must be **received** on or before March 14, 2008.
 - Detailed information regarding applying to UF Graduate School is on the Graduate School website. This includes application forms for online submission, and for printing to submit via US Mail.
<http://gradschool.rgp.ufl.edu/students/application-and-admission.html>
 - Please note that this website will also mention letters of reference, however the letters that were submitted with your vet school application will be used for the joint program application. There is no need to send additional letters of reference.
- \$30 Application fee
- Official transcript(s) – these are in addition to the one(s) that were submitted with the vet school application
- Official GRE scores, and TOEFL scores (if applicable) –also in addition to those submitted with the vet school application

Submit the following to the MPH Program no later than March 14:

- Statement of intent (mentioned in #1) – Please provide the original and note that the UF Office of Admissions does not need a copy of the statement of intent
- Original or a copy of the Official Transcripts sent to the UF Office of Admissions
- Original or a copy of the GRE scores, and TOEFL scores (if applicable) sent to the UF Office of Admissions
- Detailed information about the materials to be submitted to the MPH Program can be found on the website: <http://www.mph.ufl.edu/admissions/forms.htm>
 - Please note that the MPH admission requirement website listed above will also mention letters of reference, however the letters that were submitted with your vet school application will be used for the joint program application. There is no need to send additional letters of reference
- The MPH Program application materials must be received on or before March 14 at the following address:

University of Florida
Public Health Programs Admissions
P.O. Box 100182

Gainesville, FL 32610-0182
1-866-62-UFMPH

3. Notify the MPH Program on or before March 14

After your application has been submitted, please e-mail the MPH program at bhart@pnhp.ufl.edu and let us know when and how your Graduate School application was submitted.

4. Apply for financial aid for summer 2008 on or before March 14 – if you do not wish to receive financial aid, you may skip this step.

To apply for summer financial aid you must complete the current academic year's FAFSA at the same time you apply to the MPH program. For example, to start joint degree coursework summer 2009 you must complete the 2008-2009 application (Please Note: The 2009-2010 application refers to the fall semester, so please do not use this application when applying for the summer semester aid. You will be asked at a later date to complete the 2009-2010 form for veterinary school).

Any delay in filing current FAFSA 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 14th 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/apply/howtoapply.html>.

5. Notification and acceptance

Applicants who qualify for acceptance into the joint DVM/MPH program will be notified via invitation in early April. Your written acceptance letter must be received by **April 15th** as confirmation and to assure you can begin the joint program coursework in the summer semester.

Contact us

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