



INFORMATION

UMES DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE PROGRAM

Background

The HBCU Settlement encouraged UMES to develop new unique programs which addressed critical needs for Maryland and were high-demand. The Doctor of Veterinary Medicine was identified as such a program since there is no other state-based program aside from the agreement between University of Maryland College Park (UMCP) and Virginia Tech which sends 30 students from UMCP to the Virginia-based program.

UMES conducted two independent feasibility studies to ascertain the need and these unequivocally showed that there was a dire need for such a program in Maryland.

Approval through UMES Internal Governance, University System of Maryland (USM) and Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)

- After extensive development and preparation, the proposed new program was approved through the UMES internal Governance processes in early Fall 2023.
- The USM Board of Regents approved the program on December 16, 2023.
- MHEC approved the program on January 16, 2024.

Accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education (COE)

The UMES DVM program requires approval from the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education (COE), the national accrediting authority for veterinary schools. Accreditation is a multistep process which will run over several years.

UMES initiated the process in May 2023. UMES received a response from COE acknowledging and accepting our request. To date UMES has provided all pertinent information and the COE has granted a consultative site visit in July 2024 which is a requirement to assess readiness of a program. UMES is working assiduously to ensure

that the process will proceed smoothly.

Uniqueness of the UMES Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Program

Duration: Traditionally, DVM programs require the standard four-year timeframe to graduation. However, as UMES has executed successfully with several of our other health professions (i.e., pharmacy, physical therapy and physician assistant) programs, the UMES DVM program will operate on an accelerated timeframe allowing our students to graduate within three years and emerge into a workforce with less debt.

Cost effective: Because the program will only have two cohorts of students on campus instead of three at any one time, this will lower the overall infrastructure and faculty and staffing costs to run this program.

Second, the program is implemented with significantly lower costs for the final three clinical semesters as it will be operated in a distributed learning model in many clinical sites around the state. Also, this model is one that COE has approved in other parts of the country (e.g., Rowan, Arizona, etc.). This allows us to forego an on-campus teaching hospital, while obtaining clinical rotation partners who will not charge Maryland taxpayers for these services. To achieve this UMES is developing strong partnerships with private sector partners who are interested in supporting the program.

Addressing a Critical State and National Need Area

Shortage of Veterinarians: The need for animal healthcare is real. A report by the former Dean of the University of Florida DVM program, James Lloyd, states that by 2030 there could be a shortage of nearly 15,000 companion-animal and large animal veterinarians.

The program at UMES is poised to help address both of these issues. By adding veterinarians to the workforce and by training them in a rural setting, they are more likely to go on to practice in a similar setting, right here in Maryland.

Diversity: The UMES DVM program will also help make the veterinary workforce look like the communities they serve. The veterinary medicine profession has been racially homogenous for a long time –roughly 90% of practitioners are white; fewer than 3% are Black.

This program will be only the second such offering at an HBCU, and the only one at a public HBCU institution. The UMES DVM program will be the first that will be fully

taught in the state of Maryland.

Currently, Maryland pays about \$6M for 30 of 120 slots at the Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine in Blacksburg, Virginia--a joint venture between Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland College Park.

Program Size and Cost

Pending approval of the COE, UMES will begin teaching a cohort of 100 students per year in Princess Anne, MD in the Fall of 2026.

Tuition: UMES proposes to charge Maryland students a tuition of \$30,000 and out of state students \$60,000.

Maryland Students: There is no limit to the number of Maryland students who will be accepted into the program. It is noteworthy that as word has gone out regarding the proposed new program, the number of students admitted to the UMES Pre-veterinary Program has tripled over the past year. We therefore anticipate the demand for space in the program to grow.

From experiences with other programs, many students tend to remain local to where they study, therefore we anticipate that the number of students who choose to practice in Maryland will be high.