2013 Curriculum for the Master programme in Veterinary Public Health at the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen

The curriculum was approved by the Dean June 2013 with changes approved on 01 February 2014.

This subject-specific curriculum, the course descriptions at www.kurser.ku.dk, and the general curriculum provisions together comprise the curriculum for the Master programme in Veterinary Public Health.

Part 1 Objectives and qualification profile

§ 1 Objectives
Professional experience a scientifically based continuing education in the control and prevention of animal diseases, including zoonoses.
In addition to a broad knowledge on the control and prevention of disease, the student will attain competence within several fields: evaluation of disease occurrence and their causes, decision processes, development, planning, implementation and evaluation of programmes for disease control, disease surveillance and risk assessment at all levels – farm, regional, national and international.
1.2 Successful completion of the programme gives the right to use the title Master of Veterinary Public Health and the Danish title master i husdyrsundhed og økonomi.
1.3 The degree is worth 60 ECTS credits.
1.4 The programme falls within the scope of the Study Board of Veterinary Sciences.
1.5 The programme falls within the scope of the Corps of External Examiners for Veterinary Medicine.

§ 2 Admission requirements
It is a condition for admission that the applicant

- Holds a relevant BSc or MSc degree in veterinary or human medicine, agricultural or natural science or equivalent.
- Have at least two years of relevant full time qualifying work experience after having completed the qualifying degree. Qualifying work experience is experience as e.g. veterinary practitioner, participation in disease control, -planning, -administration or -management
- Meet the language requirements as stipulated in the general curriculum provisions.

2.2 The admissions committee may on the basis of an individual assessment admit applicants who do not hold a relevant degree if the applicant is deemed by the Study Board to possess comparable educational qualifications.
2.3 The courses offered under the Master programme can be taken as single courses. The same admission requirements apply to students taking single courses, dispensations can however be given based on an individual assessment. If the number of applicants for a given course exceeds the number of seats, priority will be accorded to students enrolled in the full Master programme.
2.4 The admission committee may grant exemptions from the provisions of 2.1 when special circumstances apply.
§ 3 Qualification profile
The Master of Veterinary Public Health equips the graduate with the following knowledge, skills and competences within the programme’s compulsory subjects and subject areas, as listed below. Additional qualifications may be acquired by participation in elective courses.

Knowledge
The graduate will be able to

- Define, identify and describe disease problems in animals on the farm, regional, national and international level and identify questions where more knowledge is needed
- Demonstrate overview in relation to methods of disease control at the highest international level
- Evaluate the efficacy of applied and alternative methods of disease control

Skills
The graduate will be able to

- Collect pertinent data on diseases and their possible causes
- Analyze data to identify causes of disease occurrence
- Discuss relevant problems and questions both scientifically and generally
- Communicate and pass on results to relevant parties

Competences
The graduate will be able to

- Combine practical disease control with existing laws and regulations
- Collaborate within and between specialists/professionals involved in disease control, e.g. veterinarians, laboratory and other technicians, biologists, statisticians, law enforcers as well as emergency forces and resources
- Develop, plan, manage, implement and evaluate disease control in complex and often unpredictable situations, which may necessitate novel solutions and approaches
- Work independently, take responsibility and make decisions.

Part 2 Modules

§ 4 Modules
The programme consists of the following modules
- Module 1: Data Management and Biostatistics
- Module 2: Epidemiology
- Module 3: Disease Control Strategies
- Module 4: Animal Health Economics
- Module 5: Master’s Project

Part 3 Study and exam activities

§ 5
The Master programme comprises the following courses and exams:
Compulsory courses  
- Statistics for Veterinarians  
- Veterinary Epidemiology, part one  
- Disease Outbreak Management  
- Disease Control and Dynamics – In a One Health Setting  
- Qualitative and Quantitative Risk Analysis of Animal Health and Food Safety  
- Animal Health Economics

Elective courses  
- Veterinary Epidemiology, part 2

Master’s project  
- Master’s project

5.2 The student can plan the sequence and pace of the courses. However the student must pass the following courses before completing the master’s project:
- Statistics for Veterinarians
- Veterinary Epidemiology, part one
- Disease Outbreak Management
- Disease Control and Dynamics – in a One Health Setting
- All elective courses

5.3 The course descriptions at www.kurser.ku.dk specify learning outcomes, contents, teaching and learning methods and prerequisites for participation.

§ 6
The programme consists of 38 ECTS credits from compulsory study and exam activity. The master’s project is a compulsory activity.

6.2 The programme consists of 2-10 ECTS credits from elective study and exam activity.

6.3 The programme consists of 12-20 ECTS credits from the master’s project.

§ 7
The programme includes the following courses and exams:

Course title: Statistics for Veterinarians  
STADS code: SHSM13004U/ SHSM13004E  
ECTS: 9 ECTS

Course title: Veterinary Epidemiology, part one  
STADS code: SFKM10189U/ SFKM10189E  
ECTS: 6 ECTS credits

Course title: Disease Outbreak Management  
STADS code: SHSM13001U/ SHSM13001E  
ECTS: 5 ECTS credits

Course title: Disease Control and Dynamics – in a One Health Setting  
STADS code: SHSM13002U/ SHSM13002E  
ECTS: 5 ECTS credit

Course title: Qualitative and Quantitative Risk Analysis of Animal Health and Food Safety  
STADS code: SHSM13003U/ SHSM13003E  
ECTS: 5 ECTS credits

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Course title: Animal Health Economics
STADS code: SFKM10195U/ SFKM10195E
ECTS: 8 ECTS credits

Elective courses 2-10 ECTS credits.

Course title: Master’s project
STADS code (12 ECTS): SHSM13010E
ECTS: 12-20 ECTS credits.

§ 8 Group examinations
Written papers can be undertaken in groups with other students if stipulated in the course descriptions at www.kurser.ku.dk
8.2 Group examinations can be carried out in groups of no more than four students, when stipulated in the course descriptions at www.kurser.ku.dk
8.3 A joint written work is permitted provided the contributions made by each member of the group can be identified. A separate and individual grade will be given to each student.
8.4 An oral examination on the basis of joint written work should be individual, and a student may attend the examination of other students in the group only if his or her examination has been held.

§ 9 Instruction and exam languages
Instruction is conducted in English, unless only Danish-speaking students and instructors are present.
9.2 All examinations are conducted in English. When specified in the course descriptions at www.kurser.ku.dk, a student can choose to conduct an examination in Danish.
9.3 The master’s project can be written in English or Danish.

§ 10 Elective element
The Master programme elective courses worth a total of 2-10 ECTS credits.
10.2 The Study Board must ensure that Master students have access to elective courses. These elective courses are described in the course descriptions at www.kurser.ku.dk and announced no later than 1 May and 1 November in the preceding semester.
10.3 In March the Study Board generally approves the elective course descriptions for the following academic year.
10.4 The Study Board offers elective courses in keeping with the objective of the Master programme, see 1.1 on objectives above.

§ 11 Master’s project
Students must complete a master’s project. The project must demonstrate the student’s ability to formulate, analyse and process issues within a relevant, defined scientific subject in a qualified way.
11.2 The master’s project may be executed alone or by groups of up to four students.
11.3 The project must be completed in accordance with the approved master’s project agreement and comprise the equivalent of c. 25-40 pages A4 pages in 12 point Times Roman. The project must be furnished with an abstract in English of no more than one A4 page. The abstract must summarize the project aim, the methods used, important findings, a discussion if relevant, and a conclusion. The abstract will be included in the overall assessment of the master’s project.
11.4 Assessment will be based on the student’s spelling and writing skills as well as the scientific content of the thesis. The scientific content will carry most weight.
11.5 The master’s project may also comprise a published or unpublished scientific article written or co-written by the student. If there is more than one author, each must submit a signed co-writer statement specifying the part or parts of the article for which he or she is responsible. The co-writer statement must reflect the relative contributions at the time of submission as a master’s project. The student will be examined on the article in accordance with the rules applying to the master’s project exam in general, as stipulated in the course description at www.kurser.ku.dk.

11.6 The master’s project is worth 12-20 ECTS credits.

**Part 4 Concluding remarks**

**§ 12 Prerequisites for establishing courses**
In the event that a course attracts fewer than 10 students, the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences reserves the right to cancel the course. However, if the course is sought after by students admitted at the Master programme the faculty is obligated to run obligatory courses at least every second year.

**§ 13 Transitional arrangements**
No transitional arrangements are established.

**§ 14 Exemptions from these provisions**
In exceptional circumstances, the Study Board may grant exemptions from any curriculum provisions within the sole remit of the Study Board.

**§ 15 Date of commencement**
This revised curriculum comes into force on 1 September 2014 and shall apply in relation to students admitted after September 2013.