Master of Clinical Anatomy, MCA

The Master of Clinical Anatomy (MCA) program provides a comprehensive education focused on developing clinically relevant content knowledge in the anatomical sciences, including anatomy, histology, neuroanatomy, and embryology. The degree is designed to prepare students who wish to advance to professional programs (e.g., MD, DDS, PA, DPT, etc.) or continue into educational professions or other health-related careers. The MCA program is well-suited for students looking to improve their competitive applications or who want to expand their understanding of the anatomical sciences to make a more informed career decision.

Requirements

The professional Master of Clinical Anatomy (MCA) program requires a minimum of 32 s.h. of work that is distributed between required (25 s.h.) and elective (7 s.h.) coursework. Students must maintain a grade-point average of at least 3.00. The program is designed so that students can complete the requirements in a year and a half and provides clinically relevant content coupled with opportunities for experiential learning to develop skills in teaching and educational research. A portion of the curriculum is offered online to complement classroom and laboratory learning.

Students with a degree in a specific biological science (e.g., genetics) for which no formal coursework in basic gross anatomy has been completed may be required to take a prerequisite undergraduate anatomy course.

The Master of Clinical Anatomy requires the following coursework.

Required Courses

Course #	Title	Hours
ACB:5203	Gross Human Anatomy for Graduate Students	5
ACB:5210	General Histology Online	4
ACB:6252	Functional Neuroanatomy	4
ACB:7001	Teaching and Learning in the Anatomical Sciences	2
ACB:7002	Seminar in Anatomical Sciences (taken twice for 1 s.h. each)	2
ACB:7010	Anatomy Through Imaging	2
ACB:7020	Human Embryology Online	2
ACB:7500	Case-Based Learning 1	2
ACB:7600	Case-Based Learning 2	2

Electives

Students select at least 7 s.h. in elective coursework.

Course #	Title	Hours
ACB:5206	Graduate Research in Cell and Developmental Biology (may earn 1-3 s.h. in addition to required course)	1-3
ACB:7020	Human Embryology Online	2
ACB:7400	Practicum in College Teaching for Master of Clinical Anatomy (may earn 1-2 s.h. in addition to required course)	1-2
ACB:7401	Advanced Human Anatomy	4
ACB:7402	Teaching Elective in Regional Anatomy	2
ACB:8401	Advanced Human Anatomy	4
ACB:8402	Teaching Elective in Regional Anatomy	2
GRAD:7385	Teaching and Learning in Higher Education	3
MED:8403	Teaching Skills for Medical Students	4
PSQF:6205	Design of Instruction	3
Other coursework with MCA program approval		1-3

Research/Education Project

Students successfully present their research/education project in November of their second year.

Capstone Assessment

The capstone assessment is the final formal examination that students are required to pass in order to graduate from the MCA program. The exam is held in the fall semester of the second year and is comprised of a series of hands-on/interactive, case-based assessment tasks that take place across multiple stations. Each station intentionally tests the critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills developed by students during the MCA program while allowing them to demonstrate graduate-level expertise in the anatomical sciences by integrating content knowledge from each of the foundational areas studied during the program: gross anatomy, histology, neuroanatomy, embryology, and anatomical imaging.

Admission

Applicants must:

- have a BA or BS degree with a strong science background;
- have a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.00;
- provide three letters of reference/support;
- submit a personal statement;
- be available for an interview with the MCA faculty, and;
- submit a Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score (only the iBT—Internet-Based Test is accepted with a total score of 93 and a speaking score of 26) and the test must have been taken within the last two years, or submit a current acceptable score from the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) if an international applicant and if English is not student's first language.

Optional for applicants:

- an external performance exam from the last five years, such as the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), Graduate Record Examination (GRE), or the Dental Admission Test (DAT).

Application deadline is May 22.

For detailed application instructions and forms, visit the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology website.

Career Advancement

Graduates are prepared for a variety of anatomical sciences education settings that include advanced professional study, faculty/lectureship positions in medicine, and allied health care fields at community colleges. Some will want to continue their studies within a health care profession, others may want to prepare for college-level teaching, and others may want to pursue a career in anatomical sciences.

Academic Plans

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

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Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
32 s.h. must be graduate level coursework; graduate transfer credits allowed upon approval. More information is included in the General Catalog and on department website. [a]		
Students must maintain a GPA of at least 3.00.		
	Hours	**0**
First Year		
Fall		
ACB:5203	Gross Human Anatomy for Graduate Students	5
ACB:5210	General Histology Online	4
ACB:7001	Teaching and Learning in the Anatomical Sciences	2
ACB:7002	Seminar in Anatomical Sciences [b]	1
	Hours	**12**
Spring		
ACB:6252	Functional Neuroanatomy	4
ACB:7020	Human Embryology Online	2
ACB:7500	Case-Based Learning 1	2
ACB:7002	Seminar in Anatomical Sciences [b]	1
	Hours	**9**
Summer		
Elective course [c]		1 - 4
Elective course [c]		1 - 4
	Hours	**2-8**
Second Year		
Fall		
ACB:7010	Anatomy Through Imaging	2
ACB:7600	Case-Based Learning 2	2
Elective course (if needed) [c]		1 - 4
Elective course (if needed) [c]		1 - 4
Exam: Master's Final Exam [d]		
	Hours	**6-12**
	Total Hours	**29-41**

a Students must complete specific requirements in the University of Iowa Graduate College after program admission. Refer to the Graduate College website and the Manual of Rules and Regulations for more information.

b Taken twice for 1 s.h. each.

c Students select at least 7 s.h. in elective coursework. See the General Catalog for list of approved courses.

d This is the final formal examination that students are required to pass in order to graduate from the MCA program. The exam is held in the fall semester of the second year and is comprised of a series of hands-on/interactive, case-based assessment tasks that take place across multiple stations. Each station intentionally tests the critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills developed by students during the MCA program while allowing them to demonstrate graduate-level expertise in the anatomical sciences by integrating content knowledge from each of the foundational areas studied during the program: gross anatomy, histology, neuroanatomy, embryology, and anatomical imaging.