

Pathology, MS

The MS program in pathology prepares postbaccalaureate science majors for a range of biomedical careers. Graduate-level coursework provides students with a foundation in cellular and molecular biology, as well as specialized knowledge in pathobiology. A laboratory-intensive thesis project equips trainees with cutting-edge research skills. Students typically complete the program in two and one-half years.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

- demonstrate subject matter expertise in basic cell and molecular biology, biostatistics, and pathobiology/mechanisms of human disease;
- understand and apply scientific methods allowing for the appropriate development and testing of hypotheses, problem solving, and utilization of current literature and contemporary laboratory approaches;
- understand and apply the need to conduct research using a team-based approach, including ongoing input from the thesis mentor and committee as well as peers within the laboratory and departmental environment;
- understand and apply the key principles of carrying out research and interpreting results using the highest ethical standards; and
- acquire the ability to effectively communicate research goals, approaches, and results using both written and oral means.

Requirements

The Master of Science program in pathology requires a minimum of 30 s.h. of graduate credit, including 21 s.h. of coursework and 9 s.h. of research leading up to the thesis. Students must maintain a Graduate College program grade-point average of at least 2.75.

The MS in pathology requires the following coursework.

Required Coursework

Course #	Title	Hours
All of these:		
PATH:5270/ IGPI:5270/ MMED:5270	Pathogenesis of Major Human Diseases	3
PATH:6220	Seminar in Pathology (taken two semesters for 1 s.h. each)	2
BIOS:4120	Introduction to Biostatistics	3
BMED:5207	Principles of Molecular and Cellular Biology	3
BMED:7270	Scholarly Integrity/ Responsible Conduct of Research I	0
BMED:7271	Scholarly Integrity/ Responsible Conduct of Research II	0

Required coursework results in a basic understanding of molecular and cellular biology, a basic understanding of

biostatistics, and an advanced understanding of pathobiology and mechanisms of human disease.

Electives

The remaining graduate-level coursework consists of electives focused on the area or topic related to a student's thesis project. The elective courses are offered by a range of departments on the biomedical campus.

Thesis

The thesis project is carried out under the guidance of the mentor and thesis committee. The committee is composed of a student's mentor and two additional faculty members. In general, the thesis consists of four chapters with the first being a concise review of the literature; the second, materials and methods; and the last two, a scholarly description of the project results. The thesis must be defended before the committee prior to final approval.

For more information, view the Master of Science in Pathology on the Department of Pathology website.

Admission

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in a science discipline from a regionally accredited American college or university, or an equivalent degree from another country as determined by University of Iowa Admissions. Applicants must also have a minimum grade-point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale, or the international equivalent as determined by Admissions. In addition, laboratory-based research experience is highly desired. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test scores are not required to apply.

A subset of applicants will be selected for interviews, conducted either in person or virtually. Admission decisions are determined based on academic performance, research experience, letters of recommendation, personal statements, and interviews.

Students who are applying must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website.

Career Advancement

The MS program in pathology is designed for graduates to advance into research assistant or research scientist positions in academic and private sector laboratories, or to be competitive for advanced degree programs such as the PhD, MBA, or MD.

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

30 s.h. must be graduate level coursework. More information is included in the General Catalog and on department website.^{a, b}

Graduate College program GPA of at least 2.75 is required.^c

Hours 0

First Year

Fall

BMED:5207 Principles of Molecular and Cellular Biology 3

PATH:7211 Research in Pathology 2

Elective course^d 3

Hours 8

Spring

BIOS:4120 Introduction to Biostatistics 3

PATH:5270 Pathogenesis of Major Human Diseases 3

PATH:6220 Seminar in Pathology 1

PATH:7211 Research in Pathology 2

Hours 9

Second Year

Fall

BMED:7270 Scholarly Integrity/Responsible Conduct of Research I 0

PATH:7211 Research in Pathology 2

Elective course^d 4

Hours 6

Spring

BMED:7271 Scholarly Integrity/Responsible Conduct of Research II 0

PATH:6220 Seminar in Pathology 1

PATH:7211 Research in Pathology 1

Elective course^d 3

Hours 5

Third Year

Fall

PATH:7211 Research in Pathology 2

Final Exam^e 2

Hours 2

Total Hours 30

^d Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate graduate elective coursework and sequence.

^e Thesis defense.

^a Must include 21 s.h. of graduate level coursework, including electives focused on the area or topic related to a student's thesis project, and 9 s.h. of research leading to thesis; graduate transfer credits allowed upon approval.

^b 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.

^c Graduate College program GPA is comprised of all courses that are approved degree requirements. If a student takes more than the minimum required number of semester hours to complete the degree, but all courses taken are eligible to count toward the degree, those courses will be included in the Graduate College program GPA.