ANATOMY

Graduate Program Head
Patricia J. McLaughlin

Program Code
ANAT

Campus(es)
Hershey (Ph.D., M.S.)

Degrees Conferred
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
Master of Science (M.S.)
Dual-Title Ph.D. in Anatomy and Clinical and Translational Sciences

The Graduate Faculty
View (https://secure.gradsch.psu.edu/gpms/index.cfm?searchType=fac&prog=ANAT)

The Anatomy graduate program provides students curricular training with a unique focus on human anatomy, health and disease, and the opportunity for concentrated research in a related discipline such as:

- biochemistry
- cell biology
- embryology
- genetics
- immunology
- neuroscience
- pharmacology
- physiology
- structural biology
- virology

Students receive rigorous training that provides the skills necessary to be leaders in biomedical research and other endeavors that benefit from a rigorous scientific background, including education, law, journalism, and public policy. A dual-title degree in Anatomy and Clinical and Translational Sciences expands the educational experience of students training in anatomical science to include training, via a unique curriculum and research focus, for career paths that involve clinical trials or clinical research programs.

The Anatomy graduate program is an interdepartmental program that engages faculty from 4 basic science and 9 clinical science departments. This broad-reaching program provides students a wide ranging understanding of multiple disciplines with specific expertise in a chosen area, and encourages interdisciplinary research that is the hallmark of biomedical sciences in the 21st century.

Admission Requirements
Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies).

1. Completed official Penn State Graduate School Application for Admission (http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply); Master’s or Doctoral Degree
2. Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) general test
3. Three letters of recommendation
4. Statement of goals including
   a. your reasons for applying to the Anatomy graduate program
   b. particular areas of research interests if known, and
   c. long-term career goals
5. Post-secondary course work must include biochemistry and molecular biology or genetics.

Degree Requirements
Master of science (M.S.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Requirements. (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies)

The Anatomy program actively recruits students to earn an M.S. degree. To receive an M.S. degree in Anatomy, at least 30 credits are required (400-, 500-, 600-, or 700-level) with a minimum of 18 credits from courses at the 500 and 600 level courses combined. The first-year Fall curriculum provides 12 credits of the necessary core material that encompasses human gross anatomy, human embryology, and human microscopic anatomy (histology) for the anatomy degree. In addition, the Fall curriculum includes a one-credit colloquium which introduces the student to professionalism, scientific communication, and addresses manuscript evaluation and writing, as well as scientific methodology and techniques that will be discussed in subsequent coursework. The professionalism elements reinforce ethics courses but focus on regulatory issues of animal or patient use and research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 503</td>
<td>Gross Anatomy</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 512</td>
<td>Human Embryology and Teratology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 505</td>
<td>Histology and Embryology I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 506</td>
<td>Histology and Embryology II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 590</td>
<td>Colloquium (1 credit assigned an “R” grade)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 semester of a Biomedical Ethics course</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Culminating Experience

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 600</td>
<td>Thesis Research</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. NEURO 511 is highly recommended as an elective, but is optional.

Students must complete original laboratory research that culminates in a thesis. The thesis must be accepted by the advisers and/or committee members, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School, and the student must pass a thesis defense.

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Requirements. (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies)

The first-year Fall curriculum provides 12 credits of the necessary core material that encompasses human gross anatomy, human embryology, and human microscopic anatomy (histology) for the anatomy degree. In addition, the Fall curriculum includes a one-credit colloquium which introduces the student to professionalism, scientific communication, and addresses manuscript evaluation and writing, as well as scientific methodology and techniques that will be discussed in subsequent coursework.
coursework. The professionalism elements reinforce ethics courses but focus on regulatory issues of animal or patient use and research. The
first-year Spring curriculum includes one 3-credit course focusing on
neuroanatomical studies.

In addition, during the first year, students complete three research
rotations that expose them to the wide range of research interests of
The Pennsylvania State University Graduate Faculty from both basic and
clinical science departments at the College of Medicine in Hershey. These
rotations serve to inform the students with regard to choosing a thesis
or dissertation adviser and forming a master's or doctoral committee.
In addition students are advised to take ethics, statistics and electives.
The doctoral students also complete their qualifying examination which
entails an oral presentation and a written examination on anatomical
coursework. In the Fall of the second year, the students are engaged
in 2 credits of Supervised Teaching that allows them to have a full
complement of experiences in lecturing, dissecting, preparation of exams,
and tutoring students. In addition, the requirements involve a 6-credit
BMS course on Biomedical Sciences that encompasses 6 modules
providing underlying principles of basic cellular processes of medical
sciences.

In addition, each student must complete research rotations, as well as
elective courses that may include statistics or other electives. Each
student for the Ph.D. degree must fulfill written and spoken English
communication requirements that are satisfied by preparing written and
oral reports describing the laboratory rotations during the first year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 503</td>
<td>Gross Anatomy</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 505</td>
<td>Histology and Embryology I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 506</td>
<td>Histology and Embryology II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 512</td>
<td>Human Embryology and Teratology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 590</td>
<td>Colloquium (1 credit assigned an &quot;R&quot; grade)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEURO 511</td>
<td>Neurobiology II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS 500</td>
<td>Research Ethics for Clinical Investigators</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 596</td>
<td>Individual Studies</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMS 501</td>
<td>Regulation of Cellular &amp; Systemic Energy Metabolism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMS 502</td>
<td>Cell and Systems Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 602</td>
<td>Supervised Experience in College Teaching</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>Elective courses (including statistics and ethics if not otherwise completed) that are selected in consultation with the student’s dissertation adviser and dissertation committee.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 26-29

At the end of the first year, continuation in the program is determined by
performance in course work, laboratory rotations, and the ANAT graduate
program qualifying examination. Students join their research laboratory
by the end of the summer of the first year.

The dissertation committee is formed upon entry into the dissertation
laboratory, and must comply with the Graduate Council dissertation
committee requirements (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-
policies/gcac/gcac-600/phd-dissertation-committee-formation). The
committee must include three Anatomy graduate program faculty, with at
least two faculty members in the major field.

Ph.D. students must pass a written comprehensive examination in the
format of a grant application prior to the end of the fifth semester of
enrollment. As part of this examination, the student also gives an oral
presentation of this proposal to the candidate's dissertation committee.

It is expected that the Ph.D. candidate will have at least one paper
submitted for publication in a major peer-reviewed scientific journal
prior to the final oral examination (the dissertation defense). A
dissertation must be prepared and defended by each Ph.D. candidate.
The dissertation must be accepted by the dissertation committee, the
head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.

Dual-Titles
Dual-Title Ph.D. in Anatomy and Clinical and
Translational Sciences

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed
in GCAC-208 Dual-Title Graduate Degree Programs (http://
gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/
gcac-208-dual-title-graduate-degree-programs).

Admission Requirements
Potential dual-title trainees will express an interest in the dual-title
degree as early as during the recruitment process for the Anatomy
Graduate Program, and may apply for the dual-title Ph.D. in Anatomy
and Clinical and Translational Sciences following admission to the
Graduate School and to the Anatomy program and prior to taking the
qualifying examination in Anatomy, no later than the end of the third
semester of graduate study in Anatomy. Students interested in the
dual-title degree will be considered for admission to the Clinical and
Translational Sciences program by a committee consisting of the Clinical
and Translational Sciences program co-directors and faculty affiliated
with the Clinical and Translational Sciences dual-title program. Refer to
the Admission Requirements section of the CTS Bulletin page (http://
bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/clinical-translational-
sciences).

Degree Requirements
To qualify for the dual-title degree, students must satisfy the degree
requirements for the Ph.D. degree, listed on the Degree Requirements
tab. In addition, students must complete the degree requirements
for the dual-title Ph.D. in CTS, listed on the CTS Bulletin page (http://
bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/clinical-translational-
sciences). Reciprocity between the CTS dual-title program and the
Anatomy graduate program allows for up to 7 of the elective credits
required for the Clinical and Translational Sciences degree to be met
simultaneously (ethics, statistics, and 1 elective).

Anatomy graduate students accepted to the Clinical and Translational
Sciences dual-Title program will take the qualifying examination at the
eend of the third semester of graduate training:

1. to allow exposure to the Clinical and Translational Sciences
curriculum in the Spring semester of the first year and Fall semester
of the second year, which will prepare the students for the integrated
content of the dual-title qualifying exam, and
2. to allow sufficient time to identify and assure commitment of an appropriate dissertation adviser who embraces the dual-title program of the student.

During the qualifying examination, the student will also be assessed for the dual-title program, and at least one member of the qualifying examination committee must come from the dual-title program. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs may serve in a combined role.

In addition to the general Graduate Council requirements for dissertation committees (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/phd-dissertation-committee-formation), the dissertation committee of an Anatomy and Clinical and Translational Sciences dual-title doctoral degree student must include at least one member of the Clinical and Translational Sciences Graduate Faculty. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs’ graduate faculty may serve in a combined role.

The committee chair will be a member of the Graduate Faculty in the primary graduate program. Faculty members who hold appointments in both the primary graduate program and the CTS program may serve in a combined role. If the committee chair does not serve in this combined role, the faculty member representing the CTS program must be designated co-chair of the committee. The CTS representative(s) will be expected to assist in constructing and evaluating comprehensive examination questions that cover the secondary area of study.

Upon completion of the doctoral dissertation, the candidate must pass a final oral examination (the dissertation defense) to earn the Ph.D. degree. Students enrolled in the dual-title program are required to write and orally defend a dissertation on a topic that reflects their original research and expertise in both Anatomy and Clinical and Translational Sciences. The dissertation must be accepted by the dissertation committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.

**Student Aid**

Graduate assistantships available to students in this program and other forms of student aid are described in the Tuition & Funding (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-funding) section of The Graduate School’s website. Students on graduate assistantships must adhere to the course load limits (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gsad/gsad-500/gsad-501-credit-loads-graduate-assistants) set by The Graduate School.

**Courses**

Graduate courses carry numbers from 500 to 699 and 800 to 899. Advanced undergraduate courses numbered between 400 and 499 may be used to meet some graduate degree requirements when taken by graduate students. Courses below the 400 level may not. A graduate student may register for or audit these courses in order to make up load limits (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gsad/gsad-500/gsad-501-credit-loads-graduate-assistants) set by The Graduate School.

**Learning Outcomes**

**Master of Science (M.S.)**

1. **KNOW:** Anatomy master’s degree graduates will demonstrate a) a broad base of knowledge in the anatomical sciences including gross anatomy, human microscopic anatomy (histology), and human development, b) a broad base of biological knowledge required to understand the molecular, cellular, and organismal processes related to biomedical sciences; c) a broad understanding of experimental approaches used to investigate biomedical problems; d) in-depth knowledge within their specific areas of research interests, and e) the highest standards of research ethics.

2. **CREATE:** Anatomy master’s degree graduates will creatively synthesize theory and literature to generate questions, ideas, or hypotheses addressing current problems in human health and disease, and will devise critical experimental approaches to test these ideas and hypotheses.

3. **APPLY:** Anatomy master’s degree graduates will perform hypothesis-driven, original research that addresses current problems in biomedical sciences - often related to their mentor’s primary research.

**Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**

1. **Know:** Anatomy graduates will demonstrate a) a broad base of knowledge in the anatomical sciences including human gross anatomy, human microscopic anatomy (histology), and human development, b) a broad base of biological knowledge required to understand the molecular, cellular, and organismal processes related to biomedical sciences; c) a broad understanding of experimental approaches used to investigate biomedical problems; d) in-depth knowledge within their specific areas of research interests, and e) the highest standards of research ethics.

2. **Create:** Anatomy graduates will synthesize material in the anatomical sciences to formulate didactic lectures, flipped-classrooms, problem-based learning modules, and team-based learning. Students will creatively organize material for classroom and laboratory (cadaver projections) presentations. Graduates will creatively synthesize theory and literature to generate questions, ideas, or hypotheses addressing current problems in human health and disease, and will devise critical experimental approaches to test these ideas and hypotheses.

3. **Apply:** Anatomy graduates will demonstrate their anatomical knowledge by providing lectures to first and second year medical students and physician assistant students, as well as upper-class medical students and residents. Graduates will be involved in hands-on training of medical and PA students in cadaver-based laboratory settings including (i) assisting in preparation of laboratory and written examinations, (ii) identification of structures for laboratory practical exams, and (iii) preparing and grading written exams. Graduates will perform independent and original research studies.
that address current problems in biomedical sciences leading to rigorous and reproducible experimental outcomes.

4. **Critical thinking:** Anatomy graduates will be required to interpret a large body of knowledge and condense material to provide important components to medical and physician assistant students. In terms of research, graduates will critically evaluate experimental approaches and results of their own research and the research of others.

5. **Communicate:** Anatomy graduates will convey knowledge on the subjects of human gross anatomy, embryology and microscopic anatomy (histology) and neuroanatomy to a variety of audiences including undergraduate students (Brain Bee), medical students, physician assistant students, as well as to graduate medical students in residency programs at Penn State Hershey. In terms of research activities, graduates will convey ideas, experimental approaches, and results in clear, concise, well-organized papers, posters, proposals, oral presentations, and discussions.

6. **Professional practice:** Anatomy graduates will begin interactions with other professionals within 2 years of matriculation, as they are included in teams of faculty involved in medical education oversight and curriculum design and review. In terms of research, graduates will collaborate in a collegial and ethical manner with other professionals within their field or with diverse scientific backgrounds.

7. **Career development:** Anatomy graduates will pursue academic teaching positions at undergraduate school, graduate schools with allied health science centers, and professional medical universities with programs in a variety of medical health fields. Graduates will participate in, and attend, professional career seminars at the College of Medicine, Career Day activities, and maintain a yearly IDP (individual development plan). In many cases for university employment, both teaching and research expertise are required.

**Contact**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Hershey Med Ctr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Program Head</td>
<td>Patricia McLaughlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Contact</td>
<td>Kristin E Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>College of Medicine, H181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P.O. Box 850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hershey PA 17033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:kec17@psu.edu">kec17@psu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(717) 531-1045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Website</td>
<td>View (<a href="http://med.psu.edu/anatomy-phd">http://med.psu.edu/anatomy-phd</a>)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>