

MASTER OF CLINICAL ANATOMY PROGRAM

PROSPECTIVE STUDENT GUIDE

ABOUT THE MCA PROGRAM

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.

CURRICULUM

The program is designed to be completed in 16 months and has required courses in Fall (Year 1), Spring (Year 1), and Fall (Year 2), with elective options throughout the program, but focused in the Fall of Year 2 semester. The curriculum includes both online and in-person courses. The master's degree (MCA) requires 32 graduate credit hours and is a non-thesis degree.

YEAR 1 - FALL	YEAR 1 - SPRING	YEAR 2 - FALL
Human Gross Anatomy (5) Undertake a complete dissection of the human body alongside University of Iowa Medical and PA students.	Functional Neuroanatomy (4) Discover the details of the central nervous system and consider concepts in a clinical context.	Anatomy Through Imaging (2) Interpret normal anatomical structures and variation using different imaging techniques.
General Histology Online (4) Connect the structure and function in all tissues of human body.	Human Embryology Online (2) Explore the major morphological events of human embryologic development.	YEAR 1 - SUMMER Case-Based Learning II (2) Integrate knowledge of the anatomical sciences through cases applicable to the health professions.
Teaching and Learning in the Anatomical Sciences (2) Acquire skills to learn and teach in graduate and professional settings.	Case-Based Learning I (2) Investigate the intersection of the anatomical sciences and health professions through cases.	
Seminar in Anatomical Sciences (1) Delve into anatomical literature and learn about the field of anatomical sciences.	Seminar in Anatomical Sciences (1) Practice honing presentation, discussion, and writing skills.	

ELECTIVE COURSES

- Advanced Neuroimaging†
- Surface Anatomy & Palpation†
- Advanced Osteology†
- Art & Anatomy†
- Practicum in College Teaching*
- MCA Research*
- Other electives with program approval

† Available Fall Year 2

* Available Spring Year 1, Summer Year 1, or Fall Year 2

“The small cohort in the MCA program allowed me to form close connections with like-minded peers and faculty, which in turn boosted my confidence and morale while studying advanced science topics. The program also allowed me to continually engage with teaching and leadership opportunities through education-based coursework, teaching practicums, paid tutoring opportunities, and the affiliated Scholars of Clinical Anatomy student organization.”

Mia Battani, MCA Class of 2024

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT?

HELPING YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS

For those interested in applying to the Carver College of Medicine following our program, MCA students are automatically granted an interview (if minimum GPA and MCAT scores are met).

LARGE IMPACT IN A SMALL CLASSROOM

The small class size allows hands-on learning experiences using cutting-edge technology and the opportunity to learn from world renowned faculty.

TEACHING FOCUSED LEARNING

MCA students are eligible for CIRTL (Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, & Learning) membership, which provides a network for graduate students to develop and implement evidence-based teaching practices.



APPLICATION & ADMISSIONS

Applications are holistically evaluated on:



ACADEMICS

Nature and quality of completed coursework. Minimum cumulative **GPA of 3.00**.



STANDARDIZED EXAM SCORES

MCAT, DAT, GRE, etc. These are **optional to submit**. Scores will be considered as part of the application package if submitted.



PERSONAL STATEMENT

Provide **your story** to distinguish you from other applicants. Consider why you selected this program and what motivates you to learn about anatomical sciences.



OTHER SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Any additional materials you would like the admissions committee to consider as part of your applications.



LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Letters must address **competency for the MCA program**. Letters written for professional applications will not be accepted. Three letters are required.



INTEREST IN THE ANATOMICAL SCIENCES

Demonstrated interest in pursuing a degree in the anatomical sciences. Consideration of how this degree fits into your ultimate aspirations.



OTHER EXPERIENCES

Work, volunteer, or other life experiences that support your short and long-term goals.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

- 1. PRIMARY APPLICATION**
Apply through University of Iowa Admissions.
- 2. SECONDARY APPLICATION**
Sent from MCA program. Complete by May 22.
- 3. APPLICATION REVIEW**
Applications are complete when all primary and secondary materials are submitted.
- 4. APPLICANT INTERVIEWS**
25-min individual interview with faculty.
- 5. OFFERS MADE**
Admission decisions are made on a rolling basis.

THE MCA PROGRAM ALSO PROVIDES

- Workshops on developing personal statements for professional school.
- Opportunities for paid time in departmental research labs and/or teaching appointments.
- Advising and mentorship from dedicated faculty.
- Leadership opportunities in departmental graduate student organizations
- Options to attend national conferences to present research.
- Ability to teach at the community college level (following completion of degree; requires application).

MCA FACULTY



Kathleen Andersen, MS
Clinical Instructor, Anatomy and Cell Biology, Adjunct Nursing and Physical Therapy



Martine Dunnwald, PharmD, PhD
Research Associate Professor, Anatomy and Cell Biology



Emma Handler, PhD
Program Co-Director, Clinical Instructor, Anatomy and Cell Biology



Darren Hoffmann, PhD
Associate Professor, Anatomy and Cell Biology



Nathan Holton, PhD
Clinical Instructor, Anatomy and Cell Biology



Justin Sipla, PhD
Clinical Instructor, Anatomy and Cell Biology, and Neurology



Nathan Swailes, PhD
Clinical Instructor, Anatomy and Cell Biology, Lecturer of Histology



Marc Pizzimenti, BEd, PhD
Program Co-Director, Associate Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology



Julie Collins
Program Coordinator

CONTACT INFORMATION

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