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 the option to take electives in the Summer semester between years one and two. 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.

DID YOU KNOW...

Over 3/4 of MCA students who apply to professional schools have been accepted.

Graduates go on to a variety of professions:
- Medicine
- Career (Teaching, Biotech, etc.)
- Currently applying to medical school
- Other (Fulbright Scholarship, etc.)
- Dentistry
- Physician Assistant

BUILD ON YOUR EXPERIENCE

Engage in biomedical sciences research, share your knowledge by teaching in the anatomy lab, or gain clinical experiences by shadowing a health care provider at the University of Iowa.

PREPARE FOR YOUR FUTURE

Practice board-style questions and train for the MCAT, DAT, GRE, or PA-CAT exams.
APPLICATION & ADMISSIONS

Applications are holistically evaluated on:

ACADEMICS

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.

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.

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

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

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
   2:1, 25-min individual interview.

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 and the department’s diversity, equity, and inclusion committee.
- Options to attend national conferences to present research.

MCA FACULTY

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Clinical Instructor, Anatomy and Cell Biology, Adjunct Nursing and Physical Therapy

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Research Associate Professor, Anatomy and Cell Biology

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

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Clinical Instructor, Anatomy and Cell Biology

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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