

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 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.

| YEAR 1 - FALL | YEAR 1 - SPRING | | YEAR 2 - FALL |
|---|---|------------------------|--|
| Human Gross Anatomy Undertake a complete dissection of the human body alongside University of Iowa Medical and PA students. | Functional Neuroanatomy Discover the details of the central nervous system and consider concepts in a clinical context. | YEAR 1 - SUMMER | Anatomy Through Imaging Interpret normal anatomical structures and variation using different imaging techniques. |
| General Histology Online Connect the structure and function in all tissues of human body. | Human Embryology Online Explore the major morphological events of human embryologic development. | | Case-Based Learning II Integrate knowledge of the anatomical sciences through cases applicable to the health professions. |
| Teaching and Learning in the Anatomical Sciences Acquire skills to learn and teach in graduate and professional settings. | Case-Based Learning I Investigate the intersection of the anatomical sciences and health professions through cases. | | Electives <ul style="list-style-type: none">Clinical ExperiencesGraduate Research in Cell and Developmental BiologyPracticum in College TeachingAdvanced Human AnatomyOther electives with program approval |
| Seminar in Anatomical Sciences Delve into anatomical literature and learn about field of anatomical sciences. | Seminar in Anatomical Sciences Practice honing presentation, discussion, and writing skills. | | |

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.

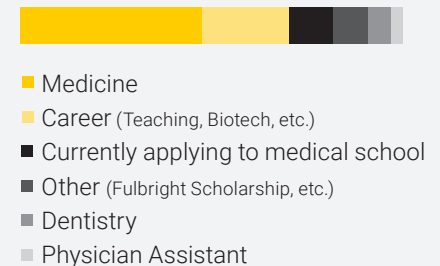
PREPARE FOR YOUR FUTURE

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

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:



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.

IOWA IS AN ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTER

We teach and train future health care professionals and scientists, take care of patients, and do medical research. As a student, you will get the opportunity to work and learn with some of the top medical experts in the world in state-of-the-art facilities.



APPLICATION & ADMISSIONS

Applications are holistically evaluated on:



ACADEMICS

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



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.

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



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Julie Collins
Program Coordinator

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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.