

DES MOINES  
UNIVERSITY  
MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN  
ANATOMY



# FOCUSED ON YOU AND YOUR GOALS

Des Moines University's Master of Science in Anatomy Program provides students with **extensive knowledge in the anatomical sciences and the ability to apply, communicate and teach that knowledge.** Excellent faculty and facilities, one-to-one mentorship and a focus on students' goals and success are big advantages.

The program, offered by the College of Osteopathic Medicine is **designed to be completed in 24 months but can be completed on a part-time basis in up to five years.**

The curriculum includes first-year medical school classes and courses specifically designed for the M.S.A. degree program. Students gain comprehensive knowledge in the four disciplines of anatomy: gross anatomy, cell and tissue biology, neuroanatomy and human development. The program also will equip you to achieve your goals with its two tracks – teaching and thesis – that prepare students for careers and professional programs in health care, education and research.

## ADVANTAGES OF A DMU M.S.A. DEGREE:

- ✓ comprehensive knowledge of the human body
- ✓ two tracks that equip you to reach your goals
- ✓ highly developed teaching, research and presentation skills
- ✓ engaged interactions with world-class faculty
- ✓ state-of-the-art facilities
- ✓ excellent preparation for professional programs
- ✓ opportunities for community service

## LEARN FROM THE BEST

The DMU **M.S.A. faculty are excellent educators** who represent some of the Midwest's top experts in anatomy, biological anthropology, paleontology and evolutionary biology. These experts have made groundbreaking discoveries in anatomy around the world. The relatively small size of the program means you will benefit from the personal attention, professional guidance and diverse interests of these individuals.

## RESEARCH

As a DMU M.S.A. student, you can engage in research with faculty who have published works in prestigious journals and books and received grants including from the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Justice. M.S.A. students also have published their research in anatomy-related journals.

## A GREAT PLACE

The DMU campus is a supportive, collaborative community of students and faculty. The University's location in Iowa's capital city offers plenty of opportunities for entertainment, outdoor recreation, shopping and much more.

**State-of-the-art facilities also benefit students.**

In the gross anatomy laboratory, students dissect and study body donors at 43 modernized dissection stations, each equipped with a 40-inch flat screen monitor connected to an iPad offering dissection instructions and embedded quizzes. Accompanying ultrasound capabilities allow students to explore and manipulate digital images, enhancing visualization and knowledge gained in courses and hands-on dissections.

## SERVICE AND SUPPORT

The **anatomy students at DMU are great ambassadors for the sciences** as well as for the University. They serve as teaching assistants for students in other programs. They participate in campus events such as the annual Senior Health Fair and Girls Exploring Medicine and Science. They also volunteer in the community, including sharing their knowledge of anatomy at local schools.

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ANATOMY—TEACHING TRACK SAMPLE CURRICULUM

	FALL TERM						SPRING TERM					
	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
YEAR 1		<b>Cell and Tissue Biology</b> – 4 credits <b>Gross Anatomy I</b> – 5.5 credits <b>Biochemistry</b> – 4 credits					<b>Physiology</b> – 6 credits <b>Gross Anatomy II</b> – 3 credits <b>Elective</b> – 1 credit					
YEAR 2		<b>Anatomy Seminar</b> – 1 credit <b>Advanced Dissections I</b> – 1 credit <b>Teaching in Anatomy I</b> – 2 credits <b>Human Development</b> – 2 credits <b>Statistics</b> – 3 credits <b>Electives</b> – 1 credit					<b>Anatomy Seminar</b> – 1 credit <b>Advanced Dissections in Anatomy II</b> – 1 credit <b>Teaching in Anatomy II</b> – 2 credits <b>M.S.A. Capstone Experience</b> – 2 credits <b>Neuroanatomy</b> – 2 credits <b>Electives</b> – at least 1 credit					

Subject to change; current course requirements appear in the catalog on the DMU website.

The **M.S.A. teaching track** is designed to prepare students for entry into medical and allied medical professional programs, careers in education or further study in graduate programs, particularly anatomical education. It includes an extensive anatomy teaching requirement, honing students' critical thinking, communication and presentation skills. This track is available as a dual degree for students in DMU's

osteopathic medicine and podiatric medicine programs to expand their knowledge of the human body. The M.S.A. also can improve medical students' board exam scores and applications for competitive residencies. For students who want to become health care providers, the M.S.A. teaching-track degree is a plus on applications for professional programs.

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ANATOMY—THESIS TRACK SAMPLE CURRICULUM

	FALL TERM					SPRING TERM					SUMMER TERM	
	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
YEAR 1	<b>FALL 1</b> – 9.5 credits total <b>Gross Anatomy 1 (MSA 1A01)</b> – 5.5 credits <b>Introduction to Anatomical Research (MSA 1A08)</b> – 2 credits <b>Responsible Conduct in Biomedical Research (MBS 1B03)</b> – 1 credit <b>Responsible Compliance and Lab Safety (MSA 1A09)</b> – 0.5 credits <b>Thesis (MSA 1A10)</b> – 0.5 credits					<b>SPRING 1</b> – 9.5 credits total <b>Gross Anatomy 2 (MSA 1A02)</b> – 3 credits <b>Statistics (MPH 650)</b> – 3 credits <b>Special Topics in Evolutionary Anatomy (MSA 2A17)</b> – 1 credit <b>Thesis (MSA 1A10)</b> – 2 credits <b>Research (MSA 1A11)</b> – 0.5 credits					<b>SUMMER 1</b> – 5 credits total <b>Research (MSA 1A11)</b> includes field work – 4 credits <b>Thesis (MSA 1A10)</b> – 1 credit	
YEAR 2	<b>FALL 2</b> – 9.5 credits total <b>Musculoskeletal Cell &amp; Tissue (MSA 2A16)</b> – 2 credits <b>Anatomy Seminar 1: Prof Development (MSA 2A01)</b> – 1 credit <b>Thesis (MSA 1A10)</b> – 2 credits <b>Research (MSA 1A11)</b> – 4.5 credits					<b>SPRING 2</b> – 9 credits total <b>Anatomy Seminar 2: Journal Review (MSA 2A02)</b> – 1 credit <b>Elective</b> – 1 credit (or can be replaced with Research) <b>Thesis (MSA 1A10)</b> – 3 credits <b>Research (MSA 1A11)</b> – 4 credits						

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The **M.S.A. thesis track** is designed to prepare students for research-based careers in comparative and evolutionary anatomy. It is specifically geared toward individuals who want to matriculate into Ph.D. programs, including those related to paleontology, biological anthropology and evolutionary biology. Courses train students in anatomical sciences, scientific writing and research design. Students

select one faculty member as a primary mentor/adviser and principal investigator. This track is not recommended for individuals wanting to pursue a clinical or anatomical education degree, nor is it available as a dual-degree program for current DMU osteopathic medicine or podiatric medicine students.

**HIGH-QUALITY, ENGAGING AND IN-DEPTH:**

DMU'S M.S.A. PROGRAM WILL GIVE YOU ANATOMICAL EXPERTISE AND OPTIONS FOR USING IT.



## M.S.A. TEACHING TRACK

### HOW TO APPLY:

Apply through DMU's direct application or through the Post Baccalaureate Centralized Application Service (PostBacCAS). Applications become available on August 15 for the class that begins the following fall term. For best consideration, it is recommended to have all materials submitted by early June. DMU uses rolling admissions, so candidates also are recommended to apply early.

### TEACHING TRACK REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ **Bachelor's degree** from a regionally accredited college or university
- ✓ **Cumulative and science GPAs of 2.8** and higher are recommended
- ✓ **Completion of the following courses** prior to matriculation:
  - **Biology/zoology** – 8 semester hours with lab
  - **General chemistry** – 8 semester hours with lab
  - **Organic chemistry** – 4 semester hours with lab
  - **Biochemistry** – 3 semester hours
  - **Physics** – 8 semester hours with lab (may substitute 3 semester hours of Statistics)
  - **English, English composition, speech or literature** – 6 semester hours
- ✓ **Transcripts** of all universities and colleges attended
- ✓ **Three letters of recommendation** from an employer, supervisor, academic adviser, professor or mentor
- ✓ Submission of **an official MCAT, GRE or DAT score** is optional
- ✓ **U.S. citizenship or legal permanent resident status** (copy of permanent resident card is required)

## M.S.A. THESIS TRACK

### HOW TO APPLY:

Applicants are highly encouraged to contact the specific faculty member they are interested in working with prior to applying ([www.dmu.edu/msa/curriculum/thesis-track](http://www.dmu.edu/msa/curriculum/thesis-track)). Applications are accepted only through the DMU direct application.

### THESIS TRACK REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ **Bachelor's degree** from a regionally accredited college or university
- ✓ **Strong background in science**, with experience in evolution, biology, paleontology, and/or biological anthropology
- ✓ **Transcripts** of all universities and colleges attended
- ✓ **Three letters of recommendation** from an employer, supervisor, academic adviser, professor or mentor
- ✓ Submission of **an official MCAT, GRE or DAT score** is optional
- ✓ **U.S. citizenship or legal permanent resident status** (copy of permanent resident card is required)



# DES MOINES UNIVERSITY

MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES

3200 Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa  
50312-4198

[dmuadmit@dmu.edu](mailto:dmuadmit@dmu.edu)

515-271-1499

[www.dmu.edu/admission](http://www.dmu.edu/admission)

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