ANATOMY, PH.D.

Saint Louis University’s doctoral degree in anatomy provides training in clinical human anatomy and independent research for individuals seeking a career in teaching and research at the medical school or university level.

Teaching faculty and mentors in Saint Louis University’s anatomy Ph.D. program are drawn from a select group of scientists and clinicians at the School of Medicine. The anatomy faculty are united by their extensive experience in teaching and training young scientists, medical students and physicians-in-training.

Curriculum Overview

A total of 48 credits (36 credits of coursework and 12 credits of dissertation research) are required for graduation. A concentration in neurobiology provides training for students preparing for academic or professional careers in neuroscience-related areas.

Dissertation research is related to the Saint Louis University’s Center for Anatomical Science and Education’s current research focus, including examining clinically relevant topics in neurobiology, pathology, and/or biological structure and function.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

Graduate students in anatomy at SLU perform research projects by working with a faculty mentor whose research interests match their own. Doctoral students are expected to publish and present a minimum of two research projects.

Faculty members are engaged in multidisciplinary research of biological structure and function ranging from ultrastructural to gross anatomical levels, with a major interest in clinically relevant anatomy and neurobiology. Other research interests include cell biology and pathobiology.

Facilities are available for autoradiography, electrophysiology, gel electrophoresis, immunoblotting, immunostaining (immunocytochemistry, immunohistochemistry, immunofluorescence), high-performance liquid chromatography, in situ hybridization, microsurgery, stereotaxic neurosurgery, microinjections and animal behavioral assays. The Saint Louis University Center for Anatomical Science and Education is also equipped to perform optical imaging, including bright field, phase contrast and fluorescence microscopy.

Careers

Possible careers for graduates with a Ph.D. in anatomy include medical doctor, allied health professional and university professor.

Admission Requirements

Applicants are admitted on a competitive basis and must have a B.S. or B.A. degree from an accredited U.S. college or university with a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 and/or science GPA of 2.8. In addition, applicants must have a GRE general test score at the 40th percentile.

Application Requirements

- Application form and fee
- Transcript(s)
- Three letters of recommendation

• GRE G scores (GRE S optional)
• Résumé
• Interview
• Professional goal statement

Requirements for International Students

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency
- Proof of financial support must include:
  • A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding the time at Saint Louis University
  • A letter from the sponsor’s bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of study at the University

- Academic records, in English translation, of students who have undertaken postsecondary studies outside the United States must include the courses taken and/or lectures attended, practical laboratory work, the maximum and minimum grades attainable, the grades earned or the results of all end-of-term examinations, and any honors or degrees received. WES and ECE transcripts are accepted.

Application Deadlines

Students should apply by March 1 for fall admission.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

For priority consideration for graduate assistantship, apply by Feb. 1.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at http://finaid.slu.edu.

Requirements

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 5000</td>
<td>Human Gross Anatomy</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANAT 5100</td>
<td>Human Histology and Ultrastructure</td>
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<td>Human Embryology</td>
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<td>ANAT 5300</td>
<td>Human Systems Neurobiology</td>
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<td>Human Systems Physiology</td>
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<td>Principles of Biostatistics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dissertation Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANAT 6990</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (taken over multiple semesters)</td>
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Total Credits: 48

Neurobiology Concentration

For a concentration in Neurobiology, students must conduct dissertation research in neurobiology and are required to complete at least 7 credits from the following courses:
oral exam will be public and designed to test the student’s fundamental
knowledge of their proposed studies, background for the studies, and
critical analysis and thinking.

Prior to the doctoral student’s request for consideration for advancement
to candidacy, submission of their research proposal, formation of their
research committee, initiation of the major components of their proposed
doctoral research project, and registration for any research credits, the
student must have completed most of their required core or elective
coursework and successfully passed their preliminary/written qualifying
exam.

Advancement to Candidacy
Completion of the dissertation research project entails the following:
writing of the thesis, application for advancement to candidacy and the
dissertation defense. It shall be the responsibility of the student
to initiate their candidacy by filling out a candidacy form through the
Office of Graduate Education. The completed form must be returned by
the deadline stated in the graduate education calendar of deadlines. Once
the completed candidacy form has been processed by the Office of
Graduate Education, the thesis committee chair will receive ballots
for the oral defense of the thesis. The ballots are distributed to the other
committee members by the thesis committee chair when they vote on the
oral defense. Once the ballots are completed, signed and sealed, it is the
committee chairperson’s responsibility to deliver the ballots to the Office
of Graduate Education immediately following the defense.

Dissertation Defense
The defense of the dissertation provides an opportunity for the student
to formally present their findings to their committee, the faculty and
students in CASE, and to any family member or anyone from the general
public wishing to attend. Two weeks before the dissertation defense, an
electronic and print announcement of the date, time, location and title
of the defense will be publicized to all members of CASE. A final draft
of the student’s dissertation must be placed in the anatomy conference
room for faculty and students to review at least seven working days
prior to the defense. The dissertation defense is two parts. First, the
student will make an oral, PowerPoint presentation of no longer than
45 minutes duration where they present their research. Following the
presentation, questions from the collective audience will be encouraged.
Once all questions have been satisfactorily answered by the student, the
audience is excused and the closed, or executive, part of the defense
takes place with only the student and their committee present. The
dissertation committee can ask detailed questions and expect the
student to demonstrate thorough knowledge of their project and related
research. Questions on general topics in anatomy, unrelated to their
research, may also be asked. Following all questioning, the student is
excused from the room and the committee members, without discussion,
complete the defense ballot.

Continuation Standards
Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.00 in all required
graduate/professional courses.

Learning Outcomes
1. Graduates will be able to demonstrate:
   a. knowledge and application of the underlying concepts, advanced
      knowledge and analytical approaches used in general and
      advanced gross anatomy, microscopic anatomy, neuroanatomy,
      physiology, and embryology;
   b. the application of current scientific literature, especially in areas
      representing gaps of knowledge, through framing hypotheses-
driven experiments, independent reading and the completion of additional work; and

c. the application of designing and conducting experiments and to analyze and interpret data.

2. Graduates will be able to demonstrate:
   a. the ability to gather data to verify the existence of a problem, conduct extended research/analysis into a problem/topic, evaluate the evidence, generate ideas for possible solutions and formulate a thesis based on analysis; and
   b. the ability to read materials carefully and analyze them critically

3. Graduates will be able to demonstrate:
   a. written communication skills with respect to clarity, use of appropriate grammar, syntax and vocabulary appropriate to the development of a NIH-style grant proposal; organizes research materials to support an original thesis; and, present ideas and arguments clearly, logically and with an appropriate balance of text and graphic materials; and
   b. oral communication skills with respect to designing, organizing and presenting main points concisely and clearly; providing persuasive arguments, using data and information, that are appropriate for the audience and occasion; using language vocal variety, pronunciation and physical behaviors that support the verbal message for the audience and occasion; using visual aids appropriate for technical presentation, and ability to answer audience questions.