Master’s Degree Program in
Integrative Anatomical Sciences
OVERVIEW. FACULTY AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The Department of Integrative Anatomical Sciences at the Keck School of Medicine offers a unique one-year Master of Science program, which provides comprehensive training in human anatomy, and the skills necessary to teach it. The course of study encompasses the core disciplines of anatomy: gross anatomy, histology, and neuroanatomy. Courses are taught by Keck Medical School faculty on the Health Sciences Campus of USC.

The year commences with an intensive, hands-on summer course in gross anatomy, which provides a laboratory-based experience with direct supervision in small groups by our faculty. This foundational knowledge of the structures and systems of the human body is a necessary skill set for the subsequent course work in osteology, microscopic anatomy, and neuroanatomy. Participants in the program have opportunities to focus on areas of interest including human anatomical variation, clinical anatomical correlations, and functional and evolutionary morphology. Interested students may acquire teaching experience in gross anatomy.

Completing the Master of Science in Integrative Anatomical Sciences can prepare students for: 1) teaching positions in the core anatomical sciences (gross anatomy, histology, and neuroanatomy) in pre-health and allied health programs; 2) research positions and further doctoral level training in functional and evolutionary morphology, and 3) further studies in the health sciences including medicine, dentistry, and other clinical disciplines. We invite you to connect with us to explore the possibilities of this program.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Department of Integrative Anatomical Sciences selects highly-qualified students for admission into its Master of Science program in Integrative Anatomical Sciences. The prerequisite for applicants to the MS program is a bachelor’s degree with a science major or equivalent. Applicants should have a superior undergraduate record at an accredited college or university, with a minimum undergraduate grade point average of 3.0. Generally required courses include at least one year of college-level biology, one year of college-level physics, and mathematics through calculus. College-level courses in cell biology, developmental biology, organismal biology, and physiology are recommended.

HOW TO APPLY

Learn more about our Master’s program (https://keck.usc.edu/integrative-anatomical-sciences-program/) and the Department of Integrative Anatomical Sciences (https://keck.usc.edu/integrative-anatomical-sciences/) Submit applications for USC graduate admissions at https://usc liaisoncs.com/applicant/us/#/login

APPLICANTS WILL NEED TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. Three letters of recommendation from faculty members who can evaluate the applicant’s potential for graduate work, teaching, and/or independent research.
2. Official transcripts from all institutions attended.
3. Foreign applicants are expected to provide results from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Results from Internet-based, computer-based, or paper-based tests are acceptable.
4. Statement of Purpose. This should describe your reasons for seeking a MS degree in the anatomical sciences and describe your career goals.
5. Answers to application questions listed on the IAS MS Program website.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1

FAQs

What can a person do with a Master’s Degree in Anatomical Sciences?

This degree qualifies a person to teach human anatomy, histology, and/or neuroanatomy at the college level. Thus, the emphasis of this program is to teach students how to teach. Moreover, since the MS core coursework is equivalent to that for medical students at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, it is excellent preparation for those individuals who plan to attend any health degree program, including medicine, dentistry, nursing, physical therapy, or physician assistant.

Does the gross anatomy course involve dissection of a cadaver, and if so, will there be practical examinations?

Yes, four students are assigned to one donor. Students undertake a full-body dissection. Examinations include written and practical examinations.

Do faculty teaching in the Master’s degree program also teach in the medical degree program?

Most faculty teach in both degree programs. Many of them are award-winning instructors, and are among the best teachers at the Keck School.

Are the classes for the Master’s degree taught with medical students?

The summer gross anatomy course is taught only to the Master’s degree students. The microscopic and neuroanatomy courses are taught alongside the medical students. Other courses will be taught only to Master’s students.

Does the program require a thesis?

No thesis is required for this Master’s degree since all requirements can be met through coursework. Doing research is an option but not a requirement.

Is a comprehensive exam included at the end of the year?

No, there is no year-end comprehensive examination for this program.

What is the deadline for submitting an application?

The deadline for full consideration is February 1, although applications may be accepted on a rolling basis thereafter.

What is the length of the program?

The program is twelve months long from June to May of the following year.

What sort of letters of recommendation are required?

A minimum of three letters are required. At least two letters should be from science faculty who know you well and can comment on your likelihood for success in this program. One letter can be from a non-science, non-research person who knows you well.

Are GRE or MCAT scores required?

No, there is no requirement for GRE or MCAT test results.

What is the cost of tuition for the program?

For current information on USC tuition and fees, please see https://gradadm.usc.edu/faqs/general-faqs/preparing-to-apply/