

Master of Science (MSc) Degree - Thesis Program

All students wishing to apply for this MSc graduate program in Veterinary Pathology must first have a faculty member in the Department of Veterinary Pathology who has agreed to supervise their program. Interested students should contact the department prior to making any application. If a supervisor is identified, the student is then invited to submit an application. In the event that no supervisor is found, the Department of Veterinary Pathology is unable to accept any application.

This is a thesis-based program that requires the defense of a thesis on a subject that allows the student to make some contribution to knowledge within the discipline, as well as related scholastic activities, including a number of courses. The MSc thesis can be either traditional or manuscript style format, which generally consists of a short abstract, a comprehensive literature review, at least two independent and robust research chapters connected with a common theme, and a concluding chapter that summarizes and ties the results of the thesis together. The successful completion of an MSc program is concluded with a defense of the thesis to the satisfaction of the research advisory committee and a cognate examiner.

In this MSc program, students learn the processes of science at an introductory level by doing research that has been designed together with their supervisors and GAC members. Skills and knowledge to be acquired include, experimental design, laboratory techniques, gathering and analysis of data, writing and publication, use of the library and other resources, broad knowledge of the subject area with a specific in-depth knowledge that is focus of the MSc research. The MSc student will not necessarily be an expert in the research area at the end of the program. These students may choose to spend additional time learning diagnostic skills, but the time required to acquire the research skills and expertise cannot be reduced to acquire the additional diagnostic experience. Instead, the duration of the total program must be increased. Combined diagnostic and research training during MSc program should be discussed with and approved by the supervisor and the Graduate Advisory Committee before commencement of the program.

Graduates should be able to apply the tools of scientific investigation to well defined problems and possess knowledge and skills in the fundamentals of scientific research.

This degree is at least one full year in length, and should be able to be completed within two years if done without diagnostic training.

Historically, nearly all students in these programs have been graduate veterinarians. Nevertheless, qualified students with a DVM degree or without a DVM degree or equivalent may be enrolled in this program.