Saint Louis University is a Catholic, Jesuit institution that values academic excellence, life-changing research, compassionate health care, and a strong commitment to faith and service. Founded in 1818, the University fosters the intellectual and character development of nearly 14,000 students on two campuses in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain. Building on a legacy of nearly 200 years, Saint Louis University continues to move forward with an unwavering commitment to a higher purpose, a greater good.

OVERVIEW

The department of pathology offers a graduate doctoral program in molecular pathobiology — the cellular and biochemical study of disease. The faculty work closely with graduate students in the department to assist them in acquiring the requisite academic background and practical laboratory skills for successful research careers in academics, industry, medicine or government. Excellent research facilities for cellular and molecular studies in pathobiology are available in the department. Facilities include fluorescence and confocal microscopy, flow cytometry, tissue culture facilities, video image analysis, laser capture microdissection and an electron microscope (EM) lab equipped with both scanning and transmission microscopes.

Departmental faculty maintain research collaborations with colleagues in the academic and industrial community, which further broadens opportunities and exposure to technical skills and research expertise for graduate students. As both a basic science and clinical department, pathology faculty have diverse interests and expertise, from the bench to the bedside. The department stresses close interactions among students, their mentors and the graduate steering committee to foster their intellectual and scientific growth.

All students interested in the Ph.D. program in pathology must enroll through the core graduate program in biomedical sciences. This one-year core program provides students with a strong basic foundation in biomedical sciences and allows them to rotate through various laboratories in the Medical Center before choosing a specific field of study. After the first year, students choose a mentor and specify a department for further work towards their Ph.D. degree. The Ph.D. degree requires 48 credit hours of coursework and 12 credit hours towards the successful completion and defense of an original research dissertation.

Courses required for a Ph.D. degree in pathology include the core basic biomedical sciences coursework, which covers topics in biochemistry, molecular and cellular biology, pathology, genetics, pharmacology, microbiology, immunology and neurobiology; an introductory and advanced course in pathobiology; and research colloquia. Additional elective courses, which may be taken from other departments or from other universities in the area, are selected in collaboration with a departmental advisor to best suit the needs of students.

Starting in the second year, students present their research progress yearly at Topics in Pathology, the departmental research colloquium. A written preliminary and oral examination is taken at the end of the second year, which focuses primarily on the student's proposed area of thesis research. Research fellowships are provided to qualified students accepted into the Ph.D. program. These include paid tuition and a stipend. Health insurance is provided by the department and can be extended to cover a spouse and children at a reasonable cost.

The department of pathology is located in the School of Medicine on South Grand Boulevard, approximately one mile south of the main Saint Louis University campus. The Saint Louis University Hospital/School of Medicine complex, along with the School of Nursing, the Doisy College of Health Sciences and the College for Public Health and Social Justice, constitute the Saint Louis University Medical Center. The pathology department has research laboratories in Schwitalla Hall, Doisy Hall, the Doisy Research Center, the West Pavilion and Cardinal Glennon Children’s Medical Center.
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Pathology

FACULTY
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George Eliceiri, M.D., Ph.D.: snRNA
Nancy Galvin, Ph.D.: Electron microscopy
Grant Kolar, M.D., Ph.D.: Ocular pathology
Jacki Kornbluth, Ph.D.: Immunology of NK cells
Jane McHowat, Ph.D.: Cardiac pathology
Nancy Phillips, M.D.: Ovarian carcinoma
Ratna Ray, Ph.D.: Tumor biology
Carole Vogler, M.D.: Pathology of lysosomal storage diseases

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
• Transcript(s)
• Three letters of recommendation
• GRE G scores (GRE S optional)
• Résumé
• Professional goal statement
• Interview

APPLICATION DEADLINE
Ph.D.

FALL: Feb. 1
SPRING: N/A
SUMMER: Feb. 1

Deadlines for assistantships are listed online.

DEGREES OFFERED
• Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

COURSES AVAILABLE

DAYS ✔ NIGHTS ☐ WEEKENDS ☐ ONLINE ☐

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Financial aid is available, and all first- and second-year students receive a nationally competitive student stipend as well as tuition waivers. Health insurance is also provided by the core program. Stipends, health benefits and tuition costs are the responsibility of the student’s advisor or doctoral program during the final years of their graduate study and are most commonly provided by research grants or contracts.

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