SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE EDUCATION

Pathology

+ School of Medicine

Saint Louis University is a world-class Catholic, Jesuit institution educating nearly 13,000 students on two dynamic, urban campuses - in St. Louis, Missouri, and Madrid, Spain. Founded in 1818, the University is celebrating its bicentennial.

With a legacy of innovative academics and research, compassionate health care and faithful service, Saint Louis University attracts a diverse community of scholars who push intellectual boundaries in pursuit of creative, meaningful ways to impact the world, striving to serve a higher purpose and seek a greater good.

OVERVIEW

Pathology offers a graduate doctoral program in molecular pathobiology — the cellular and biochemical study of disease. The faculty work closely with graduate students 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, super-resolution microscopy, flow cytometry, tissue culture facilities, video image analysis, laser capture microdissection and an electron microscopy (EM) lab equipped with both scanning and transmission microscopes.

As both a basic science and clinical department, pathology faculty have diverse interests and expertise, from the bench to the bedside. 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. Close interactions among students, their mentors and the graduate steering committee foster intellectual and scientific growth.

Ph.D. candidates 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 36 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; introductory and advanced courses in pathobiology and microscopy; 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 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 Schwindt Hall, Doisy Hall, the Doisy Research Center, the West Pavilion and Cardinal Glennon Children’s Medical Center.
FACULTY

Anping Chen, Ph.D.: Hepatic fibrogenesis
George Eliceiri, M.D., Ph.D.: snRNA
Grant Kolar, M.D., Ph.D.: Ocular pathology
Jacki Kornbluth, Ph.D.: Immunology of NK cells and macrophages
Jane McHowat, Ph.D.: Smoking-related diseases
Nancy Phillips, M.D.: Ovarian carcinoma
Ratna Ray, Ph.D.: Tumor biology and viral pathogenesis
Carole Vogler, M.D.: Pathology of lysosomal storage diseases

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pathology Department

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Expertise in microscopy and morphological interpretation.
Research studies focus on clinical and basic science pathophysiology integration.

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.