

## PROPOSAL TO OFFER A NEW DEGREE PROGRAM\*

**Proposals will only be accepted electronically as a Word document to the Office of the Provost when submitted to [provost.deg.changes@wsu.edu](mailto:provost.deg.changes@wsu.edu)**

*\*If a new unit will be created to offer the proposed degree, a notice of intent to establish the new unit (program, department, or school) will also be required.*

***This proposal will be circulated to other institutions in the state via the Interinstitutional Committee on Academic Program Planning (ICAPP). You may be asked to interact with other institutions if they have questions or concerns.***

Degree Title:	Master of Veterinary Anatomic Pathology (MVAP)
Academic Program:	Professionally Oriented Master's Degree
Academic Plan:	Veterinary Anatomic Pathology
Number of Credits:	30
Department(s) or Program(s):	Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology
College(s):	College of Veterinary Medicine
Campus(es):	WSU Pullman
Method of Instructional Delivery:	In-person

Contact Name:	Laura White	Email Address:	<a href="mailto:Laura.white@wsu.edu">Laura.white@wsu.edu</a>
Contact Phone:	509-335-7259	*Proposed start date:	Fall 2024

***\*Proposed Start Date: Approval must be received from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities before the program may be advertised or recruited for. Financial aid may not be available until the program has been approved by the Department of Education subsequent to NWCCU approval. Approval notification will be sent by the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President.***

### Proposal

#### Mission and Strategic Goals:

Provide a clear statement of the nature and purposes of the new degree in the context of WSU's mission and strategic plan.

The WSU College of Veterinary Medicine and the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology have offered combined training in veterinary anatomic pathology and immunology/infectious disease research for over 40 years. Students in this program complete their doctoral research and pathology training in 6-7 years and become eligible for board certification by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. It is one of the largest and most successful programs that trains veterinary pathologists for leadership positions in academia, in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries, and in government institutions. Although our graduates continue to be highly successful, the breadth and depth of knowledge needed to become a clinical specialist and accomplished researcher can no longer be delivered effectively in the traditional combined training format. This problem is projected to worsen in the next five years when the American College of Veterinary Pathologists implements its residency certification program and expands the number of clinical competencies required for board certification. Lastly and most importantly, our students are increasingly suffering from anxiety and other mental health challenges due to the stress caused from trying to simultaneously meet the growing demands of residency and research training. The problems associated with the current combined program will be addressed by adopting a sequential training model where incoming students spend

the first three years focused on veterinary anatomic pathology training in a professionally oriented master's degree program offered through the graduate school. After completing residency training, students interested in research can transition into a PhD program within the College of Veterinary Medicine to complete their graduate training.

**Educational Offerings\*:**

Describe the degree program, including the total number of credits required. Provide the four-year degree plan (undergraduate) or appropriate plan of study (graduate and professional).

*\*Please note that all courses for the degree must be approved before the degree will be reviewed by the Catalog Subcommittee.*

See Attached Document: Curriculum Overview

- 30 hours minimum of total credits
- 26 hours minimum of graded course work
  - 1 hour of Introduction to Histopathology (VET\_PATH 582, syllabus conditionally approved and included in this packet)
  - 18 hours of VET\_PATH 542 (3 hours in spring and fall semester per year; a major curricular change to increase the graded credit hours of this course was submitted for review in fall 2022 and included in this packet)
  - 12 hours of VET\_PATH 592 (2 hours in spring and fall semester per year)
  - 1-4 hours of statistics
- 2-4 hours VET\_PATH 701 (Master's special project, syllabus was submitted for review fall 2022 and included in this packet); a minimum of 2 hours must be taken in the semester of project completion

Provide descriptive information regarding (the) method(s) of instructional delivery (percent face-to-face, hybrid, distance, and/or competency-based).

All courses will be 100% face-to-face delivery.

**Assessment of Student Learning and Student Achievement**

*\*For graduate programs, please contact the Graduate School before completing this section.*

Please provide a list and description of expected student learning outcomes.

All graduates will be able to:

1. Develop practical gross and microscopic pathology skills, including the skills needed to prepare for sitting the American College of Veterinary Pathologists board examination.
2. Develop skills in comparative anatomic pathology and diagnostic medicine leading to the ability to judge the relative importance of laboratory findings, recommend appropriate ancillary testing, and summarize all diagnostic information into a concise and valuable report.
3. Develop written and verbal skills appropriate for communicating lesion descriptions and disease processes in a timely and professional manner appropriate for diagnostic and research laboratories.
4. Develop the work management skills necessary for competent, efficient completion of service, teaching and research responsibilities.

5. Develop research objectives and apply research theory and methodology to address a fundamental pathology-based research question.

For undergraduate programs, provide the department's plan for assessing student learning outcomes. Describe briefly how information on student learning will be collected and incorporated into existing processes for evaluating student learning in the department. Please attach the plan and a curriculum matrix.

N/A

Please indicate as appropriate:

- Assessment of this program will be incorporated into the existing assessment plan for \_\_\_\_\_ . Please attach a copy of the existing plan.
- A draft assessment plan is attached.
- A curriculum matrix is attached.

## Planning:

Describe plans and include descriptions which provide evidence of:

1. The need for the new degree:

1. This new professionally-oriented master's degree will be replacing the PhD in the combined Anatomic Pathology Residency Training program. This new format will better allow students to reach the required level of mastery of knowledge and skill to become successful Anatomic Pathologists (see Program Objectives of the attached Assessment Plan). Additionally, it will address the increasing concerns of quality of life in the current combined format. Students may still pursue PhD training, as desired, upon completion of the combined professionally-oriented master's degree/anatomic pathology residency program. It will also provide a framework whereby the residency program may uphold the forthcoming accreditation standards expected to be set forth by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

2. The student population to be served

- Provide realistic justification for the projected FTE.
- How can transfer students articulate smoothly into the program and complete it with approximately the same number of total credits as students who enter WSU as freshmen?
- Please describe specific efforts planned to recruit and retain underrepresented students in this discipline.

This program will be available to students accepted into the Anatomic Pathology Residency. Applicants must have a DVM degree from an AVMA accredited college of veterinary medicine or comparable foreign institution. Due to the highly specialized nature of this program, transfer students are generally not considered. The program recruits two new students per year. Two candidates have successfully been accepted into the previous combined residency/PhD program, out of approximately 18 applicants per year, in all previous years. These numbers are not expected to significantly change with this program. Recruitment is through the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, which is standard for all Anatomic Pathology Residencies.

3. Procedures used in arriving at the decision to offer the new degree (e.g., consultation with advisory boards, input from industry or employers, commissioned studies, faculty task force, etc.).

A task force consisting of ten faculty pathologists was formed to discuss options for altering the existing combined PhD/residency program. This task-force discussed how to best meet the needs of the students, including maintenance of an adequate quality of life, while provide training for a wide variety of potential careers. Several modifications of the existing program were proposed and debated before arriving at the current proposed Master of Veterinary Medicine.

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<b>4. Organizational arrangements required within the institution to accommodate the new degree.</b>
As a restructuring of the previous combined PhD/Residency degree, this will not require any additional organizational arrangements. The majority of instruction will be provided by faculty pathologists within the Dept of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology and the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.

<b>5. Lay out a three-year timetable for implementation, including hiring plans, partnership contracts if needed, facilities modification, recruiting, and other elements of implementation. Provide dates for each step. <b>If faculty need to be hired, provide a written commitment from your funding authority of the necessary faculty lines.</b></b>
As this is an alteration of the existing combined program, a timetable for implementation is not needed. All requirements are in-place within the existing systems.

**Budget:**

Attach the Financial Worksheet with five-year FTE, revenue and expenditure projections. Fully account for costs such as staff support, training, library, facilities and so on.

Please describe the funding picture narratively, including funding sources, department, college and/or campus commitments, investments already made, one-time costs, facilities costs (labs, classrooms, offices, telecom etc.) and library costs.
Our department has a budgetary line item dedicated to supporting residency stipends within the program we are restructuring. The budget associated with this proposal will incur no new cost to the College of Veterinary Medicine or WSU and no programs will be discontinued. On the contrary, this restructuring provides the opportunity to make better use of allocated funds to serve student needs. The residency-dedicated budget line was provided by the state legislature in the 1970s and since that time, it has not been adjusted. This restructure has the potential to provide savings to Washington State University by qualifying students to become board-certified professionals within three years, while still allowing the option to continue with a PhD. As a non-thesis master's degree program, tuition rates are not within the purview of the CVM.

**Student Services:**

Describe the capacity of student support services to accommodate the new degree. Include a description of admissions, financial aid, advising, library, tutoring and other services specific to this request.
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As this is a restructuring of the existing combined program, additional resources are not required.

Describe the implications of the new degree for services to the rest of the student body.

As this is a restructuring of the existing combined program, additional resources are not required.

**Physical Facilities and Equipment:**

Outline the provision/s made for physical facilities and equipment at the proposed location that will support the program and its projected growth. Include videoconferencing and other technologies that support course delivery as well as classrooms, labs, and office space.

Student offices will be in Global Animal Health 2 building, within the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, which will provide all necessary facilities and equipment. The need for additional support is not anticipated.

**Library and Information Resources:**

Using the Library Analysis form, describe the availability and adequacy of library and information resources for this degree, degree level, and location. Note plans to address gaps.

As this is a restructuring of the existing combined program, additional resources are not required.

**Faculty:**

List the educational and professional qualifications of the faculty relative to their individual teaching assignments.

List the anticipated sources or plans to secure qualified faculty and staff.

All faculty are Veterinary Anatomic Pathologists co-appointed within the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology and the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. Teaching responsibilities within the proposed program will vary among faculty. As Veterinary Anatomic Pathologists, all faculty have received a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and are board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists; most faculty have also received a PhD in a related field. All faculty have participated in the aforementioned combined residency/PhD program, which this master's program will replace. Furthermore, while not a requirement, many faculty members participate in ongoing continuing education in the area of teaching, particularly by participating in the CVM Teaching Academy.

**Impact on Other Locations/Programs:**

Briefly describe any impacts on other WSU programs and locations, and how you came to these conclusions (who was consulted?). If there are potential adverse impacts, describe how these will be addressed. Consider such things as: reallocation of faculty time, reallocation of AOI courses, impact of blended courses, internal competition, "cannibalization" of other programs, curricular effects for other degrees, effects on recruitment markets for other campuses. Indicate how such problems will be addressed for each campus or department affected.

This program is only available to students accepted as Anatomic Pathology Residents. Due to the highly specialized nature of this program and the low student numbers (2 per academic year), this program will not impact other WSU programs and locations. Furthermore, this program utilizes pre-existing courses for the majority of the required credits, with the development of only 1 new introductory course and a master's project, resulting in minimal impact on faculty time. As this program is replacing the previous combined residency/PhD program; students will be encouraged to pursue PhD training following completion of the MS, if desired.

**Sustainability**

What are the plans for continuing the program past 5 years if the goals for enrollment are not met, or other circumstances prevent the execution of the plan described here?
Enrollment in the existing combined Anatomic Pathology/PhD program has remained steady over the previous 10 years, with an average of 15 applications per year for two available student seats. The number of applicants is anticipated to increase with the proposed program changes to a professionally-oriented master’s degree as it will allow application by Anatomic Pathology Residents not interested in a complete PhD program. Nonetheless, if the program were to be unsuccessful, a certificate program could be pursued.

**External Reviewer Contact Information**

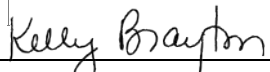
If this program is new to the Washington State University system, please provide the names and contact information for 2-3 external experts from similar institutions <i>who could</i> be contacted to provide reviews of this program.	
Name	Contact Information (email and phone)
Kim Newkirk, DVM, PhD, DACVP	knewkirk@tennessee.edu
Josh Ramsay, DVM, PhD, DACVP	jdramsay105@gmail.com

**Attachments:**

- Financial Worksheet
- Four-Year Degree Plan (undergraduate); curriculum overview (graduate and professional)
- Curriculum Map (undergraduate)
- Assessment Plan
- Letters of financial commitment
- Contracts or MOUs if applicable

**Submit completed form as a Word document to the Provost’s Office at [provost.deg.changes@wsu.edu](mailto:provost.deg.changes@wsu.edu)**

**SIGNATURES: The names typed below certify that the relevant academic and campus officials have reviewed and approved this proposal:**

Chair or Director Signature:		Date:	8/23/23
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Dean Signature:		Date:	8/28/2023
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**Signatures are required from the Chancellor(s) if the degree will be offered and/or impact the respective campus:**

Everett Chancellor Signature:		Date:	
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Global Chancellor Signature:		Date:	
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Spokane Chancellor Signature:		Date:	
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Tri-Cities Chancellor Signature:		Date:	
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Vancouver Chancellor Signature:		Date:	
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Comments regarding abstention of signature(s)

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Current CIP Code:		New CIP Code:		Date:	