INTRODUCTION

This handbook summarizes the graduate student requirements for the Master of Science degree in Cellular and Molecular Medicine (CMM) and the Graduate Certificate in Biomedical Sciences. It is meant to assist students in understanding and fulfilling CMM program requirements. However, it is not all-inclusive and does NOT serve as a contractual document. Students should also utilize resources made available by the Graduate College. The Advisor and the Thesis Committee will serve as guides and mentors. The Graduate Studies Director and the Master’s Oversight Committee will also provide guidance and oversee student progress. It is important for students to realize that successful completion of a Master’s Degree or Certificate Program in CMM is their responsibility. Each student must be focused and self-motivated to reach his/her goals.

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MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.S.) PROGRAM

Objectives

The Master’s Program in Cellular and Molecular Medicine is designed to educate students at the graduate level in biomedical sciences, with an emphasis on training in basic and translational clinical research, and to provide students with an advanced understanding of human anatomy and functional histology and cell biology.

Administration

The CMM Graduate Certificate and Master’s Advisory Committee, with the approval of the Department Head, administers all aspects of the graduate program including student recruitment, admissions, policy, student advising, approval of theses, and other matters relevant to graduate education. Dr. Lonnie Lybarger (lybarger@email.arizona.edu) is the Committee Chair and serves as both the primary Graduate Advisor as well as the Director of Graduate Studies for the CMM-MS and Certificate programs. Administrative support is provided by Barbara Kahn-Sales, Program Coordinator Senior (bkahnsales@email.arizona.edu; 626-6655) and Kathy Ben, Program Coordinator (kben@email.arizona.edu; 520-626-2713).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Director</td>
<td>Lonnie Lybarger, Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department Head</td>
<td>Carol Gregorio, Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Advisory Committee Members</td>
<td>Diana Darnell, Ph.D.; Tom Doetschman, Ph.D.; Herman Gordon, Ph.D.; Paul Krieg, Ph.D.; Clark Lantz, Ph.D.; Lonnie Lybarger, Ph.D.; Ray Runyan, Ph.D.; Jean Wilson, Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Program Coordinators</td>
<td>Barbara Kahn-Sales, M.Ed Kathy Ben</td>
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Application Materials

Students interested in pursuing a M.S. in Cellular and Molecular Medicine must apply through GradApp, which is linked closely to the University of Arizona Graduate College. That website can be found at: https://apply.grad.arizona.edu. Students are encouraged to visit the CMM website prior to applying for more detailed information about the admissions process and program requirements.

The following items are required as part of the application process to the CMM-MS Program:

1. Transcripts of all college and university work.
2. Standardized Test Score results (GRE General Exam, MCAT, or DAT are all acceptable).
3. A Statement of Purpose, outlining the reasons for pursuing graduate education. A well-crafted statement will also include a student’s past experiences and future goals.
4. Contact information for *at least* three people willing to write a letter of recommendation on your behalf. Students should select individuals who are familiar with your work (*if applicable and available, one of these letters should be from your research advisor*). Potential letter writers will be contacted directly from the Graduate College with instructions on letter submission.

Additionally, per the UA Graduate College, all applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 to be considered for entrance to the UA Graduate School. Information on how Admission GPA is calculated can be found [on the UA Graduate College's website](#).

**Please note that admission to the CMM’s Medical Science Track (otherwise known as P-MAP) is separate from the standard CMM Master’s Program and requires both applications to both that track as well as to the UA College of Medicine. Students are unable to transfer ‘tracks’, as they are administered separately.**

**Prospective Students interested in applying for the P-MAP Program should contact the Medical School Admissions Team.**

**International Applicants**

International applicants born in a country where the native language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in both spoken and written English. The list of countries A number of English Proficiency Credentials are accepted at the University of Arizona, including:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS)
- Pearson PT Academic
- Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)
- The Graduate English Language Endorsement from the U of A’s Center for English as a Second Language and
- CEPT Full Academic Test, also offered by the U of A Center for English as a Second Language

Tests must be dated within two years of a student’s enrollment term to be considered valid. The minimum scores accepted for each of these tests can be found [here](#).

A foreign student whose native language is not English must, within two years after entering the program, pass an English proficiency test (SPEAK or TSE test) with a score of 50 or higher.

**Financial Support**

The Cellular and Molecular Medicine CMM Master’s Program does not provide financial aid. However, students may contact the [Financial Aid Office](#) for assistance. Students are responsible for all expenses related to completion of the degree requirements, including tuition, mandatory fees, program fees, and course fees where applicable.
**Coursework for the CMM-M.S. track**

Students must complete the courses below with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORE COURSES</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>CREDITS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMM 501 (Human Gross Anatomy)</td>
<td>Summer 5W-1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMM 510 (Human Histology: an Introduction to Pathology)</td>
<td>Summer Pre-Session</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR CMM 525a (Functional Human Histology)</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR CMM 547 (Histology Basics - online)*</td>
<td>Fall/Summer/Spring</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMM 548 (Histology of the Digestive and Respiratory Systems - online)*</td>
<td>Fall/Summer/Spring</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMM 549 (Histology of the Urogenital and Endocrine Systems - online)*</td>
<td>Fall/Summer/Spring</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: all three online courses must be taken to fulfill this requirement and cannot be combined with CMM 510 or CMM 525A for credit

| CMM 565A (Fundamentals of Light Microscopy and Electronic Imaging – online) | Spring | 3       |
| CMM 577 (Principles of Cell Biology)                         | Fall    | 4       |
| OR CMM 504 (Cell Biology of Disease)                           | Summer 5W-2 | 3       |
| CMM 603 (Current Topics in Biomedical Sciences)                | Spring  | 2       |
| CMM 910 (Thesis)                                               | All     | 5 units total |

**CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

| PATH 515 (Mechanisms of Human Disease)                        | Spring  | 4       |
| CBIO 552 (Cancer Biology)                                    | Fall    | 4       |

**ELECTIVES - SUGGESTED COURSES BELOW:**

| CMM 595H (Problems in the Biology of Complex Disease; 2 credits) | Spring | 6 units total |
| EPID 576A (Biostatistics in Public Health; 3 credits)           | Fall   |             |
| CMM 605 (Medical Immunology and Infectious Disease; 4 credits)  | Fall   |             |

In addition to Core Coursework, students will be required to complete at least 6 additional units of coursework (see 'electives', in the table above) with a grade of C or better. The courses listed under the electives heading above are suggestions; reasonable and related courses outside of that list may also be acceptable with prior approval from your advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies.

Students must maintain an overall grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 to remain in good standing. In accordance with the policies of the Graduate College, any student whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 will be placed on academic probation for the following semester. If the student’s cumulative GPA is still below 3.0 at the end of their probationary semester, he/she will be dismissed from the program.
Advisor and Advisory Committee

Each student in the CMM-M.S. program will be assigned a member of the Master's Oversight Committee as their primary advisor when they accept admission into our program. A student may change their primary advisor at any time while they are pursuing their degree.

The student’s thesis committee will consist of a minimum of three faculty members: (1) an individual whose primary appointment is within CMM (often, their primary advisor although this is not necessary) and (2) at least two additional faculty members who have expertise related to the student’s area(s) of interest. These individuals do not need to be in CMM. Additional committee members will be chosen jointly by the student and their primary advisor. A student’s advisory committee should be chosen - and the committee should meet - as soon as possible after the student enters the Master's Program.

Per Graduate College policy, at least two members of a student’s MS committee must be tenured- or tenure-eligible faculty. Individuals who are not tenured or tenure-eligible may still serve on a committee as a Special Member, a designation granted to them by the Graduate College. These individuals, however, may not act as sole chair of a student’s thesis committee. For more specific guidelines, please consult with the CMM Graduate Coordinator or with the Graduate College.

GradPath

GradPath is the system used by the UA Graduate College to track student milestones and progress over the course of their graduate career. For MS students, there are three forms that must be submitted by the student at various stages and milestones of their graduate career:

1. The Responsible Conduct of Research Statement
2. Plan of Study
3. Master's/Specialist Committee Appointment Form

The fourth form, the Master’s/Specialist Completion Confirmation, is filled out and submitted by CMM’s Graduate Coordinator upon successful completion and defense of a student’s thesis.

GradPath forms are housed and designed to be completed online through UAccess Student. These forms can be accessed through the Student Center in UAccess by clicking the dropdown menu in the Academics section and scrolling to GradPath forms.

Please visit the Graduate College Website for more information on each form.

Thesis

Every CMM-Masters student, regardless of track, is required to complete a substantial research project and submit a written thesis that documents that research. Laboratory, non-laboratory, and hybrid projects will all be considered. A student’s research project will be agreed upon by the student and the student’s advisory committee (for information on a student’s Advisory committee, please consult page 6).
As a guideline, a laboratory-based thesis should be in the format of a publishable manuscript for an appropriate journal. A non-laboratory-based thesis should be in the format of a *New England Journal of Medicine* review article and be 10,000-20,000 words in length (not including references). A student’s Thesis Committee will guide her/him in the preparation of this document. Per Graduate College policy, the thesis must be archived on the University’s open-access website prior to completion of their degree.

Students who will be working in a laboratory **must** complete the University’s Online RCR Training ([https://rgw.arizona.edu/research-compliance/rcr/online-training](https://rgw.arizona.edu/research-compliance/rcr/online-training)).

Students who will be working with patients or non-anonymized patient data must take the University's HIPPA Training ([https://rgw.arizona.edu/compliance/hipaa-privacy-program/hipaa-training](https://rgw.arizona.edu/compliance/hipaa-privacy-program/hipaa-training)).

**Instructions for Thesis Units**

CMM requires each Masters student to earn a minimum of five thesis units (CMM 910) during their tenure in the program. The intention of these units is to award credit for the time students spend working on their thesis, and to help them stay on track to complete this milestone in a timely, efficient manner. The policies below, which came into effect in the Fall of 2018, describe the milestones that must be met to earn each thesis unit, and are meant to guide students and their faculty mentors through the thesis process.

Unlike in previous years, these guidelines require that students begin work on their theses well before the semester in which they intend to graduate. It is understood, however, that thesis work (especially laboratory-based research) does not always follow an expected schedule - under unusual circumstances, exceptions may be made to these policies with approval of the Director of the Master’s Program.

**First unit** – the student will identifies a thesis advisor and members to serve on their thesis committee. With their committee's input, the student will select a thesis topic (literature- or lab-based) and develop an outline for the thesis to be presented to the committee at the first meeting.

**Second unit** – the student will the advisor/committee with a draft of the introduction section of the thesis.

**Third unit** – the student will provide their advisor/committee with a draft of the results/synthesis section of the thesis. Students should include figures or placeholders for figures in the draft at this stage. This draft should include revisions of the introduction section of the thesis (should the committee have provided any). If there has not been a thesis committee
meeting within this past year, please meet with the committee and discuss progress and timetables for your project.

**Fourth unit** – the student will provide their advisor/committee with a full draft of their thesis (including any revisions provided by the committee). If there has not been a thesis committee meeting within this past year, please meet with the committee and discuss progress and timetables.

**Fifth unit** – Defend thesis, make any required revisions, and submit final document to the library for cataloging. If a student is not ready to defend, they should meet with their committee and make a plan to complete the thesis.

**Important additional policies:**

- No more than three thesis units may be taken in one term. Therefore, the thesis process will cover at least two terms.

- If students register for thesis units but fail to meet the guidelines set out above, they will receive a grade of “Incomplete” until they finish the requirements for each unit. No additional units of CMM 919 may be taken until the requirements have been completed.

- An “incomplete” will automatically become an “E” in one year if the course is not finished.

For more information on CMM’s thesis process or about the guidelines above, please seek out CMM’s Graduate Coordinators and/or Director of Graduate Studies.

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**

The Graduate Certificate in Biomedical Sciences is designed to educate students at the graduate level, with an emphasis on training in basic and translational clinical research. During their course of study, students will also be provided with an advanced understanding of human anatomy, functional histology, and cell biology.

A bachelor’s degree is a prerequisite for entering the certificate program. Students may apply to the certificate program prior to receiving their bachelor’s degree, but must have received the degree and be able to provide an official transcript before starting the certificate program. While it is expected that an applicant’s undergraduate major normally be in the natural sciences, students with degrees in other fields who have sufficient coursework in the natural sciences will be considered for admission.

The Graduate Certificate requires that students complete a minimum of **12 units of credit**, which can include up to 3 units of transfer credit as specified below. Every student will be required to complete the following courses with a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or
higher:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSES FOR GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES</th>
<th>CREDITS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMM 501 (Human Gross Anatomy)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMM 510 (Human Histology: an Introduction to Pathology)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CMM 525a (Functional Human Histology)</td>
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<td>CMM 548 (Histology of the Digestive and Respiratory Systems - online)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>CMM 549 (Histology of the Urogenital and Endocrine Systems - online)*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Note: all three online courses must be taken to fulfill this requirement and cannot be combined with CMM 510 or CMM 525A for credit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMM 565A (Fundamentals of Light Microscopy and Electronic Imaging)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONE ADDITIONAL COURSE* (to be completed with a grade of C or higher)</td>
<td>CREDITS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMM 504 (Cell Biology of Disease)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMM 577 (Principles of Cell Biology)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMM 595H (Problems in the Biology of Complex Diseases)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 576A (Biostatistics in Public Health)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 651 (Bioethics, Regulations, and Repercussions on Research)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATH 515 (Mechanisms of Human Disease)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMM 605 (Medical Immunology and Infectious Disease)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*these courses are recommended, but other coursework in the biomedical sciences and medicine may be appropriate and will be considered as well. The student will be required to receive approval from his or her advisor for their final selection of courses.

In accordance with the policies set forth by the UA Graduate College, students must maintain an overall grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 to remain in good standing with the program. Any student whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 will be placed on academic probation for the following semester. If the student’s cumulative GPA is still below 3.0 at the end of the probationary semester, he/she will be dismissed from the program.

**Admission to the Graduate Certificate Program**

Students interested in pursuing the Graduate Certificate in Biomedical Sciences must apply through GradApp, which is linked closely to the University of Arizona Graduate College. The application process for the Certificate is the same as the MS. That information can be found on page 3 of this handbook.

**Notes:**

1. Concurrent enrollment in a degree program is permitted for Graduate Certificate students, **except** for in the Master’s in Cellular and Molecular Medicine degree program. Courses that
are counted toward the requirements of the Certificate Program may be counted toward the requirements of the Master’s Degree program at the discretion of the degree program.

2. Up to 3 units of graduate credit may be transferred from other institutions and counted towards the Certificate, at the discretion of the student’s advisory committee.

3. Student Advising. Students will receive advising throughout their time in the certificate program, including advice on courses for the certificate program, career choices, possible future use of the certificate, opportunities for advanced education or professional training, and employment possibilities. Each student will be assigned a member of the Oversight Committee as their primary advisor when he or she accepts admission into the certificate program.

The student’s advisory committee will consist of their primary advisor and two additional faculty members who have expertise related to the student’s area(s) of interest. One of these additional faculty members must be a member of the Oversight Committee, but the other may be any University of Arizona faculty member. The additional committee members will be chosen jointly by the student and the primary advisor. The members of the student’s advisory committee should be chosen, and the committee should meet, as soon as possible after the student enters the certificate program.

4. Every Graduate Certificate student will be required to file a Program of Study form, as specified by the Graduate College. This form can be found in GradPath. Information on accessing the forms in GradPath can be found on page 6 of this handbook.

5. A student in the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Certificate Program may apply to the Master’s in Cellular and Molecular Medicine degree program (or any other graduate programs) upon completion of their course of study. This requires completion of a graduate application, and admissions is not guaranteed. For the CMM M.S. Program, course credits that have been taken for the Certificate will, provided the student has remained in good standing academically, be counted towards the Master’s. Decisions about transfer credit requests will be made on an individual basis by the Admissions Committees of the degree programs.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University of Arizona Student Code of Conduct and other policies apply to students in all CMM programs, and can be found [here](http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies-and-codes/code-academic-integrity).

**Principle:** *from the above website* Integrity is expected of every student in all academic work. The guiding principle of academic integrity is that a student’s submitted work must be the student’s own. This principle is furthered by the student Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures established by ABOR Policies 5-308 - 5-403, all provisions of which apply to all University of Arizona students. This Code of Academic Integrity (hereinafter "the Code") is intended to fulfill the requirement imposed by ABOR Policy 5-403.A.4 and otherwise to supplement the student Code of Conduct as permitted by ABOR Policy 5-308.C.1.

The most common issues for graduate students involve giving credit for ideas in writing. When answering a question about a paper, students need to paraphrase the language in their own words. It is not appropriate to lift phrases or sentences directly from the paper. Cutting-and-pasting anything from a document or the internet without attribution is considered plagiarism (Defined [here](http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies-and-codes/code-academic-integrity) & [here](http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity)). The penalties for plagiarism can be very severe; it is advised that all students be sure that they understand the rules, policies, and procedures for Academic Integrity violations, which can be found at:

- [http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies-and-codes/code-academic-integrity](http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies-and-codes/code-academic-integrity)
- [http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity](http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Student Roles in Program Governance

Student input and feedback are invaluable to building and maintaining strong training programs. Multiple mechanisms are available for students to shape the direction of the M.S. and Certificate Programs.

**First**, students are contacted annually by the Chair of the Master’s Oversight Committee to keep in contact and to offer meetings, as the students request.

**Second**, students are encouraged *at any time* to meet with members of the Master’s Oversight Committee if they have concerns or ideas regarding the program.

Student Resources

The CMM Department is committed to assisting all students as they participate in its programs. The Programs are designed for flexibility and CMM strives to be as accommodating as possible with respect to personal situations and considerations. Links to information on academic, professional, and personal resources available to graduate students can be found [here](http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies-and-codes/code-academic-integrity). This includes information on Academic Services, Policies, and Procedures, Funding, Professional
Development Resources, Child Care Subsidies and Family-Friendly Information, and Health, Wellness and Safety information.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress and Student Appeals**

**Academic Progress.** Students are required to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress toward degree completion. Beyond maintaining a minimum 3.0 grade-point average, students are assessed for their progress in many ways. In addition to informal feedback from the student’s Advisor, course instructors, and advisory committee, students will be formally evaluated using assessment tools that are applied for specific activities during program courses. Note that these tools are under development and will soon be available on the Program website.

Failure to make satisfactory academic progress is grounds for dismissal by the Dean of the Graduate College. The Graduate College will apply the CMM M.S. criteria for satisfactory progress if the program requests a student disqualification. Should the student’s Advisor and/or the Master’s Oversight Committee determine that the student is not making satisfactory progress, the student will be notified in writing, with a copy also sent to the Graduate College. This written notification will include steps for remediation and a timetable in which to complete the steps; these will be determined by the Advisor in consultation with the Master’s Oversight Committee.

**Incomplete Policy.** If a grade of “incomplete” is assigned to a student in any course, it is the student’s responsibility, in conjunction with the Director for that course, to complete this [Report of Incomplete Grade](#). Instructions can be found on the form and they include the development of a plan for timely completion of the requirements for the course. Failure to complete the requirements as stated on the form may constitute a failure to make satisfactory academic progress. In this event, the steps outlined above will be followed.

**Student Appeals.** Students may appeal or rebut program decisions regarding satisfactory progress. Students should respond to the notification of unsatisfactory progress in writing, through a letter to the Master’s Oversight Committee. This will be followed by a meeting with the Committee. The student may also appeal to the Graduate College to determine whether the program followed the established program policies. Graduate College policies for how to appeal program decisions can be found [here](#), along with information on how to deal with other types of potential grievances by graduate students.