Residency in Veterinary Pathology at Oregon State University

Frequently asked questions

What is the main case load type of cases that the lab receives?
The case load is quite diverse with an even mixture of small animals (mostly dogs and cats, some rabbits and other pocket pets), large animals (horses, cattle, camelids, fewer sheep and goats, occasional pigs), birds (mostly back-yard chickens) and some exotic/wildlife species (mostly mammals including marine mammals, some reptiles).

What is the program's board exam pass rate?
The program is small and young. We have had one clinical and one anatomic pathology resident complete the program and both have passed boards on their first attempt. We are currently training our second cohort of one anatomic and one clinical pathology resident.

Do residents receive stipends for participation/attendance at conferences or workshops?
Yes, we encourage residents to attend one meeting per year and provide adequate funds for that. The resident is expected to present at minimum a case report.

I am interest in research. Is it required to generate publishable information during the program?
We expect all residents to publish at least one case series or multiple case reports. Those in the combined program are expected to prepare publishable information based on their research projects.

How is the combined program structured?
The first year is dedicated to training in diagnostic pathology.
During the second year, the bulk of the class work is done and projects are initiated. In third year research is emphasized but a degree of service duty continues until transition to a full time research program (PhD only)l

Do you currently have any residents doing the combined MS/PhD program?
Both our current resident are in the combined program.

How long does it take to complete the combined program?
The length of the combined program depends on whether you work towards a master (minimum of 3 years) or a PhD (minimum of 5 years) degree.

Do you require GRE scores for the combined program?
Yes, GRE scores are required, but those can be obtained during the first year of the residency for this cohort.

Are PhD students encouraged to sit the board exam as soon as they are eligible, or do they need to finish their PhD first?
There is no hard rule for this. Ideally, boards would be taken as soon as possible as long as the resident has the potential to handle the demands of both research and studying for boards.

Is a 1 year internship required for consideration for the residency position?
No, an internship is not required; however, some clinical experience is favorably reviewed.

Does the program at Oregon look for candidates that demonstrate some post DVM training in pathology or are candidates fresh out of veterinary school given the same consideration as those with prior training?

Yes, newly graduated veterinarians are given the same consideration as candidates with post-DVM training.

We do prefer candidates who have demonstrated an interest in pathology. This can be accomplished in many different ways including: membership in a pathology club, relevant externships or rotations, participation in elective courses or summer research on a relevant project.

Am I eligible to apply for the residency even though I have not yet graduated from veterinary school?

Yes, as long as you will graduate from veterinary school the year the residency begins.

Are non-US citizens encouraged to apply?

We equally consider applications from US citizens and foreign nationals.

I am a legal US resident (green card holder) but graduated from a veterinary school (DVM degree) outside the US. Do I need specific documents?

No, with the exception of an English translation of your veterinary diploma.

Do I need to submit TOEFL scores together with my application for the pathology residency?

Not if you have obtained a degree from an institution with English as the primary language. If you have not completed a degree in English, please submit your TOEFL scores. We require excellent written and verbal English skills.