COMPARATIVE MEDICINE

Courses offered by the Department of Comparative Medicine are listed under the subject code COMPED on the Stanford Bulletin’s ExploreCourses web site.

The Department of Comparative Medicine at Stanford is an academic, basic science department, the department is comprised of thirteen faculty, ten of whom are veterinarians. All faculty members are immersed in laboratory animal science and translational research. They teach at the undergraduate, graduate, professional, and postgraduate levels. The department’s clinical and basic science faculty welcome, review, and accept student candidates for participation in research projects. The Department of Comparative Medicine was established at Stanford in 1990.

The department’s faculty is also engaged in collaborative and comparative research, with animal model expertise and programs in veterinary pathology, pain and anesthesia, rodent reproductive biology, infectious disease, cancer, bioengineering, animal welfare, and neuroscience. In addition, the veterinary faculty in the Department of Comparative Medicine has oversight responsibility for the campus-wide animal research program and provides clinical service in the Veterinary Service Center (VSC). The mission of the department is to advance human and animal health through outstanding research, veterinary care and training.

To learn more about the Veterinary Service Center Core and services provided, see the Veterinary Service Center (VSC) (http://med.stanford.edu/vsc.html) web site.

To learn more about Animal Research at Stanford, see the Animal Research at Stanford (http://med.stanford.edu/animalresearch.html) web site.

Master of Science in Laboratory Animal Science

The Master of Science (M.S.) in Laboratory Animal Science (MLAS) degree program in the Department of Comparative Medicine is a flexible, one- to two-year graduate program designed for students who want to pursue advanced careers in biomedical research, focusing on animal modeling and biomethodology; laboratory animal science, organizational management and facility design, regulatory and compliance issues, and animal welfare. Under the department’s rolling admissions policy, prospective students may submit applications to the department anytime during the academic year.

The program’s academic courses are designed to build a solid foundation for a successful career in laboratory animal science and biomedical research. Graduates find employment in pharmaceutical companies and academia, or pursue training in medical or veterinary schools. The program is designed to give students the ability to customize their academic research experience.

The Master of Science (M.S.) in Laboratory Animal Science degree program may also be taken by Stanford undergraduates as a coterminal master’s degree program.

University requirements for the M.S. degree are described in the "Graduate Degrees (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/graduatedegrees/#masterstext)” section of this bulletin.

Degree Requirements

1. At least 45 units of academic work, all of which must be in courses at or above the 100 level. 36 of the 45 units must be at or above the 200 level.

2. Students must complete a master’s thesis, which may take the following form:
   a. Original analysis of original data
   b. A comprehensive literature review with a meta-analysis of data or a critical reanalysis of data
   c. Evaluation of a methodological problem using real data
   d. A comprehensive literature review with a grant proposal (NIH style format) for a new study to bridge a gap in the existing knowledge.

3. Per University policy (http://exploredegrees.stanford.edu/graduatedegrees/#masterstext), the master’s degree must be completed within three years.

Required Courses

Students are required to enroll in the following courses.

Autumn Quarter

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Winter Quarter

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Spring Quarter

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Elective Courses

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How to Apply

External applicants and current Stanford graduate students

Review the information and instructions on the University Graduate Admissions web site (https://gradadmissions.stanford.edu). Submit your application online. The link to the online application is on the University Graduate Admissions web site (https://gradadmissions.stanford.edu/applying).

Admissions Deadline: Applications and admission decisions are reviewed on a rolling deadline. For more information, contact Steve Choy <stevechoy@stanford.edu>, Student Services Officer, at (650) 724-7880.

Items which must be included in the online application:
Graduate Advising Expectations

The Department of Comparative Medicine (DCM) is committed to providing academic advising in support of graduate student scholarly and professional development. When most effective, this advising relationship entails collaborative and sustained engagement between the advisor and the advisee.

Graduate students are expected to have selected a faculty mentor by their second quarter in the program.

Faculty mentors are expected to meet with graduate students at least once a quarter to discuss and to assist with development of the student’s Individual Development Plans (https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Xq4uWhblKRgo25QQWsLeBbk7wx0Nnx1). Additionally, the department encourages advisors and students to meet on a regular basis throughout the year to discuss the student’s professional development in key areas such as selecting courses, designing and conducting research, and exploring academic opportunities and professional pathways.

Graduate students are active contributors to the advising relationship. They should proactively seek academic and professional guidance and take responsibility for informing themselves of policies and degree requirements for the M.S. in Laboratory Animal Science (MLAS) program.

All new MLAS students are expected to enroll in and to participate in the department’s formal professional development and mentoring course, COMPMED 290, offered quarterly.

As a best practice, advising expectations should be periodically discussed and reviewed to ensure mutual understanding. Both the adviser and the advisee are expected to maintain professionalism and integrity.

Academic progress and student completion of program requirements and milestones are monitored by the program director and staff, and are reviewed during the Masters of Laboratory Animal Science Faculty Advisory Committee each quarter. A detailed description of the program’s requirements, milestones, and advising expectations (for students and for their advisers) can be found on the program web site (http://med.stanford.edu/compmed/mlas.html).

Graduate students and their faculty mentors are encouraged to collaborate with the department’s student services officer for referrals to campus resources, which include Biosci Careers Center, Vaden Health, etc.

Additionally, the program adheres to the advising guidelines and responsibilities listed by the Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education (https://vpge.stanford.edu/academic-guidance/advising-mentoring) (VPGE) and in the Graduate Academic Policies (https://gap.stanford.edu/handbooks/gap-handbook/chapter-3/subchapter-3/page-3-3-1) (GAP).

For more information regarding Graduate Student Advising and Postdoctoral/Resident Mentoring, contact the following people:

- Graduate Student Advising: Steve Choy (Student Services Officer), stevechoy@stanford.edu.
- Program Director: Sherril Green (Comparative Medicine Chair), sherril@stanford.edu.
- Postdoctoral Student/Residents: Megan Albertelli (Laboratory Animal Medicine Residency Director), megan.albertelli@stanford.edu.
- Postdoctoral/Resident: Monika Huss (Resident and Trainee Wellness Advisor), monikag@stanford.edu.

Chair: Sherril Green

Director of Graduate Studies: Sherril Green
Co-Director of Graduate Studies: Corinna Darian-Smith

Professors: David Bentzel (Clinical), Donna M. Bouley, Paul Buckmaster, Sherril Green, Shaul Hestrin

Associate Professors: Megan Albertelli, Corinna Darian-Smith, Stephen Felt, Joseph Garner, Claude Nagamine

Assistant Professors: Kerriann Casey (Clinical), Thomas Cherpes, Monika Huss (Clinical), Cholawat Pacharinsak, Jose Vilches-Moure