Career Prospects

Students in the program earn a Biomedical Science Master’s degree with a speciality in Laboratory Animal Science in two years. Our objective is to provide the biomedical research community with skilled individuals in laboratory animal science who can fulfill needed positions in academia, industry (biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies) and animal care facilities immediately upon graduation. The master’s program can also improve the standing of those students who desire to advance their training in veterinary medicine for their application to veterinary school.

Mission & Goals

The mission of the Laboratory Animal Science Program at EVMS is to provide the essential knowledge and skills to produce competent professionals in the laboratory animal field.

To accomplish these goals, the program focuses on the following 8 areas:

- Knowledge of basic anatomy and physiology
- Knowledge and provision of husbandry and general care for laboratory animals
- Knowledge, application and enforcement of current laws and ethical codes of laboratory animal use in science
- Knowledge of common diseases and treatment of laboratory animals
- Knowledge of routine surgical procedures and related equipment
- Knowledge, application and monitoring of safe and effective anesthesia and analgesia
- Knowledge of animal facility and laboratory management principals
- Knowledge of routine research laboratory techniques, research design and data analysis

EVMS is committed to the principles of humane laboratory animal use, defined by the 3R’s of Replacement, Reduction and Refinement. These principles will most effectively be implemented if the animal users are sensitive and receptive to technical and ethical improvements and also have received outstanding, specialized training for the use and care of laboratory animals in biomedical research.

Contact Information

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Veterinary Director
Email: rodrigmc@evms.edu

For more information specific to the LAS Master’s Program please email: lasinfo@evms.edu or visit us online @ www.evms.edu/las
About the LAS Master’s Program

Much of modern day medicine is indebted to irreplaceable animal research. With the need for technically sophisticated, humane and well-considered use of animals in biomedical research, the demand for qualified individuals is very high. In order to advance within this highly competitive industry, it is essential to have the training advantage that a specialized master’s degree provides. Therefore, Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) launched an online Master of Laboratory Animal Science program in 2014.

Program courses are designed to build a solid foundation for a successful career in laboratory animal science. These courses focus on all aspects of laboratory animal science and animal facility management. The practicum provides the student with the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have learned to the actual practice of laboratory animal science.

Educational Format

The online Master of Laboratory Animal Science program allows maximum flexibility for the students and is designed for individuals who may be currently working within the field of laboratory animal science, and seeking career advancement, or those looking for opportunities in research laboratories but do not want to relocate to attend traditional master’s programs.

The program has a total of 31 credits in five semesters over two years. Students will be required to attend a one week on campus internship for hands-on animal training that will be offered during the summer semester. Optional Clinical Reproductive Biology (CRB) track is available during the sixth semester for six credit hours.

Course Curriculum

- Comparative Anatomy & Physiology
- Applied Biostatistics & Research Design
- Diseases of Lab Animals I
- Laboratory Animal Husbandry, Care & Ethics
- Current Topics (Journal Club)
- Anesthesia & Surgery
- Internship
- Facility Management
- Diseases of Lab Animals II
- Biotechnology & Diagnostic Techniques
- Graduate Seminar
- Cryopreservation
- Lab Animal Behavior & Behavioral Mgmt.

Optional CRB Track Courses:
- Introduction IVF, Laboratory Tech,
  & Skills Development
- In Vitro Fertilization Technology

Admission Requirements

Bachelor’s or a graduate degree with a 2.75 or higher GPA or qualifying GPA from a U.S. accredited college or university or an international equivalent.

Successful completion of two semesters each of college-level Biology, Chemistry and one semester of Mathematics.

Minimum of three months or 500 hours of hands-on experience in related technical standards that can be found on our program web page.

- A total of six months or 1000 hours of verified laboratory animal experience (including hands-on experience at the time of application) is a graduation requirement.
- Applicants who desire a future as a Laboratory Animal Technician are strongly encouraged to have full time experience/employment during the two years of matriculation of the master’s program to be eligible for American Association of Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) LAT and LATG certification.

International students should take the TOEFL and receive a score equal to or greater than 213.

Three letters of reference, one of which must verify the minimum hands-on animal experience requirement.

Personal statement outlining the applicant’s academic and professional goals.

Computer and computer services with various specifications as detailed on our website.

Application Materials

All application materials, including test scores and official transcripts must be sent to:

Office of Admissions & Enrollment
School of Health Professions
Attn: LAS Master’s Program
Eastern Virginia Medical School
P.O. Box 1980
Norfolk, Virginia 23501-1980

For more information specific to the LAS Master’s Program please email: lasinfo@evms.edu or visit us online @ www.evms.edu/las