




MEMORANDUM

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Elizabeth S. Chilton, Provost and Executive Vice President 

SUBJECT: Establish a Master of Veterinary Anatomic Pathology Degree

DATE: December 20, 2023

The attached proposal to create a Master of Veterinary Anatomic Pathology (MVAP) degree program has been reviewed by the Provost's Office, and we support the proposal.

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.

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 Ph.D. program within the College of Veterinary Medicine to complete their graduate training.

We judge the proposal ready for the Senate review process.