Ph.D. in Functional Anatomy and Evolution

The FAE graduate program offers a Ph.D. in Functional Anatomy and Evolution and provides individualized support by world-leading professors for each student in a close-knit department with an excellent faculty to student ratio. Our primary focuses are independent research and teaching human gross anatomy, with research areas covered by faculty and students that range from vertebrate fossils, to primates to recent human remains.

As a result of the interdisciplinary training of the FAE graduate program, our graduates are well equipped to face the challenge of today’s academic job market. For more information on requirements for entry to the program, see our requirements for admission.

Research

All students are required to engage in independent research, and a laboratory research rotation under faculty guidance begins soon after their arrival. Research may utilize our large collection of fossil and extant vertebrates as well as departmental research equipment. Research is further facilitated by our proximity to the collections of recent and fossil vertebrates held at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., which can be accessed by a hour journey on public transport. Baltimore's excellent location offers ease of access to other major museums on the East Coast, as well as several international airports to travel to museums and collections around the world.

Teaching Opportunities

Teaching opportunities are primarily centered around training students to teach human anatomy in a medical school or allied health setting. Students act as laboratory instructors for both the Summer Institute in Anatomy and the School of Medicine Human Anatomy course. These are cadaver-based course, allowing for the highest level of dissection-based experience. The School of Medicine course is taught at the beginning of the third year of the Ph.D. program, while the Summer Institute is taught at the end of both the first and second years. Further teaching opportunities are available through undergraduate courses offered by the departmental faculty.

Prerequisites

The Functional Anatomy and Evolution (FAE) Program will admit well-qualified students to the program for work leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Applicants should have thorough training in organismic biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics.

Program Requirements

Requirements established by the FAE Program, which must be met by all candidates, are as follows:

1. Complete a minimum of four years of registration as a full-time, resident graduate student. Most candidates require five years.