Reproductive Physiology

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Degrees Offered

- Master of Science with a major in Reproductive Physiology
- Doctor of Philosophy with a major in Reproductive Physiology

The graduate program in reproductive physiology is interdisciplinary with faculty located in the Division of Animal and Nutritional Sciences and the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Physiology and Pharmacology, and Internal Medicine.

RESEARCH

Research topics include studies of control of fertility, function and regression of the corpus luteum, aging of the oocyte, seasonal and other environmental factors in reproduction, steroidogenesis, control of estrus and ovulation, artificial insemination, ovarian follicular development, novel ovarian genes, endocrine functions of polypeptides, embryonic and fetal mortality, neuroendocrine control of gonadotropin hormone secretion, neuroendocrine regulation of puberty and breeding seasons, effects of nutrition on reproductive function, and immunology of reproduction. The focus of research is both basic and applied and is almost entirely with farmed animals.

Admissions

Requirements for admission include completion of the following prerequisites with a grade of C or better in each: calculus, genetics, organic chemistry, physics, and vertebrate embryology. The Graduate Record Examination is not required. Only a limited number of students are accepted each year.

A candidate for the M.S. degree in Reproductive Physiology must meet all University, College, Division, and Program requirements as outlined in the WVU Graduate Catalog.

Program Requirements

All M.S. and Ph.D. degree candidates are required to follow a planned program of study. The student develops the plan of study during their first year in the program in conjunction with the graduate committee. The plan must be approved by the Director of the Division and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the Davis College.

A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required in all courses

Course Requirements as determined by the Plan of Study  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANPH 424</td>
<td>Physiology of Reproduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 511</td>
<td>Statistical Methods 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 601 &amp; BIOS 602</td>
<td>Applied Biostatistics 1 &amp; Applied Biostatistics Lab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT 512</td>
<td>Statistical Methods 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 603 &amp; BIOS 604</td>
<td>Applied Biostatistics 2 &amp; Applied Biostatistics 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANPH 796</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>A&amp;VS 699</td>
<td>Graduate Colloquium</td>
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</table>

Other graduate classes based on student emphasis and advisory committee recommendations.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL, AGBI, ANPH, PHAR, IMMB, PSIO, GEN, AEM, A&amp;VS, ANNU, VETS</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 30
Students present seminars and participate in Graduate Colloquium (Journal Club) each semester, but only one hour can count toward the degree. The following can count toward the 30 hour minimum: one (1) hour of Seminar, one (1) hour of Graduate Colloquium (Journal Club), and six (6) hours of Research.

The program draws on courses offered in various departments and includes courses in endocrinology, advanced reproductive physiology, biochemistry, physiology, statistics, and developmental embryology selected by the student in consultation with his or her graduate committee.

A candidate for the Ph.D. degree in Reproductive Physiology must meet all University, College, and Program requirements as outlined in the WVU Graduate catalog.

Program Requirements

All Ph.D. degree candidates are required to follow a planned program of study. The student develops the plan of study during their first year in the program in conjunction with the graduate committee. The plan must be approved by the Director of the Division and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the Davis College.

A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required in all courses applied toward degree requirements.

Course Requirements as determined by the Plan of Study

Candidacy Exam

Dissertation

Dissertation Defense

COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANPH 726</td>
<td>Endocrinology of Reproduction</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANPH 796</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A&amp;VS 699</td>
<td>Graduate Colloquium</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other graduate classes dependent on student background, focus and advisory committee recommendations</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The program draws on courses offered in various departments and includes courses in endocrinology, advanced reproductive physiology, biochemistry, physiology, statistics, and developmental embryology. Students present seminars and participate in journal clubs each semester.

Major Learning Outcomes

REPRODUCTIVE PHYSIOLOGY

1. Knowledge of the reproductive system and its functions in animals and man.
2. Knowledge of the endocrine and neuroendocrine regulation of reproduction.
3. Knowledge of the effects of reproduction on the organism and the roles of endocrine secretions of reproductive organs on bodily functions.
4. Ability to think comprehensively in the field of reproductive biology, design, analyze, interpret and report results of experiments to increase knowledge of the field.
5. Ability to utilize knowledge of reproductive biology to teach the subject and some associated disciplines at multiple levels.
6. Ability to understand and critique current research publications relevant to the control of reproduction and relate these results to previous work in the field.

AGRICULTURAL BIOCHEMISTRY COURSES

AGBI 512. Nutritional Biochemistry. 3 Hours.
PR: AGBI 410 or Consent. Nutritional biochemistry of domestic animals.

AGBI 513. Nutritional Biochemistry Laboratory. 1 Hour.
PR: AGBI 410 and AGBI 411 and CONC: AGBI 412. Experiments to determine the nutritional constituents in animal and plant tissues.

AGBI 514. Animal Biotechnology. 4 Hours.
The course will introduce students to the concepts and techniques of molecular biology and the application of these technologies in animal research. It will give the students laboratory experience in many molecular biology techniques.

AGBI 591A-Z. Advanced Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation in advanced topics that are not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

AGBI 592A-Z. Directed Study. 1-6 Hours.
Directed study, reading, and/or research.
AGBI 593A-Z. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

AGBI 594A-Z. Seminar. 1-6 Hours.
Special seminars arranged for advanced graduate students.

AGBI 595. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Faculty-supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

AGBI 610. General Biochemistry. 4 Hours.
PR: 8 hours of Organic Chemistry. The first half of a general course of biochemistry designed for graduate students of biological sciences. The course emphasizes the chemical properties of cellular constituents.

AGBI 612. General Biochemistry. 4 Hours.
PR: AGBI 610 or Consent. The second half of a general course of biochemistry designed for graduate students of biological sciences. The course emphasizes reactions and control of intermediary metabolism.

AGBI 690. Teaching Practicum. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Supervised practice in college teaching of agricultural biochemistry. Note: This course is intended to insures that graduate assistants are adequately prepared and supervised when they are given college teaching responsibility. It also provides a mechanism for students not on assistantships to gain teaching experience. (Grading will be S/U.).

AGBI 691A-Z. Advanced Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of advanced topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

AGBI 692A-Z. Directed Study. 1-6 Hours.
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A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

AGBI 694A-Z. Seminar. 1-6 Hours.
Special seminars arranged for advanced graduate students.

AGBI 695. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Faculty supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

AGBI 696. Graduate Seminar. 1 Hour.
PR: Consent. Each graduate student will present at least one seminar to the assembled faculty and graduate student body of his or her program.

AGBI 697. Research. 1-15 Hours.
PR: Consent. Research activities leading to thesis, problem report, research paper or equivalent scholarly project, or a dissertation. (Grading may be S/U.).

AGBI 698. Thesis or Dissertation. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. This is an optional course for programs that wish to provide formal supervision during the writing of student reports (698), or dissertations (798). Grading is normal.

AGBI 699. Graduate Colloquium. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. For graduate students not seeking coursework credit but who wish to meet residency requirements, use of the University's facilities, and participate in its academic and cultural programs. Note: Graduate students who are not actively involved in coursework or research are entitled, through enrollment in their department's 699/799 Graduate Colloquium to consult with graduate faculty, participate in both formal and informal academic activities sponsored by their program, and retain all of the rights and privileges of duly enrolled students. Grading is S/U; colloquium credit may not be counted against credit requirements for masters programs. Registration for one credit of 699/799 graduate colloquium satisfies the University requirement of registration in the semester in which graduation occurs.

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A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

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Special seminars arranged for advanced graduate students.

AGBI 795. Independent Study. 1-9 Hours.
Faculty supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

AGBI 796. Graduate Seminar. 1 Hour.
PR: Consent. Each graduate student will present at least one seminar to the assembled faculty and graduate student body of his or her program.
AGBI 797. Research. 1-15 Hours.
PR: Consent. Research activities leading to thesis (697), problem report (697), research paper or equivalent scholarly project (697), or a dissertation (797). (Grading may be S/U.).

AGBI 798. Thesis or Dissertation. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. This is an optional course for programs that wish to provide formal supervision is needed during the writing of student reports, theses, or dissertations. (Grading is Normal.).

AGBI 799. Graduate Colloquium. 1-6 Hours.
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ANIMAL NUTRITION COURSES

ANNU 591A-Z. Advanced Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation in advanced topics that are not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

ANNU 592A-Z. Directed Study. 1-6 Hours.
Directed study, reading, and/or research.

ANNU 593A-Z. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

ANNU 594A-Z. Seminar. 1-6 Hours.
Special seminars arranged for advanced graduate students.

ANNU 595. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Faculty-supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

ANNU 601. Principles of Nutrition and Metabolism. 3 Hours.
PR: AGBI 410 or consent. A basic course in principles of nutrition with emphasis on the major classes of dietary nutrients and their digestion and utilization.

ANNU 602. Nutrition and Physiological Function. 3 Hours.
PR: ANNU 601 or Consent. Sequence to ANNU 601. Techniques used in nutritional studies and the relationship of nutrient requirements to physiological function in species of laboratory and domestic animals and man.

ANNU 690. Teaching Practicum. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Supervised practice in college teaching of animal nutrition. Note: This course is intended to insure that graduate assistants are adequately prepared and supervised when they are given college teaching responsibility. It also provides a mechanism for students not on assistantships to gain teaching experience. (Grading will be S/U.).

ANNU 691A-Z. Advanced Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of advanced topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

ANNU 692A-Z. Directed Study. 1-6 Hours.
Directed study, reading, and/or research.

ANNU 693A-Z. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

ANNU 694A-Z. Seminar. 1-6 Hours.
Special seminars arranged for advanced graduate students.

ANNU 695. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Faculty supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

ANNU 696. Graduate Seminar. 1 Hour.
PR: Consent. Each graduate student will present at least one seminar to the assembled faculty and graduate student body of his or her program.

ANNU 697. Research. 1-15 Hours.
PR: Consent. Research activities leading to thesis, problem report, research paper or equivalent scholarly project, or a dissertation. (Grading may be S/U.).

ANNU 698. Thesis or Dissertation. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. This is an optional course for programs that wish to provide formal supervision during the writing of student reports (698), or dissertations (798). Grading is normal.
ANNU 699. Graduate Colloquium. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. For graduate students not seeking coursework credit but who wish to meet residency requirements, use of the University's facilities, and participate in its academic and cultural programs. Note: Graduate students who are not actively involved in coursework or research are entitled, through enrollment in their department's 699/799 Graduate Colloquium to consult with graduate faculty, participate in both formal and informal academic activities sponsored by their program, and retain all of the rights and privileges of duly enrolled students. Grading is S/U; colloquium credit may not be counted against credit requirements for masters programs. Registration for one credit of 699/799 graduate colloquium satisfies the University requirement of registration in the semester in which graduation occurs.

ANNU 794. Seminar. 1-6 Hours.
Special seminars arranged for advanced graduate students.

ANIMAL PHYSIOLOGY COURSES

ANPH 591A-Z. Advanced Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation in advanced topics that are not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

ANPH 592A-Z. Directed Study. 1-6 Hours.
Directed study, reading, and/or research.

ANPH 593A-Z. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

ANPH 594A-Z. Seminar. 1-6 Hours.
Special seminars arranged for advanced graduate students.

ANPH 595. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Faculty-supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

ANPH 675. Reproduction Colloquium. 1 Hour.
PR: Graduate standing. Weekly discussions by graduate students and faculty in reproductive physiology program of current literature in the field, particularly of mammalian species.

ANPH 691A-Z. Advanced Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation in advanced topics that are not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

ANPH 692A-Z. Directed Study. 1-6 Hours.
Directed study, reading, and/or research.

ANPH 693A-Z. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

ANPH 694A-Z. Seminar. 1-6 Hours.
Special seminars arranged for advanced graduate students.

ANPH 695. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Faculty-supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

ANPH 696. Graduate Seminar. 1 Hour.
PR: Consent. Each graduate student will present at least one seminar to the assembled faculty and graduate student body of his or her program.

ANPH 697. Research. 1-15 Hours.
PR: Consent. Research activities leading to thesis, problem report, research paper or equivalent scholarly project, or a dissertation. (Grading may be S/U).

ANPH 698. Thesis or Dissertation. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. This is an optional course for programs that wish to provide formal supervision is needed during the writing of student reports (698), theses (698), or dissertations (798). (Grading is Normal).

ANPH 699. Graduate Colloquium. 1-6 Hours.
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ANPH 726. Endocrinology of Reproduction. 4 Hours.
(2 labs) PR: ANPH 424 or BIOL 413 or equivalent. Discussion of and laboratory experience in classical and current concepts of hormonal and neurohormonal regulations of reproductive phenomena with emphasis on species differences and similarities.
ANPH 790. Teaching Practicum. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Supervised practice in college teaching of animal physiology. Note: This course is intended to insure that graduate assistants are adequately prepared and supervised when they are given college teaching responsibility. It will also present a mechanism for students not on assistantships to gain teaching experience. (Grading will be S/U.).

ANPH 791A-Z. Advanced Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation in advanced topics that are not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

ANPH 792A-Z. Directed Study. 1-6 Hours.
Directed study, reading, and/or research.

ANPH 793A-Z. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

ANPH 794A-Z. Seminar. 1-6 Hours.
Seminars arranged for advanced graduate students.

ANPH 795. Independent Study. 1-9 Hours.
Faculty supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

ANPH 796. Graduate Seminar. 1 Hour.
PR: Consent. Each graduate student will present at least one seminar to the assembled faculty and graduate student body of his or her program.

ANPH 797. Research. 1-15 Hours.
PR: Consent. Research activities leading to thesis, problem report, research paper or equivalent scholarly project, or a dissertation. (Grading may be S/U.).

ANPH 798. Thesis or Dissertation. 1-6 Hours.
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ANIMAL AND VETERINARY SCIENCE COURSES

A&VS 591A-Z. Advanced Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of advanced topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

A&VS 592A-Z. Directed Study. 1-6 Hours.
Directed Study, reading, and/or research.

A&VS 593A-Z. Special Topics. 1-6 Hours.
A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

A&VS 594A-Z. Seminar. 1-6 Hours.
Special seminars arranged for advanced graduate students.

A&VS 595. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Faculty supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

A&VS 690. Teaching Practicum. 1-3 Hours.
PR: Consent. Supervised practice in college teaching of agriculture, forestry, and consumer science. Note: This course is intended to insure that graduate assistants are adequately prepared and supervised when they are given college teaching responsibility. It also provides a mechanism for students not on assistantships to gain teaching experience. (Grading will be S/U.).

A&VS 691A-Z. Advanced Topics. 1-6 Hours.
PR: Consent. Investigation of advanced topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses.

A&VS 692A-Z. Directed Study. 1-6 Hours.
Directed study, reading, and/or research.

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A study of contemporary topics selected from recent developments in the field.

A&VS 694A-Z. Seminar. 1-6 Hours.
Special seminars arranged for advanced graduate students.
A&VS 695. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Faculty supervised study of topics not available through regular course offerings.

A&VS 696. Graduate Seminar. 1 Hour.
PR: Consent. Each graduate student will present at least one seminar to the assembled faculty and graduate student body of his or her program.

PR: Consent. Research activities leading to thesis, problem report, research paper or equivalent scholarly project, or a dissertation. (Grading may be S/U).

A&VS 698. Thesis or Dissertation. 1-6 Hours.
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A&VS 699. Graduate Colloquium. 1-6 Hours.
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