

Reproductive Clinical Science PhD Program

Student Handbook

2025-2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME	5
BRIEF PROGRAM HISTORY	5
PURPOSE	5
MISSION STATEMENT	5
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	5-7
ACCREDITATION	7
KEY PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION	8
PROGRAM FACULTY	9-10
TECHNICAL STANDARDS	11-12
REGISTRATION	13
COURSE REGISTRATION	13-14
STUDENT FINANCES	14
PAYMENTS	15
TUITION STATEMENTS	15
WITHDRAWING	15
FINANCIAL AID	15-16
FINANCIAL AID AND ACADEMIC PROBATION	16
ATTENDANCE	16
ONLINE PROCEDURES	16
EXAMINATION PROCEDURE	16
REVIEWING SECURE EXAMS	16
ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURE	16
GRADES	17
COURSE SURVEYS AND EVALUATIONS	17
INSTRUCTOR RESPONSE TIME	17
CLASS DE MEANOR	17
EMAIL	17
DISCUSSION BOARD	17-18
TROUBLESHOOTING	18
GRADING POLICIES	18

TRANSFER CREDIT	18
GRADING POLICY	18
MAKE-UP POLICY	18
LATE ASSIGNMENTS	18
INCOMPLETE POLICY	18
GRADE DISPUTE	19
STUDENT PROGRESS	19
RCS PHD ACADEMIC STANDING, WARNING AND PROBATION	19
STUDENT SUPPORT	21
DOCUMENTED DISABILITIES	21
PROFESSIONALISM AND SCHOLARLY REQUIREMENTS	21
RCS-PHD WRITING STYLE	21
DISSERTATION WRITING STYLE GUIDELINES	21
SHP STUDENT BEHAVIOR POLICY	22
PLAGIARISM/ TURNITIN PROGRAM POLICY	22
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	23
LENGTH OF TIME TO COMPLETE THE PHD DEGREE	23
GRADUATION	23
RCS-PHD PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS	24
LABORATORY SAFETY AND ADDITIONAL TRAINING COURSES	24
SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT POLICY	24
CURRICULUM	27
PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS, ABSTRACTS AND PAPERS	27
STUDENT PUBLISHING POLICY	27
YEAR ONE SEMESTER ONE FALL	28
YEAR ONE SEMESTER TWO SPRING	28
YEAR ONE SEMESTER THREE SUMMER	28
YEAR TWO SEMESTER FOUR FALL	28
YEAR TWO SEMESTER FIVE SPRING	28
YEAR TWO SEMESTER SIX SUMMER	28
YEAR THREE SEMESTER SEVEN FALL	28
YEAR THREE SEMESTER EIGHT SPRING	28



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS	29-30
RCS-801 ADVANCED STATISTICS	29
RCS-802 ASSISTED REPRODUCTION EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE JOURNAL CLUB	29
RCS-803 COMPARATIVE ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION	29
RCS-804 EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN	29
RCS-805 ADVANCED TOPICS IVF	29
RCS-806 DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY	29
RCS-809 TOXICOLOGY AND INFERTILITY	29
RCS-810 RESEARCH LITERATURE REVIEW	29
RCS-811 ADVANCED TOPICS MALE INFERTILITY RESEARCH LITERATURE	29
RCS-812 CLINICAL LABORATORY MANAGEMENT	30
RCS-814 ART AND GENETICS	30
RCS-815 DISSERTATION RESEARCH PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT	30
RCS-898/899 DISSERTATION RESEARCH	30
RCS-819 THE BUSINESS OF IVF	30
PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES	31
SOCIETY OF ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY (SART)	31
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE (ASRM)	31
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BIOANALYSTS (AAB)	31
FAQs	31-32
APPENDICES	34
PHD DISSERTATION COMMITTEE FORM	35
RESULTS OF QUALIFICATION EXAM	36
RESULTS OF PHD PROJECT PROPOSAL PRESENTATION	37
RESULTS OF PHD DISSERTATION WRITTEN AND ORAL DEFENSE	38
REQUIREMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN MET	39
PHD PROJECT / DIPLOMA DELIVERY	40
PHD PROJECT ACCEPTANCE AND PROCESSING	41
PhD IN REPRODUCTIVE CLINICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM	42
CERTIFICATION FOR GRADUATION	42
To be completed by RCS-PhD Office	42
Indicate the status of the following:	42

WELCOME

The Program Director and Faculty welcome you to the Reproductive Clinical Science PhD Program at Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University and the Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine. This student handbook contains information and policies and procedures for Brock Virginia Health Sciences, the School of Health Professions, and is your guide to the specific RCS-PHD program policies and procedures.

BRIEF PROGRAM HISTORY

Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University, formerly known as Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS), through its prestigious Howard and Georgeanna Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine, now known as Shady Grove Fertility Jones Institute, is a pioneer in assisted reproductive technology (ART). In 1981, the first in vitro fertilization baby in the USA was born through the efforts of the Jones Institute. The Jones Institute is widely acknowledged to be an international leader in clinical and scientific research in ART and has trained many prominent physicians and scientists.

The Brock Virginia Health Sciences campus holds the largest biomedical research institution in southeastern Virginia as well as the area's largest medical center complex. In addition to the training of medical and health professions students, Brock Virginia Health Sciences has several research institutes and clinical programs that interface with the basic science departments. The integration of clinical and basic sciences is an important component of the Reproductive Clinical Science program.

In 2003 the faculty of the Jones Institute and Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University launched the online MS in Clinical Embryology and Andrology to meet the training and career development needs of laboratory professionals working in IVF. During the last 18 years more than 200 students have successfully completed this MS program. A new need has emerged for advanced training that will position graduates to be leaders, researchers and lab directors in the field of clinical IVF. The PhD in Reproductive Clinical Science encompassing Embryology and Andrology will provide this advanced training.

Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University and the Shady Grove Fertility Jones Institute are now offering a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Reproductive Clinical Science. The Reproductive Clinical Science PhD Program is administered from within the School of Health Professions. The Program Director is Liang Yu, PhD.

PURPOSE

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the PhD program in Reproductive Clinical Science specializing in Embryology and Andrology at Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University is to provide excellent graduate education in the preparation of individuals who will direct and manage reproductive laboratories and/or conduct independent research.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This program is designed for applicants who have a Master's Degree in Clinical Embryology and Andrology, or a related field with relevant course work, who are experienced Embryologists or Andrologists who seek to become lab directors and/or independent researchers. This program provides graduate level education in comparative reproductive anatomy and physiology, molecular biology, developmental biology, advanced statistics, laboratory management, experimental design, and clinical laboratory.

GOALS

The graduates of the PhD in Reproductive Clinical Science Program will:

- Establish a focused knowledge base and competencies using evidence-based practices in the reproductive clinical sciences: gamete biology, reproductive medicine techniques (insemination, fertilization, and transfer), semen analysis, embryo development, and gamete/embryo cryopreservation.
- Command interdisciplinary scientific knowledge and skills including comparative reproductive anatomy and physiology, developmental biology, toxicology and infertility, molecular biology, advanced statistics and experimental design.
- Be able to apply scientific methodology to independently investigate complex research problems that meet the ever-changing demands of assisted reproductive medicine.
- Command interdisciplinary scientific knowledge and skills related to comparative reproductive anatomy and physiology, developmental biology, toxicology and infertility, molecular biology, advanced statistics, and experimental design.
- Have gained various competencies for leading an interprofessional clinical team which prepare them for the challenges of directing and managing a laboratory.

OBJECTIVES

To accomplish the program goals, the program has established the following objectives:

- Evaluate advances in molecular biology, comparative reproductive anatomy and physiology, developmental biology, laboratory management as they apply to the clinical reproductive sciences.
- Direct and manage all aspect of clinical reproductive sciences laboratories: in vitro fertilization (IVF), andrology, endocrinology, and gamete cryobanking laboratories.
- Critically evaluate and interpret the current literature as well as federal regulations.
- Develop and implement laboratory processes and procedures to ensure best clinical lab practices, outcomes, and compliance.
- Establish and maintain protocol records and data for practice performance quality control and continuous quality improvement as well as for laboratory inspection and accreditation with state and federal regulatory agencies.
- Design, implement and evaluate laboratory research and practice improvement projects through the development of a dissertation research project.
- Create educational and training procedures for clinical staff, physicians, and laboratory technicians regarding current methods of assisted reproductive laboratory technologies.
- As a member of an interprofessional clinical team evaluate ethical and legal aspects of ART; design procedures, protocols to address clinic and patient related concerns: privacy, safety, and proper legal guidelines.

ACCREDITATION

Our institution is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the Doctor of Medicine degree, Masters' degrees, Doctoral degrees, and Certificates. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University.

KEY PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

The Reproductive Clinical Science PhD Program will be administered according to the policies established in the program handbook. The program will be administered by the Program Director, the Dean for the School of Health Professions, and the Program Administrator of Reproductive Clinical Science.

Liang Yu, Ph.D. Program Director, Associate Professor	Jones Institute, Room 425 651 Colley Avenue Norfolk, VA 23507	757-446-8421	YuL@odu.edu
Tricia Lazatin Program Coordinator	Lester Hall, Suite 315 651 Colley Avenue Norfolk, VA 23507	757.446.7935	lazatitb@odu.edu
Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences Reproductive Clinical Science Program	P.O. Box 1980 Norfolk, VA 23501	757.446.7935	VHS-RSCourses@odu.edu

PROGRAM FACULTY

The graduate faculty of the Reproductive Clinical Science PhD Program will be certified in accordance with the general criteria contained in the policies for the certification of graduate faculty of Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University. These criteria include research, teaching performance at the advanced level, efforts to secure funding, and attainment of necessary graduate degrees.

FACULTY/TEACHERS

Alfred Z. Abuhamad, MD	Professor /Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Gerald Pepe, PhD	Professor/Chair of Physiological Sciences
Eva Forgacs-Lonart, PhD	Associate Professor/ Department of Physiological Sciences
Minglei Bian, PhD	Associate Professor/Reproductive Clinical Sciences
Mahmood Morshedi, PhD, HCLD (ABB), CTBS	Professor/ School of Health Professions/Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Liang Yu, PhD	Associate Professor/School of Health Professions/Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology



MACON & JOAN BROCK

VIRGINIA HEALTH SCIENCES

AT OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

ADJUNCT and COMMUNITY FACULTY

Marlane Angle, PhD	Laboratory Director, Laurel Fertility Center, San Francisco, CA
Mina Alikani, PhD	Assistant Professor/Reproductive Clinical Sciences
Marlane J. Angle, PhD	Assistant Professor/Reproductive Clinical Sciences
Marie Berenguer, PhD	Assistant Professor/Reproductive Clinical Sciences
Silvina Bocca, MD PHD HCLD	Professor/Reproductive Clinical Sciences
Amanda W. Bostian, PhD, MBA	Instructor/Reproductive Clinical Sciences
Alicia L. Broussard, PhD	Instructor/Reproductive Clinical Sciences
Earl W. Godfrey, PhD	Professor/Reproductive Clinical Sciences
Frank Lattanzio, PhD	Professor/Reproductive Clinical Science
Joseph Lancman, PhD	Assistant Professor/Reproductive Clinical Sciences
Kellie D. Robinson, EdD	Assistant Professor/Reproductive Clinical Sciences
Eva Schenkman, PhD	Instructor/Reproductive Clinical Sciences
Laurel A. Stadtmauer, MD, PhD	Professor/Reproductive Clinical Sciences
Jason E. Swain, PhD	Associate Professor/Reproductive Clinical Sciences
Hang Yin, PhD	Assistant Professor/Reproductive Clinical Sciences

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

The abilities and skills candidates and students must possess in order to complete the education and training associated with PhD Program in Reproductive Clinical Science are referred to as technical standards. These abilities and skills are essential for clinical laboratory practice as an embryologist and/or andrologist.

1.0 Observation Skills Technical Standard

1.1 Demonstrate sufficient attention and accuracy in observation skills (visual, auditory, and tactile) in the lecture hall, laboratory, and/or online settings. Indicators include but are not limited to accurate visualization and discrimination of text, numbers, patterns, graphic illustrations, and other imaging texts.

2.0 Communication Skills Technical Standard

2.1 Demonstrate effective communication skills with health care professionals, and with people of varying cultures, ethnicities, and personalities.

2.2 Indicators include, but are not limited to, these examples:

- a. Clear, efficient, and intelligible articulation of spoken English language.
- b. Legible, efficient, and intelligible written English language.
- c. Accurate and efficient English language reading skills.
- d. Accurate and efficient, expressive, and receptive communication skills.
- e. Ability to accurately follow directions (oral and written).

3.0 Critical Reasoning Skills Technical Standard

3.1 Demonstrate critical reasoning skills, including, but not limited to, intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative abilities.

3.2 Indicators include, but are not limited to, these examples:

- a. Demonstrate ability to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, integrate, and synthesize information.
- b. Demonstrate ability to acquire, retain, and apply new and learned information.

4.0 Motor and Sensory Function Technical Standard

4.1 Demonstrate sufficient motor and sensory function to perform typical clinical laboratory duties.

4.2 Indicators include, but are not limited to, these examples:

- a. Functional and sufficient sensory capacity (visual, auditory, and tactile) to use laboratory equipment and perform procedures.
- b. Execute motor movements that demonstrate safety and efficiency in the various learning settings (i.e., classroom, online and laboratories).
- c. Physical stamina sufficient to complete the online didactic and some laboratory study, which will include prolonged periods of sitting.

5.0 Behavioral and Social Attributes Technical Standard

5.1 Demonstrate the behavioral and social attributes vital to participation in a professional program and service as a practicing laboratory professional.

5.2 Indicators include, but are not limited to, these examples:

- a. Possess the emotional health required for full utilization of mental faculties (judgment, orientation, affect, and cognition).
- b. Ability to develop mature and effective professional relationships with faculty, patients, the public, and other members of the health care team.
- c. Possess personal qualities that facilitate effective therapeutic interactions (compassion, empathy, integrity, honesty, benevolence, confidentiality).
- d. Demonstrate impartial motives, attitudes, and values in roles, functions, and relationships.
- e. Ability to monitor and react appropriately to one's own emotional needs and responses.
- f. Display appropriate flexibility and adaptability in the face of stress or uncertainty associated with clinical encounters and clinical environments.
- g. Compliance with standards, policies, and practices set forth in the EVMS Student Handbook and the program handbook.

REGISTRATION

COURSE REGISTRATION

Students will register for courses six weeks prior to the start of a new semester. This guide will help walk you through the process of registering for your classes using the Leo Online self-service.

Step-by-Step Registration Instructions:

1) Go to leonline.odu.edu and click on Enter LEO Online News and Secure Area (or enter LEO Online via the University's portal at my.odu.edu).

You can also view our course offerings at courses.odu.edu.

2) Enter your MIDAS ID and password to authenticate via Monarch-Key Web Login. If you need assistance with your

MIDAS ID and password, please see the MIDAS & Monarch-Key website.

NOTE: You cannot use your UIN or SSN to log in to LEO Online.

3) Select Admissions, Registration, Student Records, Graduation Information.

4) Select Registration.

5) Select Banner Registration.

6) Select Prepare for Registration

7) Select the term for which you are registering:

✓ *Be sure to have your curriculum handy to be certain you select the correct courses for your program for your term*

✓ *If you are in a program that offers both elective and required courses, you will need to register for all courses including your elective courses. If you have questions regarding which classes to register for, please contact your program. If you notice any missing or incorrect courses, please contact the Registrar's at VHS-registrar@odu.edu.*

8) Use the Browse for Classes feature to find open classes.

9) Use the Register-Add/Drop/Withdraw to search for and add classes to your worksheet/plan or register for the

classes. Or enter course reference numbers directly in the Enter CRNs tab (use this if you have a closed-class override).

10) Check the Notifications (top right of the screen) for registration errors.

11) Submit your registration.

Note:

- Courses dropped before the drop deadline do not show on your schedule.
- Courses from which you have withdrawn will still show up on your schedule.

Printing or Emailing Your Schedule

1. In Banner Registration, click Register for Classes.
2. Select the term and click Continue
3. Click on the Schedule and Options tab.
4. Click on the Email icon to send a copy to yourself or others if you wish; click on the Print icon to print a hardcopy version.

PLEASE NOTE:

For the Student Health Insurance: You will need to complete in the Aetna portal. Here is the link to the Aetna Portal:
<https://www.aetnastudenthealth.com/en/school/686196/index.html>

*On campus students will have the opportunity to Opt-Out of the VHS student health insurance program.

*Online or Distance students will not be required to complete a student health insurance waiver. If you have questions, please contact Human Resources to have it removed

If you should need assistance, you may contact the following departments:

For Login Problems

IT Center Help Desk

itshelp@odu.edu

For system/Technical Problems (Not Password Related)

Database Center

itshelp@odu.edu

For questions regarding holds, documents, and registration once you are in the Portal

Registrar

VHS-registrar@odu.edu

When contacting the Registrar's Office via email please put 'Registration' and VHS/EVMS campus in the email subject

line.

You may also call the Registrar's office during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. EST) at 757.446.5805, or additionally at 757.446.5890 (8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. EST) on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

When sending an email, please be as descriptive as possible. The more information you provide, the easier it will be for staff to understand what you are experiencing. This is especially important when you are experiencing technical difficulties. Screenshots are very helpful, as well as the URL.

STUDENT FINANCES

The Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University Financial Services office will mail an invoice one month prior to the start of each semester. Your first invoice will include tuition and student fees less your acceptance deposit. For more details about student finances please read the student finance policy at the

following location: https://myportal.evms.edu/financialservices/accounts_receivable_and_student_billing/

PAYMENTS

Tuition payments for the Reproductive Clinical Science PhD Program must be paid by the first day of each semester, based on the total number of credit hours for which a student has enrolled and is subject to change at any time. Please contact the Finance Office at 757-446-6067 or by email AR@evms.edu if you do not receive a tuition invoice.

TUITION STATEMENTS

You can access your financial statements at any time online using the [student portal](#). If you have any questions or do not receive an invoice, please contact the Finance Office at 757-446-6067 or by email AR@evms.edu.

WITHDRAWING

If you elect to withdraw from courses at Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University or from the program that you are enrolled in you must first contact your program office, then the registrar's office to obtain the forms to fill out sign and send to your program for their signatures. You must fill out the correct forms and get them turned in promptly even if it is before the semester starts if you have enrolled for courses you will be charged for them. Please contact the Finance Office if you have any questions about this policy AR@EVMS.EDU.

FINANCIAL AID

To receive financial aid in the form of student loans you must be registered for at least six (6) credit hours per semester. Sources of financial aid are available to the Reproductive Clinical Science PhD Program students from the Financial Aid Office at Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University: https://www.evms.edu/education/financial_aid/. Financial aid officers Brock Virginia Health Sciences are approved for processing various Federal and State student loan applications. Regulations and availability of these loans change from year to year; therefore, current information and applications should be sought from the institutional financial aid officers. Students should understand that any awards or loans are given only to full-time students who continue in good academic standing. Financial aid information can be obtained by contacting the Financial Aid Office: 757-446-5804 or email VHS-finaid@odu.edu

FINANCIAL AID AND ACADEMIC PROBATION

If a student is placed on academic probation eligibility to receive financial aid will be affected. For more information, please contact: VHS-finaid@odu.edu. Please see section “**RCS PHD ACADEMIC STANDING, WARNING AND PROBATION**” on page 18 for more information about academic standing, probation and warning.

ATTENDANCE

Once the semester begins, the students will be notified of new course openings. It is a requirement for all distance students to log into their new courses the first week of the course. Information about the course schedule, such as start and stop dates, is available in this handbook (Program Schedule), the RCS-PHD Orientation Course and the RCS- PHD Class Calendar. Failure to log into a course and miss important deadlines may lead to withdrawal from a course.

ONLINE PROCEDURES

This section includes the Course Policies and Procedures that explain how different aspects of online courses are handled.

EXAMINATION PROCEDURE

Examinations and quizzes will be taken using ExamSoft software that will be provided to you. Due to the differing time zones, specific time slots will be allocated for each online assessment based on Eastern Standard Time (EST). Each instructor may vary the exam format, e.g., multiple choice questions, short answer, or essay. Your exams may be timed with a limit of 1-3 hours or take home with a limit of 2-4 days. You will be notified in advance of the examination dates and format. Please refer to individual course sites for detailed information.

You are never allowed to use lecture materials, online resources, reading materials, the instructor's notes, or your own personal notes during examinations or quizzes unless otherwise indicated, you are also not allowed to ask anyone for help during an exam unless it is of a technical nature. Please contact Examsoft technical support by phone (866) 429-8889, website www.examsoft.com or email support@examsoft.com between 8:30am until 8:30pm EST if you have difficulty with your computer or download/upload problems. For clarification of the format or procedural questions of any kind please contact the RCS Program Administrator Office during normal business hours. After hours, contact Dr. Liang Yu at yul@odu.edu or (757) 446-8421.

Depending on the nature of the a technical issue encountered while attempting to take a timed assessment follow this guideline: 1) cannot open your exam file, wait until the next business day and contact the Distance Learning Office; 2) your computer shuts down during an exam, quickly turn your computer back on you should be allowed back into the exam after the computer boots up; 3) if you are not allowed back in contact the support numbers in the order listed at the start of the exam; 4) cannot upload your exam file, notify your program office course director and contact Examsoft during regular work ours 8:30 am to 8:30 pm Monday thru Friday.

Take home exams are given occasionally; you will be given detailed instruction at the time the exam is released about what resources you should use during the take home exam. Please be aware that you may not ask anyone for help in answering the questions unless it is of a technical, procedural, or clarifying nature. In this type of exam, you will be asked for a detailed bibliography and the document will be checked for plagiarism electronically.

REVIEWING SECURE EXAMS

Because of the secure nature of the exams you will take, they will not be released to you for review. If you have questions or would like to discuss the items you may have answered incorrectly, you must set up a time with the appropriate Course Director to meet in an Adobe Connect Meeting space. This will allow you to review the items you missed and discuss any concerns you may have regarding the correct answers. If this does not resolve the issue, you must set up a time with the Program Director to meet in an Adobe Connect Meetingspace.

ASSIGNMENT PROCEDURE

The deadlines for submitting assignments will be posted on Canvas for each course. The assignments' locations must be used for submission of all projects, reports, and papers. You should never email your assignments. Always submit your assignments in the format requested by the instructor, most typically MS Word; others will be specified. Also, always include your last name in the file name and put your name on every page.

GRADES

Grades for assignments and exams will be posted in the Canvas course site within two weeks after the assessment or assignment deadline except where indicated. Also, within a two-week period after the end of a course and after the course survey or evaluation has been completed by all students, the course grades will be posted. If you have not received a grade for an assignment, exam, or course within a two-week period, please contact the Course Director to report the problem. If you do not get a response contact the Director of the program at YuL@odu.edu.

COURSE SURVEYS AND EVALUATIONS

Students will be sent a link to the course survey about 2 weeks before the end of the course.

INSTRUCTOR RESPONSE TIME

Instructors normally check messages once per day and respond within 48 hours. Feedback on assignments is usually provided within two weeks of receipt. If there are any concerns about missed emails or no response, please contact the appropriate Course Director. For any further concern please contact the Director of the program at YuL@odu.edu.

CLASS DEMEANOR

Students are expected to interact in a professional demeanor with classmates, faculty, and staff, be prompt in attending Internet meetings, be patient in online interactions, and follow through on their individual contributions to group assignments. Inappropriate language, dissension, or disruption will be removed from any web posting and disciplinary action may be taken.

EMAIL

Only your ODU email will be used for the duration of the program. Email may be sent from within Canvas, but it will use your ODU email account as the sending account. Information that you need to convey to the instructor or requests for an appointment are best sent via ODU email. It is imperative to check your ODU email on a regular basis. Communication will NOT be sent to a student's personal email.

DISCUSSION BOARD

The Discussion Board, Wiki, Blogs and Journal Postings in Canvas are types of interactions where students and faculty can communicate with each other. Discussion Boards will be read by everyone in the class. Wiki assignments are typically group projects all members of the class will have access to, Blogs are similar to Discussion Boards where all class members will have access and Journal Postings are only available to you and your instructor. You will be responding to questions posted by the instructor, members of your group or each member of the class. All of these types of assignments will typically have a grade associated with them. Please check to make sure you understand the timing of posts, how many posts, the types and depth of the post being requested so that you may get full credit for the assignment.

Typically, each course will have a general ungraded Discussion Board where you may ask for clarification of the reading materials or ask why a treatment was prescribed in the clinical area. If you have a question related to something you read, chances are someone else in the class does also. If you have posted something and you are not getting a reply, most likely no one is aware that you have posted a question. Please report this to the Course Director and appropriate action will be taken to notify others.

Please be aware of netiquette when making a post. Be respectful of each other and your faculty, avoid texting shorthand, or in all caps and please behave in a professional manner.

TROUBLESHOOTING

If you cannot log into Canvas, [Student Portal](#), the Library or access your webmail, contact the IT Help Center at 757-446-7400, itshelp@odu.edu. For Exam Soft support directly: <https://learn.examsoft.com/about/examsoftsupport> or US Toll-Free Phone: 1 866-429-8889; International Phone: 1- 954-429-8889; email: support@examsoft.com. If your computer shuts down while you are in the middle of an exam, restart your computer right away and you will be able to reenter the exam. If when you restart your computer, it asks for a resume code call Dr. Liang Yu at 757-446-8421.

GRADING POLICIES

TRANSFER CREDIT

Transfer of credit may be allowed for course work taken at a regionally accredited institution of higher learning, such as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, for courses in which a grade of B (3.0) or higher was received or a passing grade was achieved in a pass/fail course. The RCS PhD programs may accept a maximum of 12 transfer credits. Course grades obtained from another institution will not be counted in the GPA. All applicants seeking to transfer credit(s) should contact the program for special application or credential requirements. Decisions regarding applicability of transfer courses/credits will be made by the Program Director in consultation with the faculty as deemed appropriate. Please contact the RCS office to enquire about the process.

GRADING POLICY

This section specifies the general grading policies and procedures used by all of the health professions programs. In addition to the policies listed here, each program may have additional requirements that are communicated to students in writing at the initiation of their first semester. Final grades at the end of each term are assigned according to the EVMS School of Health Professions grading scale.

MAKE-UP POLICY

If you are unable to meet the time frame for submission of exams or other work, you must make prior arrangements with the Course Instructor or Course Director. Failure to do this will result in a zero grade for that test or assignment. It is important to post Discussion Board assignments in a timely manner because your classmates need your information and feedback to complete their assignments. You must discuss prioritization of submissions with your individual instructor.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments must be submitted on or before their due date. Contact the course director if you have a medical or personal emergency that interferes with submitting assignments on time. Typically, a doctor's note is required when asking for an extension.

INCOMPLETE POLICY

When an instructor assigns a grade of "I," a written agreement is prepared and signed by the instructor and student that specifies the work remaining to be completed and the time frame for doing so. The work should be completed as soon as possible, but not later than the mid-point of the following grading period/semester unless special written approval is granted by the Course Director and Program Director for extraordinary circumstances. The student must petition the Course Director and the Program Director for such an extension at least two weeks before the end of the agreed upon deadline. Unless an extension has been approved by the Course Director and the Program Director, the "I" will convert to either an "F" or the grade as specified in the written agreement after the mid-point of the semester. An "I" grade may not be changed to a "W" under any circumstances.

GRADE DISPUTE

To better understand how your grades were calculated please carefully review the syllabus for the course. If it appears that the grade has not been calculated correctly please contact the course director to discuss your final grade in the course and to get clarification. If there is no resolution of the grade and further clarification is needed contact the Program Director to discuss the course grade and calculation or to review any aspect of the course. If there is still further need to discuss the course, please contact the Dean of the School of Health Professions.

STUDENT PROGRESS

Student progress in this program is monitored at the individual course and semester levels. Progress is evaluated at the course level during and at the end of a course by the Course Director. If student performance falls below a level that is acceptable, the Course Director will issue a written warning which is sent to the Program Director as well as the student. This warning should alert the student to problems that should be remedied immediately. Once a student has been issued a warning, they must contact the Program Director to discuss ways to remedy the situation. Communication between the Course Director, Program Director and the student will be established to discuss options. The Program Director will meet in the middle and at the end of each semester with individual Course Director as needed to evaluate student progress at the course level. At the end of the semester, the student GPA will be evaluated by the Program Director. Since the students in the Reproductive Clinical Science PhD Program will be required to achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or better to obtain a graduate degree, this standard must be met each semester.

ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

Students in the School of Health Professions have the right to due process involving grievances and appeals:

The student should discuss the grievance with his or her Program Director. If the grievance is not resolved, a student may file a written appeal to the Dean of the School of Health Professions within seven days of the student's notification of the Program Director's decision. Upon receipt of the appeal, the Dean will notify the Registrar accordingly. The Dean or a designee will review all pertinent material and meet with the student. The Dean may convene a Grievance/Appeals Committee composed of Program Director, faculty, students, and/or chairs of departments not directly involved in the grievance. All testimony, evidence, and witnesses relevant to the appeal shall be made available to this committee. The student has the right to appear before the committee, present testimony and such witnesses or evidence as is deemed relevant by the committee. The student shall not have the right to be represented by counsel at these committee meetings. The Committee will submit its recommendations to the Dean after the review is completed.

The Dean will notify the student within ten business days of his/her decision. The decision may include reinstatement, retention, probation, termination, suspension, special academic assignments, or other interventions deemed appropriate to the situation. The judgment of the Dean concerning the grievance shall be final and binding on all parties, with the exception of recommending the termination of a student's participation in an academic program.

In the case of termination from an academic program, the student may file a written appeal to the EVMS President/Provost within five business days of the student's notification from the Dean of the School of Health Professions. The President/Provost will review all pertinent material and notify the student within fifteen business days of receipt of the appeal of his/her decision. The decision of the President/Provost is final.

RCS PHD ACADEMIC STANDING, WARNING AND PROBATION

1. Students are considered to be in good academic standing if their term and cumulative GPA is 3.00 or greater.
2. If a student's term or cumulative GPA falls below 3.00, a written warning will be issued. Students who receive a warning must increase their cumulative GPA to 3.00 or higher by the completion of the following semester, or they will be placed on academic probation.
3. Students placed on academic probation must achieve a term GPA of 3.00 or higher by the completion of the following semester, or they will be subject to dismissal. Students on probation who achieve a term GPA of 3.00 or higher, but whose cumulative GPA is below 3.00, may remain on probation for one additional

semester.

4. No student may remain on probation for more than two consecutive semesters. Any student who fails to attain a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher after two semesters of probation will be subject to dismissal from the program.
5. Students receiving a grade of C- or below in any course may be asked to retake the course or part of the course based on a decision by the Course and Program Director. Most courses are taught only once a year, which may mean taking the course or a part of the course with the following cohort of students.
6. Any student receiving the grade of a C- in two courses will be subject to dismissal from the program.
7. The Program will make every reasonable effort to notify students of their academic status. A letter is mailed to each student placed on academic warning, probation, or dismissal. However, it is the responsibility of every student to monitor their academic progress, and to check with the Program Director if there are any questions about his or her academic status.
8. A student placed on academic warning or probation will be contacted by the Program Director to devise and discuss an academic improvement plan. This plan will be followed during the coming semester. If warning or probation continues the Program Director and the student will meet to discuss and devise an additional plan until the student is removed from warning or probation or additional actions are taken as described above.

When a student is placed on academic probation her/his eligibility to receive financial aid may be affected.

Percentile	Letter Grade	
100-94	A	4.00
93-90	A-	3.67
89-87	B+	3.33
86-84	B	3.00
83-80	B-	2.67
79-77	C+	2.33
76-74	C	2.00
73-70	C-	1.67
69 or less	F	0.00

Grades not affecting GPA and applicable to our program will be noted as follows:

I = Incomplete

W = Official
 Withdrawal

WF = Unofficial
 Withdrawal

STUDENT SUPPORT

DOCUMENTED DISABILITIES

Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University is dedicated to providing reasonable accommodations to qualified students with a documented disability. The student must self-identify with the Office of Student Disability Services as having a disability to begin the accommodation process. It is in the best interest of the student to begin the accommodation process as soon as you are aware that you may need them, as accommodations are not retroactive. All students must be able to fulfill the academic and technical standards of their academic program with or without reasonable accommodations; however, accommodations are made available to aid in fulfilling those standards, not to waive them. If you have, or believe you have, a disability for which you wish to request accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, you must contact the Disability Officer StudentDisability@EVMS.EDU. For more information about the disability accommodations process, please visit: https://www.evms.edu/education/resources/disability_guide_for_students/

PROFESSIONALISM AND SCHOLARLY REQUIREMENTS

RCS-PHD WRITING STYLE

This program uses American Medical Association (AMA) Manual of style formatting and citation for all assignments. If you have a question about formatting that you need help with that is not covered elsewhere, please consult the AMA Style Guide, 10th Edition. (<http://www.amamanualofstyle.com/>).

DISSERTATION WRITING STYLE GUIDELINES

This RCS-PHD Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University style and format guideline should be followed to construct your dissertation projects, which must be prepared to a professional standard. The final section of this guide includes a copy of the dissertation template to aid you in formatting your final PhD project; a file containing these templates is also available in the RMCT Course site in the PhD Project Folder. As soon as your advisor, course director or the writing tutor recommends, you should start using the template. If you have a question about formatting that you need help with that is not covered in the Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University manual, please consult the AMA Style Guide, 10th Edition (<http://www.amamanualofstyle.com/>).

SHP STUDENT BEHAVIOR POLICY

All students in the EVMS School of Health Professions must meet high expectations for academic integrity. In addition to being required to maintain the guidelines outline for Monarch Citizenship through Honor Code, Honor Pledge, and Monarch Creed, students enrolled in the School of Health Professions must adhere to the Expectations for Health Professions Student Behavior Policy.

Students must adhere to both the SOM and SHP Expectations for Student Conduct Policy and the ODU Code of Student Conduct: <https://www1.odu.edu/about/policiesandprocedures/bov/bov1500/1530>.

PLAGIARISM/ TURNITIN PROGRAM POLICY

Plagiarism can best be defined as stealing and passing off the ideas and/or exact words of another as your own. Unintentional plagiarism, where the plagiarism is the result of ignorance, poor writing skills, or mistakes in writing up citations in early drafts, is forgivable.

Basically, if you submit a final draft to an instructor or to a journal for publication with the words or ideas of another person consciously copied with or without citation, then you are guilty of plagiarism.

Thus, students in this program will be trained to:

- Understand proper ways to cite and use material from others' work.
- Know the differences between citation, quotation, and plagiarism.
- Be able to use the program Turnitin to assess and correct unintentional plagiarism before submitting their final drafts.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

LENGTH OF TIME TO COMPLETE THE PHD DEGREE

It is possible that students in the Reproductive Clinical Science PHD Program will be able to complete their requirements in three (3) calendar years. Because of the nature of dissertation research, it may take longer to finish projects according to program requirements. If the student has not completed the degree requirements at the end of three-year period and they anticipate non-completion by the 90-day post-graduation cutoff in August of their graduation year, the student must submit a written plan for completion of the outstanding requirements which is due by the third week in May of their graduation year. This petition must be approved by the student's advisor and the Program Director. While completing their requirements, students must maintain continuous enrollment in the program. This process is started by registering for additional research courses by the 3rd week in May of their original graduation year. All requirements for the Reproductive Clinical Science PhD Program must be completed within six (6) calendar years from the time the student is matriculated into the program. In unusual circumstances, extensions may be granted by the Program Director.

GRADUATION

Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University confers formal academic degrees at an annual graduation ceremony to students in degree granting programs. All candidates for academic degrees, who qualify during a given academic year, will be graduated at this ceremony regardless of the actual completion date of the degree requirements. Students may participate in commencements while still completing requirements however they will be presented with an empty diploma folder during the ceremony. The diploma will be sent after all degree requirements are completed. To participate in graduation all degree requirements must be completed within 90 days after the date of graduation. The Program Director and the dissertation advisor must see that all requirements have been completed or that adequate progress has been made (including the PhD project) one month prior to graduation or the student will not be approved to attend commencements. The student must petition for approval to attend graduation one month prior in the third week of April if all requirements have not been met. (See appendices for appropriate forms).

The ceremony is conducted on the third Saturday in May. Caps and gowns for distance learning students are distributed at the day before graduation at the graduation practice session at Scope Auditorium. A line-up sheet will also be given to inform graduates of the order of procession. Assistance will be provided for any questions or concerns.

Commencement exercises are part of a larger academic tradition. Commercial activity is incompatible with these exercises. Such activities are appropriately conducted during the rehearsal or at class banquets. Any public displays of graduation information and events must be approved by both the Chief Marshal and the Office of Institutional Advancement.

RCS-PHD PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

BROCK VIRGINIA HEALTH SCIENCES LABORATORY SAFETY AND ADDITIONAL TRAINING COURSES

Students working or otherwise participating in research at Brock Virginia Health Sciences must complete the General Laboratory Safety Courses given by the Brock Virginia Health Sciences Department of Environmental Health and Safety Services. The required courses will include:

1. Online laboratory safety training
2. HIPAA training in the first year and refresher training in the second
3. CITI Training

BROCK VIRGINIA HEALTH SCIENCES SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT POLICY

Students working or otherwise participating in research or clinical work must be familiar with and follow the Brock Virginia Health Sciences Guide for Scientific Misconduct

(http://www.evms.edu/research/research_administration/office_of_research/research_compliance_integrity/).

Additional copies of the guide are available from the office of research 757-446-8480.

CURRICULUM

The Program Schedule/Calendar included in an appendix in this handbook is color coded, listed by name, course number, course director, number of weeks, and number of credit hours. Important dates are indicated, such as residential course dates for the first and second year as well as graduation dates. Holiday breaks are indicated in red. A summary table of the Curriculum is also included.

The curriculum for the Reproductive Clinical Science PhD Program has been constructed with the input from the Course and Program Director. The curriculum is designed to meet the needs of the Reproductive Clinical Lab Director.

Course work in this program provides a broad base of graduate education in foundational sciences: comparative reproductive anatomy and physiology, developmental biology, toxicology and infertility, molecular biology, advanced statistics, and experimental design. As well as a focused knowledge base and competencies using evidence-based practices in the Reproductive Clinical Science: embryology, andrology, endocrinology and cryobiology laboratories. Preparing the future leaders in the field of IVF and Reproductive Clinical Science.

This is an online program that has been designed for adult learners and working professionals who are in the workforce while they are enrolled in this program. This 49 credit hour program is completed in 32 months, starting in the fall and ending in the spring semester of the third year with graduation. Students take 2 years of graduate level didactic and research development courses and must pass a comprehensive qualifying exam during their 4th semester to advance to doctoral candidacy. The final year of the program focuses on dissertation research. During the final semester, the students will prepare and defend their dissertation projects.

QUALIFYING EXAM, DISSERTATION ADVISORS, AND COMMITTEE SELECTION

The Qualifying Exam is taken during the Fall of Year 2 as determined by the Candidacy Committee. The Exam will assess comprehension and integration of the concepts and knowledge learned in Year 1 courses. Details of the exam will be given to the students in August of year 2. Students who fail the qualifying exam twice will be subject to dismissal from the Ph.D. program. Students in the PhD Program who complete Year 1 coursework with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or above, and pass the Candidacy Exam may proceed with dissertation research. A student with a cumulative GPA below 3.00 will be placed on Academic Probation and must increase the GPA to a 3.00 or better within 2 semesters or be subject to dismissal from the Program. During Year 3, students in the PhD Program will engage primarily in Dissertation research. However, students may continue to take additional coursework if the student's advisor agrees.

Dissertation Advisor and Committee: By summer 1 of Year 1, each student will select a Brock Virginia Health Sciences Dissertation Advisor and a Local Advisor. The Dissertation Advisors will assist the student in the selection and assembly of a Dissertation Committee to be completed no later than July 1st, which will be chaired by the Dissertation Advisors. The Committee must include at least 2 members of the Reproductive Clinical Science or affiliated Brock Virginia Health Sciences faculty, as well as one to two external faculty members. The student must submit the Program Form "Ph.D. Dissertation Committee" to the Research Course site by July 1st, which must be signed by all committee members. Program forms are posted in the Research Courses site in Blackboard.

Committee Members: The committee consists of at least three faculty members (typically four). The dissertation committee chair should have primary appointments in RCS or other departments of Brock Virginia Health Sciences. All committee members should hold a PhD or MD. The local committee advisor should have an academic appointment and experience in advising students in research. All committee members should hold a PhD in or an MD in reproductive science or a biomedical-related major. Once the minimum requirements have been met, additional committee members from within Brock Virginia Health Sciences or from other institutions may be added; however, individuals from other institutions may not serve as the committee chair. Students are encouraged to select members of their committee in consultation with the program director. The graduate program director approves the constitution of the committee.

Change in Dissertation Committee

Changes must be made in advance of the oral dissertation defense. Changes made in the dissertation committee are made only with the approval of the graduate program director.

Committee Meetings: Students are required to meet with Dissertation Advisory Committees at least once each year, beginning from the time they select a research project for the second year. Students entering year 4 of training are required to meet with their committee every 6 months. In addition to regularly scheduled meetings with the Dissertation Advisory Committees, students are also encouraged to consult regularly with their committee members for advice, as necessary.

It is the student's responsibility to report all committee meetings and attendees to the program director. If goals/milestones are established for the next meeting, then these should be included for advisor review two days before the meeting. The goal of documentation is transparency and clear timelines for implementation. The committee may, at its discretion, require a more frequent scheduling of committee meetings. If they do, this becomes the expectation for the student, supplanting the basic programmatic requirement of annual meetings.

In the event that the committee expresses concern about the student's progress, this will be conveyed orally to the student at the close of the meeting. A written committee report will be prepared and presented to the program director, as well as the student. This report will include a clear statement that concerns were raised regarding the student's progress and that this outcome places the student at risk of dismissal from the program due to failure to achieve satisfactory academic progress. The report will summarize the committee's expectations as well as a timeline for their completion.

If a determination is made that the student has not met the expectations established in prior committee reports, the committee may elect to dismiss the student from the program. If so, this outcome will be communicated orally to the student after the meeting. The committee chair will work with the program director to prepare a final committee report documenting this outcome. This report will be provided to the students within two weeks of the committee meeting.

Dissertation Proposal and Progress: Students must submit a Proposal for their Dissertation research to their Dissertation Committee, defend and receive approval no later than the end the 3rd semester. The standard format for the dissertation proposal is that used for NIH grant applications.

An Individual Development and Progress Plan (IDPP) must be completed annually by each student in the second and subsequent years. The IDPP form will be submitted by the student to advisors. They will then meet to review the student's progress. The final plan will be approved by the advisor, and copies will be provided to the student and the Reproductive Clinical Science Program office. The IDPP is due in May (end of spring semester) each year.

Ph.D. training concludes with the defense of a written thesis. At least one first-author scientific publication is required for graduation.

Starting in the 5th semester until the final semester, students must register for Research Credits and perform research and submit Semester Progress Report Forms to the Research Course in Blackboard. Please see the checklist for Graduation for a detailed description of the process of finishing requirements for the Ph.D. degree, including writing, defending, and submitting the Dissertation.

Before Defense: Per Brock Virginia Health Sciences School of Health Professions requirements, students must be enrolled during the semester of their dissertation defense and graduation. It is the student's responsibility to meet all applicable deadlines. Prolongation of the dissertation defense without adequate demonstration of additional research progress may lead to a shift of financial responsibility for tuition and fees onto the student.

The student's research is reported in a dissertation written under the guidance of the dissertation committee. The dissertation must demonstrate the student's capacity for independent research, scholarly achievement, and technical mastery of a special field. Students are expected to have at least one first-author scientific publication accepted in a peer-reviewed journal before the defense.

The dissertation represents the summation of the student's independent research. Therefore, adequate time must be set aside for the preparation of the dissertation and for the Committee members to evaluate the work. The dissertation must consist of novel and publishable research findings and may contain material that has already been published by the student during the course of the project.

During the writing process, the student should work with the advisor to assess and revise the dissertation document. When the document is complete to the satisfaction of both the student and advisor, the draft with all the figures should be submitted for program internal review for correct formatting and quality evaluation, with two assigned faculty members as reviewers who must have at least two weeks to comment on the dissertation. Any changes to the dissertation deemed necessary by the reviewers must be incorporated into the document and approved by the student's advisor before it can be submitted to the rest of the committee. The final revised version of the dissertation is used as the basis for the dissertation defense and must be distributed to each member of the committee no less than two weeks before the scheduled defense meeting. The dissertation defense is a formal public presentation of the student's research before the program faculty and students. Dissertation defenses must be publicized at least two weeks prior to the oral defense.

When the final draft of the dissertation is ready, the student will submit their dissertation to the dissertation committee at least one month before they expect to make final revisions. Dissertation committee members are expected to read and comment on a dissertation within two weeks of its submission. The student and faculty will coordinate a timeline for the student to present the thesis to the dissertation committee. This timeline must allow all dissertation committee members enough time to fulfill their responsibilities within the required timeline.

Defense: The Dissertation should be presented to the committee members well in advance of the Dissertation Defense. All Dissertation Committee members must agree to the Defense date and must be present for the Defense. On the date of the defense, students are required to give an oral presentation of their research findings in a seminar open to the public. Following the presentation, the student will meet with the defense committee for a final oral defense. Although the defense is normally a final presentation of the research accomplishments, the faculty may ask any questions they feel the student should be able to answer.

After Defense: Students must complete any required writing revisions within two months of completing the dissertation defense and submit their final dissertation with edits to the university library. If the committee determines that the student has failed the dissertation defense, the student will be dismissed from the Ph.D. program. The program director will generate a formal letter to notify the student within 10 business days.

All requirements for the doctoral degree must be completed within 6 calendar years from the date of matriculation in the doctoral program. Exceptions must be approved by the Program Director and the Dean of the School of Health Professions. Students whose graduate study is interrupted by military service will be granted an extension of this limit for the period of their military service.

PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS, ABSTRACTS AND PAPERS.

STUDENT PUBLISHING POLICY

Authorization for publishing any or all of your dissertation work as a meeting abstract, meeting poster, book chapter, or article in a scientific journal must be sought from your dissertation advisor(s) and the Program Director. All research work done as part of the requirements of completing the PhD in Reproductive Clinical Science must be attributed to Brock Virginia Health Sciences, your advisor, and your local institution. Additional details about student publishing procedures will be posted in the Research Dissertation Course.

Upon successful completion of the program, students are awarded the Doctoral of Science (PHD) in Reproductive Clinical Science.

Please note that all policies and procedures within the Student Handbook are subject to change. Changes will be communicated to students as soon as possible.



Year One Semester One Fall		
RCS-801	Advanced Statistics	3
RCS-802	Assisted Reproduction Evidence Based Practice Journal Club	1
RCS-803	Comparative Anatomy and Physiology of Reproduction	3
Year One Semester Two Spring		
RCS-804	Experimental Design	3
RCS-805	Advanced Topics IVF	1
RCS-806	Developmental Biology	3
Year One Semester Three Summer		
RCS-815	Dissertation Research Proposal Development	4
Year Two Semester Four Fall		
RCS-809	Toxicology and Infertility	3
RCS-810	Research Literature Review	3
RCS-811	Advanced Topics Male Infertility Research Literature	1
Year Two Semester Five Spring		
RCS-812	Clinical Laboratory Management	3
RCS-898	Dissertation Research	3
RCS-814	Art and Genetics	1
Year Two Semester Six Summer		
RCS-898	Dissertation Research	3
Year Three Semester Seven Fall		
RCS-898	Dissertation Research	6
RCS-819	The Business of IVF	1
Year Three Semester Eight Spring		
RCS-898	Dissertation Research	7
Total		49
Program Schedule		
Start Date	End Date	
8/23/2025	12/12/2025	Semester 1
1/20/2026	5/3/2026	Semester 2
5/18/2026	8/7/2026	Semester 3
8/23/2025	12/12/2025	Semester 4
1/20/2026	5/3/2026	Semester 5
5/18/2026	8/7/2026	Semester 6
8/23/2025	12/12/2025	Semester 7
1/20/2026	5/3/2026	Semester 8

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

RCS-801 Advanced Statistics

Advanced Statistics/explores the use of statistics in Basic and Clinical Science Research. Learn what types, when and how to use different analysis tools for qualitative, quantitative statistics and quality assurance calculations. Particular attention will be focused on clinical and laboratory applications as well as basic science research.

RCS-802 Assisted Reproduction Evidence Based Practice Journal Club

Using the best evidence from the literature learn how to interpret and formulate best practices in IVF. This course will utilize the principles of Evidence Based Medical Practice and adapt them to the clinical IVF environment.

RCS-803 Comparative Anatomy and Physiology of Reproduction

Knowing which type of animal model and how they may be used in research is an essential component of interpreting and applying study outcomes to humans. This course will illustrate the uses and limitations of these animal models in the study of human reproduction.

RCS-804 Experimental Design

Essential skills for a researcher are how to design a study and how to apply advanced experimental modeling techniques. These are both combined here leading to best practices development in experimental design.

RCS-805 Advanced Topics IVF

Using the literature students will present current topic areas in IVF, laboratory, and clinical research. How to conduct research in this area will also be covered in this course.

RCS-806 Developmental Biology

The origin and development of form and patterns in organisms. Recent investigations and recent research methodology on the processes of growth and differentiation are stressed.

RCS-809 Toxicology and Infertility

Environmental factors influence fertility during development, gametogenesis, fertilization, and embryogenesis. This course explores the current technology, theories and research surrounding toxins and fertility.

RCS-810 Research Literature Review

During this course students learn the best techniques for reviewing the literature, summarizing previous data, and writing a review of a topic area. Students will produce their own topic literature review by the end of this course.

RCS-811 Advanced Topics Male Infertility Research Literature

Using the literature students will present current topic areas in Male Infertility, treatment, and research. How to conduct research in this area will also be covered in this course.

RCS-812 Clinical Laboratory Management

All aspects of the management of a clinical lab will be presented in this course. Students will develop new protocols, write risk management reports, develop QC guidelines, as well as design and justify the design of an IVF facility as a lab director.

RCS-814 Art and Genetics

Using the literature students will present current topics in female infertility, focused mainly on clinical research. How to conduct research in this area will also be covered in this course.

RCS-815 Dissertation Research Proposal Development

The primary objective of this course is to develop a dissertation plan and write a dissertation research proposal, present to the department faculty, dissertation committee and students in a live online seminar. The defense of the dissertation proposal will take place after the presentation with committee members.

RCS-898/899 Dissertation Research

Students will give a seminar about the dissertation progress for all of the faculty and students. Each student is required to participate in all presentations.

RCS-819 The Business of IVF

Management of the IVF facility from the business perspective is the main goal of this course. Students will construct an analysis of a laboratory business plan and propose phased changes to make improvements.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

SOCIETY OF ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY (SART)

SART is the primary organization of professionals dedicated to the practice of assisted reproductive technologies (ART) in the United States. ART includes the practice of In Vitro Fertilization (IVF). The mission of our organization is to set up and help maintain the standards for ART to better serve our members and our patients.

One of the most important functions of our site is to help patients locate and contact infertility clinics and view national and individual clinic IVF success rates.

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE (ASRM)

The Vision of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) is to be the nationally and internationally recognized leader for multidisciplinary information, education, advocacy, and standards in the field of reproductive medicine. The ASRM is a non-profit organization whose members must demonstrate the high ethical principles of the medical profession, evince an interest in infertility, reproductive medicine, and biology, and adhere to the objectives of the Society.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BIOANALYSTS (AAB)

American Association of Bioanalysts is a national professional association whose members are clinical laboratory directors, owners, supervisors, managers, medical technologists, medical laboratory technicians, physician office laboratory technicians and phlebotomists. AAB also has three specialized membership sections for laboratory professionals: The College of Reproductive Biology (CRB), the Environmental Biology and Public Health Section (EBPH) and the National Independent Laboratory Association (NILA).

AAB is committed to the pursuit of excellence in clinical laboratory services by enhancing the professional skills of each of its members; promoting more efficient and productive operations; offering external quality control programs; collaborating with other professional associations and government agencies; promoting safe laboratory practices; and educating legislators, regulators, and the general public about clinical laboratory tests and procedures.

FAQS

How many students are accepted each year?

▶▶ 6-8.

Is this program geared toward professionals?

▶▶ The program is designed for clinical embryologists and andrologists, physicians, and others involved in the practice of assisted reproduction technologies.

Is this program accredited?

▶▶ Eastern Virginia Medical School is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award PHD degrees, doctoral degrees, and certificates in medicine and the health professions.

Are the courses conducted in a university in addition to the online program?

▶▶ The didactic courses of the program are completely online. During the PhD you will travel to Norfolk VA to EVMS to undergo laboratory proficiency assessment and participate in the residency weeklong training program for the RCS MS program.

What are the methods employed to deliver distance learning?

▶▶ Courses are taught by experienced basic science and clinical faculty using the Blackboard learning platform. Lectures are typically either streamed or voiced over PowerPoint presentations.

How much time is required to participate?

▶▶ We estimate that you will need to dedicate at least 10 to 15 hours every week to reviewing lecture materials, reading textbooks, and working on projects.

Is the program available to students outside of the United States?

▶▶ Yes, this program is available outside the U.S. and may be considered an international program.

Will the ILETS score be acceptable instead of TOEFL?

▶▶ Yes.

I have not passed the TOEFL but have passed the ECFMG exam. Is this accepted?

▶▶ No, they are not interchangeable. You must pass either the TOEFL or the ILETS to be admitted to EVMS.

What is the tuition payment schedule?

▶▶ Tuition is due prior to the beginning of each semester. Invoices will be mailed from the EVMS Finance Office (Accounts Receivable).

Is financial aid available?

▶▶ Yes.

Are scholarships available?

▶▶ Not currently.

Is there any discount for former fellows?

▶▶ No.

Would a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and four years of experience as an IVF/infertility nurse be acceptable for entry?

▶▶ No. Those who want to apply for the PhD must have a Master Degree in a field related to reproduction.

APPENDICES

PHD DISSERTATION COMMITTEE FORM
Reproductive Clinical Science PhD Program

Student Name		Student ID #	
---------------------	--	---------------------	--

Dissertation Title

Dissertation Committee Signatures	Date
Student	
PhD Dissertation Local Advisors	
PhD Dissertation EVMS Advisors	
Committee Members	

- The student will contact each committee member to obtain signatures, these may be accumulated on different copies of this form, scan and submit to the RCS Program Office for approval; VHS-RCScourses@odu.edu, electronic signature may also be used.
- By signing this form, you agree to be a member of the Dissertation Committee for the student listed above.
- For general committee members: please provide the Program Office with your email and physical address you will be sent a packet from the program office to describe general committee member duties.
 - Briefly as a committee member you will be expected to meet online for committee meetings and to observe student progress seminars 1 to two times a year for 1 to 2 hours. You will also be expected to read and critique the proposal, drafts, and final dissertation.
- For Local Dissertation Advisor: please provide the Program Office with your email and physical address you will be sent a packet from the program office to describe advisor duties.
 - Briefly as the local advisor you will be contacted by the student more often for consultation to offer advice, read progress report and to confer with the EVMS Advisor and Program Director about the student progress. You will also be expected to read and critique the proposal, drafts, and final dissertation.

Program Approval	Date
Program Director Signature	

RESULTS OF QUALIFICATION EXAM
Reproductive Clinical Science PhD Program

This is to certify that on _____, _____
(Date) (Student's Name)

_____, who is enrolled in the PHD: Reproductive Clinical Science Program, has
_____ the requirements checked below.

(Passed / Failed)

DESIGNATED REQUIREMENTS

- ☐ PhD Written Exam
☐ PhD Oral Exam

SIGNATURES		Date
Candidacy Exam Committee		
Program Director		

Written Exam Title

Remarks

RESULTS OF PHD PROJECT PROPOSAL PRESENTATION
Reproductive Clinical Science PhD Program

This is to certify that on _____, _____
(Date) (Student's Name)
_____, who is enrolled in the PHD: Reproductive Clinical Science Program, has
_____ the requirements checked below.
(Passed / Failed)

DESIGNATED REQUIREMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> PhD Project Topic
<input type="checkbox"/> PhD Project Proposal
<input type="checkbox"/> Coursework

SIGNATURES		Date
PhD Dissertation Local Advisors		
PhD Dissertation EVMS Advisors		
Committee Member		
Program Director		

PhD Project Topic Aims

Remarks

RESULTS OF PHD DISSERTATION WRITTEN AND ORAL DEFENSE
Reproductive Clinical Science PhD Program

This is to certify that on _____, _____
(Date) (Student's Name)

_____, who is enrolled in the PHD: Reproductive Clinical Science Program, has
_____ the requirements checked below.

(Passed / Failed)

DESIGNATED REQUIREMENTS

- ☐ PhD Dissertation Written
- ☐ PhD Dissertation Oral Defense
- ☐ Coursework

SIGNATURES		Date
PhD Dissertation Local Advisors		
PhD Dissertation EVMS Advisors		
Committee Member		
Program Director		

PhD Dissertation Title

Remarks

REQUIREMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN MET
Petition to Attend Graduation or Graduate with Your Cohort
Reproductive Clinical Science PhD Program

This form must be completed and returned one month prior to graduation (the third week in April). This form is required by all graduates who have not completed all degree requirements who have approval from their Dissertation Committee to attend graduation. Not only must the form be filled out and signed by you, but you must also email and obtain the appropriate signatures for approval to attend graduation as indicated below.

By completing this form and signing it, you are indicating that your PhD Project will be completed, as well as any outstanding requirements, by the end of the third week of August of your graduation year. Any others signing this form must agree that you will likely finish within the 90-day post-graduation cutoff.

If you will not be able to complete the requirements within the 90-day cutoff you will receive further instructions from the program director.

Student Name		Student ID #	
Student Signature		Date	

List of Requirements Not Met

SIGNATURES		Date
PhD Dissertation Local Advisors		
PhD Dissertation EVMS Advisors		
Course Director		
Program Director		

PHD PROJECT / DIPLOMA DELIVERY
Reproductive Clinical Science PhD Program

This form will be completed during the final semester and submitted with the three printouts of the PhD Project that you submit for binding.

Student Name		Student ID #	
--------------	--	--------------	--

Allow four (4) to eight (8) weeks for binding and processing.

If you will be in the Tidewater area, please give your address and telephone number so that you may be informed that your PhD Project is ready to be picked up.

Local Tidewater Address					
Street Address					
City		State		Zip	
Telephone			Telephone		

If you will not be in the Tidewater area, please give your contact information (address/phone) to which your PhD Project should be sent by insured mail.

Alternate Address					
Street Address					
City		State		Zip	
Telephone			Telephone		

PHD PROJECT ACCEPTANCE AND PROCESSING
Reproductive Clinical Science PhD Program

PART A			
Student Name		Student ID #	

This is to certify the above-named student has submitted the Dissertation and that it has been accepted by the committee as satisfactory.

Dissertation Project Title

Authorization Signatures		Date
PhD Dissertation Local Advisors		
PhD Dissertation EVMS Advisors		
Committee Members		
Program Director		

PART B RCS Program Office Use Only	
<input type="checkbox"/> Rag Cotton & Printer Paper of Project Received	Date:
<input type="checkbox"/> Receipt(s) for binding and other fees	Date:
<input type="checkbox"/> Project sent to bindery	Date:
<input type="checkbox"/> Project returned from bindery	Date:
<input type="checkbox"/> Project distribution	Date:

- ☐ This form will be filled out during your final semester and submitted with the final draft of your project.

PhD in Reproductive Clinical Science Program
Certification for Graduation

This form will be completed and submitted by the Program Administrator; after student evaluation and signature are obtained the student will be allowed to graduate.

To be completed by RCS-PhD Office

Name:

Last Name

First Name

Middle Initial

Student ID #:

Entry Year

_____ Track

Degree Option

☐

Dissertation

Indicate the status of the following:

PhD Dissertation Presentation

Final GPA

Graduation

PhD Dissertation for Printing

Total Hours Needed for the Degree

Pending

Completed

Not Applicable

_____ 49 _____

Please check all of the required courses that must be completed prior to graduation:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Course No	Course Name	Credit Hours
<input type="checkbox"/>	RCS-801	Advanced Statistics	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	RCS-802	Assisted Reproduction Evidence Based Practice Journal Club	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	RCS-803	Comparative Anatomy and Physiology of Reproduction	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	RCS-804	Experimental Design	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	RCS-805	Advanced Topics IVF	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	RCS-806	Developmental Biology	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	RCS-815	Dissertation Research Proposal Development	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	RCS-809	Toxicology and Infertility	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	RCS-810	Research Literature Review	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	RCS-811	Advanced Topics Male Infertility Research Literature	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	RCS-812	Clinical Laboratory Management	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	RCS-898	Dissertation Research	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	RCS-814	Art and Genetics	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	RCS-898	Dissertation Research	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	RCS-898	Dissertation Research	6
<input type="checkbox"/>	RCS-819	The Business of IVF	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	RCS-898	Dissertation Research	7
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS			49

Upon completion of the above, this student will have completed all requirements for the PhD degree.

Program Director

Date