

OST 588: Independent Study in Clinical Human Morphology (FKA ANTR 590)

Fall 2025, 8/25/25 – 12/7/25

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Course Director Biosketch

Contact Information	Biosketch
 <p>Nicole Geske, Ph.D. geskenic@msu.edu 517-353-5269 Primary Site: EL Office Hours: N/A. Other days/times available by request.</p>	<p>Dr. Nicole Geske is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Human Anatomy in East Lansing. She teaches gross anatomy for undergraduate, graduate, and pre-clerkship medical students. She teaches anatomy and ultrasound labs for MSUCOM and serves as the East Lansing Anatomy Lab Site Director and Lab Director for several pre-clerkship courses for MSUCOM. She is also an instructor for the undergraduate pre-health professionals' anatomy course (ANTR 350), the undergraduate human gross anatomy laboratory course (ANTR 355), and the undergraduate, pre-clerkship, and clerkship human prosection courses (ANTR 485; OST 587, 670). Of these roles, she serves as a co-Course Director for ANTR 350 and as the Course Director for ANTR 355, as well as for the MSUCOM prosection courses (OST 587 and OST 670) and Independent Study in Clinical Morphology course (OST 588). She also teaches anatomy for the Advanced Baccalaureate Learning Experience (ABLE) program in the College of Human Medicine (CHM).</p>

Contributing Faculty

Name	Email	Phone	Location
Graham Atkin, PhD	atking@msu.edu	517-884-9544	EL
Libby Bradley, PhD	bradl437@msu.edu	515-355-6227	EL
John Fitzsimmons, MD	fitzsi10@msu.edu	517-353-4547	EL
Nicole Geske, PhD	geskenic@msu.edu	517-353-5269	EL
Amber Heard-Booth, PhD	heardamb@msu.edu	616-234-0988	GR
Diana Hristova, MD, MSc	hristov3@msu.edu	313-578-9612	DMC
Lindsey Jenny, PhD	jennylin@msu.edu	517-353-5286	EL
Frances Kennedy, DVM, MS	kennedyf@msu.edu	517-432-0467	EL
Halie Kerver, PhD	kerver@msu.edu	517-353-6893	EL
Paul Kowalski, MD	pauljk@msu.edu	517-353-3453	EL

Name	Email	Phone	Location
Melanie McCollum, PhD	mccoll44@msu.edu	517-353-3240	EL
Carrie Nazaroff, PhD	tatarcar@msu.edu	734-536-6788	MUC
Maureen Schaefer, PhD	schae156@msu.edu	517-432-1372	EL
Jill Slade McMahon, PhD	jslade@msu.edu	517-884-3351	EL
Sarah Tilden, PhD	tildensa@msu.edu	313-578-9612	DMC
Ryan Tubbs, PhD	tubbsrya@msu.edu	616-234-2771	GR
Sutton Williams, PhD	will3506@msu.edu	616-234-2623	GR

Curriculum Assistants (CAs)

Name	Email	Phone	Location
Nicole Geske, PhD	geskenic@msu.edu	517-353-5269	EL

Who to Contact with Questions

Question, Need, or Topic	Contact Person
Course - Logistics & Details	Contact CAs for rooms, groups, materials, links, schedule, etc.
Course - Overall	Contact Course Directors (in bold above).
Course - Specific Content	Contact Contributing Faculty for the content (see schedule).
Absences	Contact Course Directors (in bold above).
Behavior	Submit exemplary or concerning behavior to the CGPI .
Enrollment	Inquire with MSUCOM Registrar .
Personal/Wellness Needs	Inquire with Wellness & Counseling .
Report kudos or suggestions related to inclusion in the curriculum	Submit a DO Better form. https://tinyurl.com/DO-Better-Form
Study Skills or Progression	Inquire with Academic & Career Advising .
Technical Support	Inquire with MSU IT Service Desk . Indicate COM affiliation.

Course Information

Course Description & Overview

OST 588 is an elective course in the D.O. program. It is a 1-5-credit hour course. Independent study of a specific topic from gross anatomy, histology, radiological anatomy, cytology, pathology, neuroscience, or embryology.

Any student desiring to carry out an independent study needs to find a faculty advisor for the course. The list of instructors who may be willing to act as advisors is included in this syllabus as contributing faculty. Consult with the course director for faculty members/instructors not listed.

The number of credits a student should enroll in will be determined through an agreement between the student and the faculty advisor but should reflect the academic workload. Students may accumulate a maximum of 15 credits in all enrollments for the course.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, learners should be able to:

1. Acquire an in-depth knowledge and understanding of gross anatomy, histology, radiological anatomy, cytology, neuroscience, or embryology, depending on the interest of the student and faculty involved.
2. Develop the ability to carry out independent research in relation to work done.
3. Learn methods pertaining to research, analysis of data, or manuscript or abstract writing in relation to work done.
4. If a specific syllabus is issued for any OST 588 section, it may contain more detailed course goals.

Textbooks and Resources

Most MSUCOM courses make use of [D2L](#) as a course website to share materials, [Google Calendar](#) to share course schedules, [Zoom](#) to host online meetings, and [iClicker](#) to facilitate audience polling. Visit <https://bit.ly/msucomtech> for reminders on how to access and use these resources. Other course-specific resources include:

Status	Resource
Required	As directed by the faculty advisor, or as detailed in the specific syllabus for each section

Grading Schema

Course scores will be determined using the following formula:

$$\frac{(\text{Combined Individual Activity or Assessment Points})}{(\text{Total Points Possible})} * 100\% = \text{Final Percent Score}$$

Course grades will then be assigned based on those course scores as follows:

- **P or Pass** - Satisfactory performance has been achieved and credit will be granted if a student's final percent score is 70% or higher. Non-medical students must take this course for a numerical grade.
- **N or No Grade** - Satisfactory performance has not been achieved and credit will not be granted if a student's final percent score is below 70%. A student who fails to complete all required activities, as specified by the faculty, or as detailed in the syllabus for the specific section, will receive an "N" grade.

Remediation is not offered for this course.

Grading Requirements

The MSUCOM D.O. degree program incorporates both horizontal and vertical curriculum integration, meaning course activities and assessments require ongoing development and integration of knowledge and skills acquired in previous courses. Required components include:

Required Component	Projected Points	Material to be Covered
TBD by faculty advisor	TBD by faculty advisor	TBD by faculty advisor

Policies & Resources

Academic Support Resources at MSUCOM

Students are encouraged to connect with [Academic and Career Advising](#) (ACA) to access academic, board, and career advising across the 4-year D.O. curriculum. As a way to acclimate to the MSUCOM curriculum, you may access ACA's [On Target](#) website for semester roadmaps, tools needed to be successful in the curriculum, and targeted resources for different learning situations. Each semester's roadmap contains course expectations, tips, potential challenges, notes on longitudinal content and skills integration, and study guides.

College or University Policies with Which Enrolled Students Must Be Familiar

Policy	Location
Common Ground Professionalism Initiative	MSUCOM CGPI Site
Computer-Based Testing	Student Handbook - CBT Policy
Disability & Reasonable Accommodation	Student Handbook - Diversity and Inclusion

Policy	Location
iClicker	Student Handbook - Information Technology Resources
Medical Students Rights and Responsibilities	Office of Spartan Experiences Site
MSUCOM Academic Code of Professional Ethics	Student Handbook - Academic Code of Professional Ethics
Osteopathic Clinical Training & Student Safety	Student Handbook - Osteopathic Clinical Training & Student Safety
Preclerkship Attendance & Absences	Student Handbook - Attendance & Absences
Pregnancy and Pregnancy-Related Conditions	Pregnancy and Parenting Information Office for Civil Rights and Title IX
Relationship Violence & Sexual Misconduct & Title IX	Office for Civil Rights & Title IX Education & Compliance Site
Religious Observance Policy	Office of the Registrar Site
Remediation	Student Handbook - Remediation
Student Handbook	Student Handbook

Student Feedback

MSUCOM values student feedback, using this to model practice-based learning and improvement and to promote continuous quality improvement of learning experiences.

Route	Description
Informal	We invite you to respectfully provide constructive suggestions to Course Directors, Contributing Faculty, or Curriculum Assistants at any time.
Formal	MSUCOM will deploy brief surveys through Medtrics to gain feedback on the Course, Course Directors and Contributing Faculty. Additionally, MSU sends an optional Student Perceptions of Learning Survey (SPLS) to enrolled students at the conclusion of each course to gain feedback on the course and Course Directors.

Course Schedule and Changes to Schedule or Requirements

Due to external circumstances (e.g., weather/maintenance closures, clinical obligations, student cohort needs, etc.), course requirements published in the course syllabus and/or course

schedule may be subject to change. Timely communication regarding changes will be provided to enrolled students via the course [D2L](#) site, [Google Calendar](#), and/or [MSU email](#). Contact curriculum assistants with questions. Any changes made will be considerate of the [MSU Code of Teaching Responsibility](#) and the [Medical Students Rights and Responsibilities](#).

Addendum: Course Schedule

Updated 06.04.25

Date	Time	Topic/Title	Theme	Faculty	Event Type	Venue (Origin*)	Notes
TBD by agreement between faculty advisor and student	TBD by agreement between faculty advisor and student	TBD by agreement between faculty advisor and student	TBD by agreement between faculty advisor and student	TBD	TBD by agreement between faculty advisor and student	TBD by agreement between faculty advisor and student	As specified by the faculty advisor