

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
LI KA SHING FACULTY OF MEDICINE**

Department of Pathology
Postgraduate Diploma in Molecular and Diagnostic Pathology (PDipMDPath)

Credit Unit Statement

The two-year Postgraduate Diploma in Molecular and Diagnostic Pathology (“PDipMDPath”) curriculum consists of three different types of courses according to the modes of learning. Taking reference from the norm for a 9-credit course as to embrace 180-270 hours of student learning activity (including both contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity), the majority of courses are 9-credit (180-270 learning hours). Candidates should satisfy the examiners in all continuous assessments and/or written examination. PATH6006 and PATH6009 are assessed through coursework assessment (100%) and PATH6008 is assessed through examination (100%). The remaining courses are assessed through examination (0-60% for Molecular Pathology Courses and 0-50% for Diagnostic Pathology Courses) and coursework assessment (40-100% for Molecular Pathology Courses and 50-100% for Diagnostic Pathology Courses). The three categories of the PDipMDPath courses are summarized as follows:

1. *Molecular Pathology courses* (9 credits)

These courses focus on theories, concepts of molecular pathology and genetics, and the various molecular techniques used for molecular diagnostics. After completion of the Molecular Pathology Modules, the student should be able to know when the relevant molecular tests should be considered and what materials should be used for the analysis; to understand what the test results convey and appreciate the pitfalls and possible limitations of the various molecular techniques used; to know how to identify individuals or families who will benefit from molecular testing; to understand how genetic testing can help patients and families through prophylactic screening and treatment; to discuss the interpretation of molecular test results with patients and clinical colleagues; and to apply understanding of laboratory management issues to improving utilization of resources at their workplace.

They are taught predominantly through lectures, supplemented by tutorials/practical demonstration, site visits, and test/self-assessment exercises. Assessment will be conducted through continuous assessment (40-100%) (including self-assessment exercises, participation forum, group discussions, and performance in class) and written examinations (0-60%), except PATH6009 which is assessed through coursework assessment (100%) only. Outputs include test performance and assignments which have no word requirement.

2. *Diagnostic Pathology courses* (9 credits)

These courses focus on theories, and concepts of up-to-date practical knowledge on diagnostic tests for scientists, laboratory managers and clinicians. After completion of the Diagnostic Pathology Modules, the student will be able to select and interpret chemical pathology and immunology tests for diagnosis and management of patients; to interpret basic haematology and transfusion serology test results for diagnosis and monitoring of diseases and handling transfusion needs of patients; to better understand histology and cytology reports and to know when and what further investigations may be needed; to appreciate the role and limitations of ancillary tests in assisting with diagnosis – frozen section, sentinel lymph node biopsy, FNA cytology, immunohistochemistry; and to apply understanding of laboratory management issues to improving the cost-effective use of laboratory services.

They are taught predominantly through lectures), supplemented by tutorials/practical demonstration, site visits , and test/self-assessment exercises. Assessment is conducted through continuous assessment (0-50%) (including self-assessment exercises, participation forum, group discussions, and performance in class) and written examinations (50-100%), except PATH6008 is assessed through examination (100%) only. Outputs may include test performance and assignments which have no word requirement.

3. *Capstone Project Report* (18 credits)

For the fulfillment of Postgraduate Diploma in Molecular and Diagnostic Pathology, candidates who have opted for the project track are required to submit a capstone project report of at least 3,000 words which should be clinical and/or laboratory based and to be conducted over a period of at least 3 months within the candidate's own hospital or practice. The write-up of the report entails 360-540 learning hours and should reflect an application of knowledge acquired from the course. The candidate is expected to design the capstone project related to his/her practice and have it conducted from his/her workplace. Students are required to consult their assigned supervisor for guidance in the selection of topic and writing of the project report.

The following table summarizes the three categories of courses under the PDipMDPath curriculum:

Nature of courses	Credits	Hours	Outputs	Assessment
Molecular Pathology (MP) Courses (i.e. PATH6001, PATH6002, PATH6003, PATH6007 & PATH6009)	9	180-270	Assignment, case studies/practicals, test, self-assessment exercises, participation forum	40% coursework assessment, 60% examination (Except PATH6009, which is assessed through coursework assessment only (100%))
Diagnostic Pathology (DP) Courses (i.e. PATH6004, PATH6005 & PATH6008)	9	180-270	Examination	50% coursework assessment, 50% examination (Except PATH6008, which is assessed through examination only (100%))
Capstone Project Report (CPR) (i.e. PATH6006)	18	360-540	A capstone project report (of at least 3,000 words)	100% Capstone Project
Total Learning Hours (Project Track: 3 MP + 2 DP + 1 CPR) or Course Track: 5 MP + 2 DP)		1260-1890		
Total Contact Hours		168		