



The Physician Scientist Training Program (M.D./Ph.D. Program)

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine



The M.D./Ph.D. Program at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) was established to train outstanding, dedicated, military officers as independent physician-scientists to carry out both clinical investigations and biomedical research in the basic sciences. The Program combines a rigorous basic science graduate curriculum with outstanding clinical training, and special integrated M.D./Ph.D. activities that qualify students for careers in academic medicine, biomedical and clinical research, as well as clinical practice.

The decision to enter this Program is formidable and requires the student to dedicate 7-8 years to complete this challenging combination of medical and scientific training. Entering students must demonstrate a high level of preparedness, outstanding academic credentials, motivation and commitment to the goals of the Program. Matriculants to the M.D./Ph.D. Program must maintain all requirements necessary to be commissioned into the United States military throughout the Ph.D. portion of his/her training.

Financial Support and Military Service

Students admitted to the M.D./Ph.D. Program will receive a graduate stipend from the Graduate Program for the first three years. In most cases, the M.D./Ph.D. student will be commissioned in the United States military as an O-1, at the end of the third year in the program. Commissioning will mark the beginning of the student's military service.

Application and Admission Procedures

Applicants interested in the M.D./Ph.D. Program apply through AMCAS as well as submitting a USU Ph.D. Program application which is online (GRE scores not required) to the Graduate Office. The M.D. Admissions Office will review the AMCAS application and secondary materials in consideration for an interview invitation. The Admissions Committee of the appropriate Graduate Program will review the graduate application and determine if the applicant is acceptable for consideration for the Ph.D. Program. These reviews are done independently by both Committees.

The Curriculum

The curriculum combines and integrates the requirements for both the M.D. and the Ph.D. degrees. The M.D./Ph.D. Program consists of three phases to be completed in seven to eight years. The first Program phase will generally 18 months (Pre-clerkship). After taking NBLE Step 1, the student will enter the PhD training period. The first three years will be completed as a civilian, under the guidance of the Graduate Program Associate Dean, thesis advisor, and M.D./Ph.D. Advisory Committee. Advanced PhD courses and the qualifying examination for advancement to candidacy will be taken usually during the summer after 3rd year and a doctoral thesis proposal subsequently submitted to the thesis advisory committee. In addition, s/he will be commissioned into the United States military and will attend Officer Basic Training during this period. As a uniformed officer, the student will complete the remaining requirements of the Medical School curriculum and will also continue to spend significant time on thesis research, submit and then defend his/her doctoral dissertation. S/he will be awarded the PhD after his/her private and oral defenses.

The final phase of the M.D./Ph.D. Program begins with the Clerkships. The student will return to full participation in the Medical School curriculum and complete 3 Clerkships (12 months), participate in the Bench to Bedside Program and complete the medical degree requirements with 8 weeks of Advanced Clinical Rotations. After satisfactory completion of all requirements, the student will be awarded the M.D. degree; the PhD (awarded after completion) will also be publically presented, and the officer will be promoted to an O-3 at Commencement.

Contacts: Office of Medical School Admissions 1-800-772-1743 or admissions@usuhs.edu
Office of Graduate Education 1-800-772-1747 or graduateprogram@usuhs.edu