THE PROGRAM

The Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB) Graduate Program at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston offers intellectual training to help you explore new concepts in biology, develop novel therapeutic strategies and push back the limits of modern biological technologies. Our scientists tackle a broad spectrum of fundamental and applied projects such as using computational and biophysical analyses to reveal how DNA binding proteins find their targets, and using biochemical and cellular assays in the design of new anti-viral drugs and vaccines.

The BMB Program is tailored to develop strong verbal, written and analytical skills. Problem-solving, critical analysis and creativity are promoted through a combination of advanced course work and professional research training, in a high faculty-to-student ratio setting. We aim to develop graduate students into strong, independent and versatile researchers who will conceive and execute projects of their own design in an area that most interests them, such as:

- Mechanisms of Disease
- Structural Biology
- Biophysics
- Molecular Virology
- Computational Biology
- DNA Repair
- RNA biology
- Cancer Biology
- Molecular Genetics
- Drug Development
- Bioinformatics
- Proteomics and Genomics

Molecular Biophysics Educational Track (MBET)

This educational track within BMB is for students with undergraduate training in physics, chemistry, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science who wish to study biomedical problems. MBET is a unique opportunity to apply principles of physics, chemistry, and mathematics to cutting edge problems in biomedicine.

Community

BMB students participate in a dynamic Biochemistry Student Organization (BCSO). BCSO organizes the Pioneering Biological Discovery Seminar Series, where students invite speakers and have the opportunity to meet with individuals who are leaders in their fields. The group also sponsors social and educational events, and fosters charitable activities. For more info on BMB student life, visit http://scsb.utmb.edu/bsco/.

Please refer to the General Information Catalog section for Graduate Requirements for Admission available at https://www.utmb.edu/enrollmentservices/catalog.asp
MISSION

UTMB Health Mission Statement: UTMB’s mission is to improve health for the people of Texas and around the world by offering innovative education and training, pursuing cutting edge research and providing the highest quality patient care.

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Mission Statement: The mission promotes the advancement of human understanding and knowledge in health-related disciplines through scholarly teaching and research in the biomedical sciences. Foremost, the Graduate School embraces excellence in all of its academic pursuits and activities. Academic curricula and programs are available that emphasize developing individual leadership, communication, motivation, and scholarship to meet the challenges of today’s society.

PROGRAM FACTS

Curriculum:
- **Year 1:**
  - the Basic Biomedical Science Curriculum (BBSC) foundation courses covering Biochemistry, Cell Biology, Molecular Biology & Genetics, and Ethics
  - up to four eight-week rotations in laboratories of your interest
  - selection of your faculty mentor
- **Year 2:**
  - tailored elective courses to provide the knowledge base for your continued research
  - beginning to design and execute a research project based upon your interests
  - qualifying exam where you will present and orally defend an NIH-style proposal based on your research project
- **Year 3:**
  - working on your dissertation research
  - presentation of your work at student seminars, local, national and international meetings

Benefits:
Eligible students can qualify for a package that includes a graduate assistant salary of $31,000 in addition to comprehensive health insurance coverage. Other benefits include paid tuition and fees, free membership to the campus fitness center, and several others.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- To be considered for admission to the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology PhD Program, applicants must provide proof of a Baccalaureate degree with a strong background in physics, a biological science or chemistry at an accredited university, college or institution. Laboratory course work in biology or chemistry is required. Equivalent degrees and training will also be considered
- Each graduate program has specific requirements, but common factors considered by the admissions committee include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Undergraduate overall and upper division GPA (above 3.0 preferred)
  - A minimum score on the TOEFL of 550 (paper), 213 (computer-based), or 80 (internet-based), or a minimum score of 6.5 on the IELTS for applicants whose native language is not English
  - Research or other relevant experience
  - Letters of reference
  - Background for and commitment to a career of scholarly endeavor in the field of study
- Final recommendations by the graduate program faculty are based on competitive evaluation of the qualifications of the applicant plus consideration of the availability of space and resources

WHY UTMB?
One of the lowest cost programs in Texas
- Small class sizes
- Low faculty-to-student ratio (1:1)
- Face-to-face courses (No online classes)

Tuition and Fees
https://www.utmb.edu/enrollment/services/future-students/tuition-and-fees

Scholarships Available
https://www.utmb.edu/enrollment/services/resources/scholarships

ADA information
Contact: Lela Lockett-Ware, OTR Student ADA Coordinator
lvelockett@utmb.edu (409) 747-4818

Accreditation: UTMB Health at Galveston is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the baccalaureate, masters, doctoral, and professional degrees

Nondiscrimination, Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action
The University of Texas Medical Branch, in compliance with applicable federal laws and regulations, strives to maintain an environment free from discrimination against individuals on the basis of race, color, national origin (including pregnancy), age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, or veteran status. This includes, but is not limited to, academic program admissions, employment, financial aid, health care services, educational services, and access to UTMB programs, facilities, or services. This applies to all employees and students, and anyone who utilizes UTMB facilities.

https://www.utmb.edu/enrollment/services/future-students/tuition-and-fees
https://www.utmb.edu/enrollment/services/resources/scholarships
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