The Cell Biology Graduate Program (GBGP) is multidisciplinary, with faculty members from almost all the departments throughout the UTMB campus. The CBGP is designed to provide academic and research skills necessary to develop and investigate hypotheses regarding all aspects of Cell and Molecular biology.

The program strives to:

- Impart a foundation of knowledge about the basic science underlying our understanding of how cells, tissues, and organs function;
- Foster an integrated education that includes projects which focus on molecular, cellular, and whole-animal systems;
- Provide laboratory experiences that allows students to conduct independent research and contribute to our knowledge base;
- Impart advanced academic skills of grant writing and effective oral communication of original research.

The curriculum emphasizes the development of research and communication skills. It provides a strong background in cell and molecular biology, with opportunities to pursue specific interests in greater depth. Students will be at the vanguard of current research topics and techniques, and may choose from a wide variety of research concentrations such as:

- Neuronal cell biology: development, trauma, regeneration, neurodegenerative diseases, vision;
- Reproductive/Placental cell biology: hormonal, growth factor and extracellular vesicle signaling;
- Neuroimmunology;
- Nutrition and metabolism;
- Stem cells/wound healing/cancer;
- Infectious and immune diseases/role of Microbiota;
- Organ response to drugs and toxins.

The Cell Biology Graduate Students elect officers to represent the Society of Cell Biology graduate students (SoCB), which organizes several events including an annual Cell Biology Symposium and monthly journal clubs. After taking the Basic Biomedical Science Curriculum courses during the first year, students advance to taking courses in cell biology and their chosen specialty. Upon completion of course work (usually in the spring semester of year 2), students undertake comprehensive qualifying examinations as part of the requirement for admission to candidacy, and begin dissertation research. It is expected that during the fifth year, students will complete their dissertation research, and successfully defend their research and graduate from the school with a PhD degree.

The track record of our students has remained excellent over the years. The majority of the students in the Program graduate with a PhD degree within 4-5 years of joining UTMB, with multiple publications, and become gainfully employed by industry/university/medical school/NIH/journal or patent offices, within a few months of graduation.

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

- The Cell Biology Graduate Program (CBGP) is housed in the Department of Neuroscience, Cell Biology, & Anatomy. The CBGP cooperates with the MD/PhD program for students seeking joint degrees.
- Degree Requirements include:
  - Two years of coursework covering subjects such as:
    - Lab Rotations
    - Cell Biology
    - Molecular Biology and Genetics
    - Biostatistics
    - Bioinformatics
    - Biochemistry
  - Six hours of Elective Courses
  - Written and oral qualifying examinations
  - Completion of an original research project resulting in a dissertation
  - An oral presentation and defense of the dissertation project
- Students in the CBGP are required to take a minimum of 9 credit hours per term and should maintain a grade of B or higher in all required courses

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.

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)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- To be considered for admission to the PhD Cell Biology Graduate Program in UTMB’s Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, applicants must provide proof of a bachelor’s degree, graduate degree, or first professional degree (e.g., MD, DDS, JD) from a regionally accredited college or university in the United States, or proof of equivalent degree and training from an acceptable foreign institution of higher education
- 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

For more information or to apply, please visit: https://gsbs.utmb.edu
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
(409) 772-2665  |  gsbsrecr@utmb.edu
301 University Blvd., Galveston, TX 77555-1050

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

Scholarships Available
https://www.utmb.edu/enrollmentservices/resources/scholarships

ADA information
Contact: Lela Lockett-Ware, OTR Student ADA Coordinator
lrockett@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

Non-discrimination, 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, sex (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.