MD-PhD Combined Degree Program

THE PROGRAM

The MD-PhD Program at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) is designed to educate clinician-scientists who are equally at home at the patient’s bedside and in the research lab. The program features an integrated MD-PhD curriculum combining aspects of both the medical school and graduate school experiences to optimize the education of physician-scientists.

The medical school curriculum at UTMB is centered around systems-based modules with an emphasis on small group and self-learning. This curriculum allows for an unprecedented opportunity to incorporate special seminars and courses tailored specifically for needs of the combined degree student. This is ideal for the education of MD-PhD students as it integrates the two education tracks with a view toward shortening the time spent in classrooms and speeding the entry of the MD-PhD student into the research phase of his/her training. This truly innovative curriculum fosters the cross-pollination of ideas and helps bridge the gap between basic research and clinical practice.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Summer Prior to Year 1: Research rotation

Year 1: First year medical school curriculum plus supplemental graduate courses that complement the medical school curriculum

Summer after year 1: Research rotation

Year 2: Second year medical school curriculum; USMLE Step 1 taken at the end of 2nd year; a third research rotation is an option at the end of year 2, or the student may begin dissertation research

Year 3: Dissertation research plus completion of remaining graduate school courses; qualifying exams are typically taken at the end of year 3

Year 4: Dissertation research

Year 5: Dissertation research; dissertation is defended at end of the 5th year or beginning of 6th year

Years 6-7: Required medical school clinical clerkships and clinical electives

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

School of Medicine: Founded in 1891, UTMB is the oldest medical school in Texas and combines its rich history of service with a forward-thinking spirit to fulfill its role as a public trust for the people of Texas and beyond. The School of Medicine at UTMB has trained more Texas physicians than any other medical school. With 20 departments and four institutes, UTMB’s School of Medicine is a leader in medical school education, translational research, and clinical care. https://som.utmb.edu

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences: Students in the MD-PhD Program choose to perform their research in one of the PhD programs in the Graduate School. These are competitive, rigorous programs with strong national and international reputations. https://gsbs.utmb.edu

Programs:
- Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
- Cell Biology
- Clinical Science
- Experimental Pathology
- Medical Humanities
- Microbiology & Immunology
- Neuroscience
- Pharmacology & Toxicology
- Population Health Sciences
- Rehabilitation Sciences

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 MD-PhD Combined Degree Program:
- An application should be completed via the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS) web site. The application should contain a minimum of two letters of recommendation from individuals who can comment on the applicant’s abilities and achievements in research
- Applicants are required to take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) within the five years before application
- The Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) is not required for admission
- Applicants must complete the UTMB School of Medicine prerequisite requirements for admission; please reference the following website for further details: https://som.utmb.edu/admissions-information/admission-requirements
- Applicants are required to complete an online assessment Computer-Based Assessment for Sampling Personal Characteristics (CASPer) to assist with the selection process; successful completion of CASPer is mandatory in order to maintain admission eligibility
- Only applicants who are permanent US residents or American citizens will be considered for interview and admission

For more information or to apply, please visit: https://gsbs.utmb.edu
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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, age, sex, marital status, disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, veteran status, or 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.

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