Studying the nervous system, and in particular the human brain, is considered the ultimate scientific frontier of the 21st Century. In 2013, President Obama launched the US brain initiative that is already creating a revolution in neuroscience research by driving interdisciplinary collaborations and delivering new research tools on a massive scale. The Neuroscience Graduate Program (NGP), established in 1981, was the first NGP in Texas and is actively participating in this brain revolution by training Neuroscientists of the future to work in academia, private brain institutes and neuro-technology companies.

Our program offers several unique strengths in neuroscience, with its training in cutting-edge techniques in molecular biology, brain imaging and electrophysiology. We utilize these tools to study normal nervous function as well as the neurobiology of pain and neurodegenerative disorders, drug addiction and other mental illnesses. We offer many exciting graduate neuroscience courses, and in addition, all NGP students undergo intensive training in human neuroanatomy using human brain specimens. There is also opportunity to gain teaching experience training first year medical students in neuroanatomy.

We have a strong student organization and a community outreach program that includes the Galveston Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience, nationally recognized in 2015 by the Chapter-of-the year award.

PROGRAM:

**Year 1:** All first-year students undertake the integrated Basic Biomedical Science Curriculum (BBSC), which incorporates three foundation courses in biochemistry, cell biology, molecular biology and genetics, along with a series of 8-week integrative electives, laboratory rotations, and a set of specialized courses and activities.

**Year 2:** By the beginning of the second year, students will choose a neuroscience faculty member with whom they plan to do their dissertation research. To facilitate this important selection, students are encouraged to begin thinking about it upon arrival at UTMB. The BBSC orientation course, seminars, classroom sessions, and lab rotations provide adequate introduction to many faculty. However, students should feel free to visit with faculty privately to discuss their work, and seek advice from the program director and program advisory committee.

During the first five terms (about 20 months), students acquire a strong general knowledge of basic biomedical sciences, as well as in-depth knowledge of neuroscience and extensive lab experience. Students select a mentor and after successfully passing the written qualifying exam, enter “Research” to pursue advanced study.

**Year 3 onward:** Within one year of the qualifying exam, students are expected to develop a Dissertation Proposal and prepare it in NIH R01 grant application format. This task is conducted under the supervision of the Faculty Advisor and a Supervisory Committee. As their research progresses, students gain speaking and teaching experience by giving annual seminars under the direct supervision and evaluation of the NGP faculty. Students may also serve as laboratory assistants in the UTMB School of Medicine Neuroscience and Human Behavior course. Finally, their research culminates in a Dissertation, which constitutes an original and independently achieved contribution to knowledge.

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

- Established in 1981: The first PhD Neuroscience program in Texas
- Degree Requirements include:
  - Two years of coursework covering subjects such as:
    - Neuronal Transmission
    - Neuronal Excitability
    - Biostatistics
    - Cell Biology
    - Biochemistry
    - Integrative Neuroscience
    - Laboratory Rotations
  - Written and oral qualifying examinations
  - Completion of original research project resulting in an oral presentation and defense of the dissertation project
  - Students in the Neuroscience Graduate Program 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 of the program

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)

 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
llockett@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

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- To be considered for admission to the PhD Program in Neuroscience in UTMB's Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, applicants must provide proof of a baccalaureate degree from an 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)
  - Prerequisite coursework which for NGP includes Differential and Integral Calculus, General Physics, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry and Biology
  - 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
- 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

utmb Health

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH AT GALVESTON

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.