The University of Texas Medical Branch offers unprecedented opportunities for training and career development in Pharmacology & Toxicology. With the growing need for therapeutics against human diseases, Pharmacology & Toxicology is taking center stage among biomedical sciences. A PhD in Pharmacology & Toxicology offers opportunity for advanced studies in the field of drug discovery, ranging from identification of new targets for therapeutic development to clinical trials that precede drug marketing. Because of its interdisciplinary nature and close connection with industry, training in Pharmacology & Toxicology will equip graduates with diverse technical skills and instill a rigorous approach to science, while promoting independent thinking and an entrepreneurial spirit.

Our program includes 16 students and 33 graduate faculty. Our students are members of the Pharmacology & Toxicology Student Organization (PTSO), responsible for planning annual events such as the Student Meet and Greet, and the Summer Symposium. Our graduate program is largely housed in the Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology, which works closely with specialized Centers including 1) the Center for Addiction Research, conducting cutting edge behavioral and neuropharmacological research related to abused drugs, 2) the Sealy Center for Cancer Cell Biology, focusing on applying advanced “omics” approaches to unravel the epigenome of tumors and solve problems in oncology, 3) the Center for Environmental Toxicology, engaging in basic and translational research linking environmental toxin exposure to human health and 4) the Chemical Biology Program, which includes medicinal chemistry as an approach to create new probes, leads, and drugs. A number of our Faculty are members of and work closely with the Sealy Center for Structural Biology and the Sealy Center for Vaccine Development, which offer additional opportunities for training in the areas of biophysics, computational chemistry, and vaccine development. We have two NIH funded T32 training grants, addiction and in Environmental Toxicology, that are available to our students. These provide specialized training and infrastructure for career development. In addition, UTMB is part of the Gulf Coast Consortium that offers additional intra-institutional T32 training grants in areas of research from computational biology to pharmacology.

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

The PHTO curriculum provides a perspective on development of new therapeutics, spanning from target identification for drug development, to preclinical and clinical studies for drug discovery.

Degree Requirements include:

- Coursework covering subjects such as:
  - Molecular pharmacology of cancer
  - Neuro- and behavioral pharmacology of drug abuse and mental health disorders
  - Environmental and molecular toxicology
  - Structural biology of receptor and enzyme proteins
  - Vaccine development
  - Drug design and organic synthesis

- Written and oral qualifying examinations
- Completion of original research project resulting in a dissertation
- An oral presentation and defense of the dissertation project

Benefits:

Eligible students can qualify for a package that includes a graduate assistant salary of $31,000 per year 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 Pharmacology & Toxicology PhD Program, applicants must provide proof of a degree in a Biomedical-related field: biology, pharmacology, chemistry, neuroscience, bioengineering, and psychology. Applicants with backgrounds in other areas will be considered if their education, experience and interests are suitable to program faculty

- Each graduate program has specific requirements, but common factors considered by the admissions committee include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Preferred minimum grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale)
  - Previous laboratory experience is desirable, but not required
  - Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score within the last five years
  - 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
  - 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

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 lvlocket@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

For more information or to apply, please visit: https://gsbs.utmb.edu
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