THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH AT GALVESTON

Rehabilitation Sciences Program

PhD

The Graduate Program in Rehabilitation Sciences provides advanced education for individuals who wish to conduct research in rehabilitation, disability and/or recovery. The growing population of older adults and people with disabilities has elevated the need for outcomes research to reduce and prevent disability, and to advance evidence-based health care in rehabilitation.

Through interdisciplinary experiences, including a solid theoretical and methodological foundation in clinical and community health-related rehabilitation services, students receive advanced training in rehabilitation sciences, including assessment, development, restoration, and maintenance of independent function in people with disabilities. Rehabilitation sciences also includes methods to prevent disability, examining adaptation to functional impairments, and disability and social/environmental limitations. Research programs range from examining the role of physical activity and nutrition in maintaining or improving functional independence across the lifespan, to the impact of healthcare reform on the experiences and outcomes of older adults with chronic health conditions. The PhD program is intended for individuals who have a degree in a health or disability-related field and have a commitment to a career in research related to physical activity and recovery from injury or disease.

DUAL DEGREE OPTIONS

Students applying to or currently enrolled in the rehabilitation sciences PhD program are eligible to apply to the MPH program. Prospective students must complete the application requirements for both programs. Current students should consult their PhD advisor before applying to the MPH program.

Students enrolled in the MD/PhD combined degree program may select the rehabilitation sciences PhD as their graduate option. MD/PhD students complete full-time graduate coursework during years three and four of the combined program.

SUPPORT

Students enrolled full-time in the Rehabilitation Sciences PhD Program may qualify for an annual salary. Support is based upon availability of funds and will be determined once an application has been recommended for acceptance. Funding is provided from a variety of sources including external research and training grants, the Center for Recovery, Physical Activity and Nutrition, and various endowments.

The Rehabilitation Sciences Program is administered by the Division of Rehabilitation Sciences in the School of Health Professions, in collaboration with the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health.

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

https://www.utmb.edu/rehabsciences/phd-program rehab.info@utmb.edu 409-747-1637
**Course Requirements:** After admission, students work with a faculty advisor to organize a plan of study that will provide the student with the assessment and research skills needed to advance knowledge in rehabilitation sciences. Students with a Master’s degree typically complete didactic coursework equivalent to two years of study, plus a dissertation. Students with a Bachelor’s degree may be required to complete additional coursework to prepare them for the qualifying exam and to begin work on their dissertation.

**Examinations:** Following the completion of course work, students must pass written and oral qualifying examinations that test their knowledge regarding rehabilitation healthcare, preventive and community health and research design.

**Dissertations:** After successfully completing the qualifying exam requirements, the student will present their research proposal to advance to doctoral candidacy, and complete the dissertation. The dissertation will be innovative work examining an important question related to prevention or remediation of disability, the role of physical activity and/or nutrition in the recovery of function, or examination of rehabilitation and health services outcomes in those with disability/chronic conditions.

**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](https://www.utmb.edu/enrollmentservices/future-students/tuition-and-fees)

**Scholarships Available**

[https://www.utmb.edu/enrollmentservices/resources/scholarships](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.

**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**

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

- To be considered for admission to the Rehabilitation Sciences PhD Program, applicants must provide proof of a degree in a rehabilitation-related field: rehabilitation medicine/science, physical and occupational therapy, nursing, neuroscience, exercise sciences, kinesiology, bioengineering, human factor engineering/design, or rehabilitation/clinical psychology. Applicants with backgrounds in other areas may 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 clinical or healthcare experience
  - Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score within the last five years. No waivers are granted
  - 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
- 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](https://gsbs.utmb.edu)
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

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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 (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.