GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT STARTING GRADUATE SCHOOL

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences:
4.429 William C. Levin Hall (10th & Market)
Galveston, Texas
409-772-2665 / 1-877-GAL-GSBS
http://gsbs.utmb.edu/
NOW THAT YOU HAVE ACCEPTED THE OFFER OF ADMISSION TO GSBS, WHAT’S NEXT?

NEW STUDENT CHECKLIST

Enrollment Services is your one-stop shop for starting your graduate career at UTMB Health. Visit their website – [http://www.utmb.edu/enrollmentservices/](http://www.utmb.edu/enrollmentservices/) (Select Future Students) to see all of the things you must handle.

Time sensitive documents are required: Review the checklist ASAP and complete the necessary forms etc. so you can register and begin classes on time.

All areas on the checklist are not addressed in this booklet. The purpose here is to elaborate or provide additional information on a particular area. **It is not to replace but to serve as an addendum to that material.**

mySTAR

mySTAR is the UTMB control panel, which stands for my Systems, Tools and Resources. You will use mySTAR to register for classes, apply for financial aid, view/request academic records, along with planning tools. See bottom for helpful tips of navigating and frequently asked questions.

It is so popular it deserves a place on your favorites. **Bookmark it!**

[mystar.utmb.edu](http://mystar.utmb.edu)

The “Student Center” will get you to a number of other tabs. You are encouraged to make sure it contains accurate information. This is the location you will find your student identification number, which is asked on many of the forms you need to complete. It’s also the spot to check your schedule, view/change personal information, holds, and other things.

UTMB e-MAIL ACCOUNT

Once you log in, pay particular attention to the message in the box. Submit the nondisclosure form to get your user name and to get your UTMB Health e-mail account activated. If you have any troubles or need your password reset, contact the IS Help Desk (409-772-5200).
Important Note: Be sure to check it often as it will be inactivated due to inactivity if no log-in happens for 90 days. Official communication will be sent to your UTMB e-mail account only!

ORIENTATION

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) is formally held for Fall admissions only. If you have been admitted in a different term, you will be invited to the next one. It is highly encouraged that you attend, and a great way to meet your classmates.

Graduate students will be required to complete an online orientation, as well as other required compliance trainings. The link to it will appear be on your checklist within Student Center once available.

FALL 2019 ORIENTATION DATES:

August 24 (Saturday) Proud Parents Reception
This will be held at Galveston Island Convention Center, 5600 Sewall Boulevard, Galveston, TX 77551 / 866-505-4566.

AND

August 26 All-Schools Orientation (8am-1:15pm)
August 26-27 GSBS Orientation
Both will be held on the main UTMB Health campus in Galveston (10th & Market, William C. Levin Hall Main Auditorium).

Orientation Schedule:

As soon as the activities are finalized, the detailed topics for each day will be in the Announcements section on the GSBS main webpage and on the Student Life webpage.

Welcome Back Week: September 16 – 20, 2019 [more details to come]
EMPLOYMENT AND HIRING

All students in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences are required to successfully complete a criminal background check, clear a drug test, and verify that you are legally authorized to work. Your admission is not finalized until these conditions are also met.

Students receiving an assistantship will handle these requirements by our Human Resources department. Students who are not on a salary will utilize CastleBranch, the vendor that provides these screening services for UTMB for background check and drug testing. In early July, the Graduate School will send an eVite link to your UTMB email account to begin that process for those not on salary.

Students are responsible for the costs and activities associated with their CastleBranch account. Students retain access to their account information after graduating from their school or program.

Steps to follow to be appointed as an employee at UTMB Health are handled by the program that sponsored your admissions, not the Graduate School. Students hired as an employee fall under the category of a Graduate Assistant title.

Your program coordinator or their administrator will contact you to tell you what paperwork to complete and that entire process. Estimated time for them to be in touch with you is around early July if entering in the Fall term (November, Spring; April, Summer). If that has not happened, contact your program coordinator.

Consult with your program coordinator to determine when you may need to be in Galveston to take care of all necessary hiring procedures for your appointment as an employee of UTMB Health. You will be asked to submit an online employment application and sign a letter of offer. It is highly encouraged that your scheduled appointment with the New Employee Welcome Center in Human Resources be at least 5 days prior to your start date.

For Ph.D. Nursing students, the procedure is different and you should contact your program coordinator for instructions.

Once all of your personnel matters are cleared, your UTMB identification badge can be issued. You are required to wear your identification badge at all times when on campus; your badge also provides you access to certain buildings.

For Fall admissions, your photo is taken during school orientation and badge is provided at the end of that week. For other terms, badges are coordinated by the program. Your badge should have both your employee and student identification numbers on it.
PROGRAMS, CALENDARS, AND HANDBOOKS

Start first at the GSBS site – http://gsbs.utmb.edu/. Then depending on what you’re looking for, below are the paths to follow.

GSBS Graduate Programs:  Current Students > Programs and Curricula

GSBS Academic Calendars:  Current Students > Academic Calendar

The upcoming dates are provided below for quick notation, but are subject to change so refer to information posted online.

- **Fall 2019**: September 3, 2019 – December 20, 2019
- **Spring 2020**: January 6, 2020 – April 24, 2020
- **Summer 2020**: May 4, 2020 – August 14, 2020

GSBS Handbooks:  Current Students > Handbooks, Policies & Procedures

Program Coordinators:  GSBS > Deans and Staff

COURSE SCHEDULE

Look at https://gsbs.utmb.edu/current-students/programs-and-curricula/gsbs-course-offerings-by-program to find a list of all course offerings in the Graduate School for each program. Use it to help plan when you’ll take courses.

Consult with your program that sponsored your admission to determine which courses are recommended that you take, course load, curriculum requirements, and whether you have been preregistered. Some programs may have already handled it for you but you should verify that is the case. Ask your coordinator – locate email address from the list is at https://gsbs.utmb.edu/home/deans-and-staff/program-coordinators.

You should verify every term that you are enrolled and officially taking the appropriate courses applicable to your degree plan. You can check that in the Student Center within mySTAR.

**Important Note**: The courses listed on “Your Schedule” within mySTAR may indicate a general scheme when classes are held, but there may be possibly other off-sequence dates when lectures or other assignments occur. Therefore, you should always refer to the syllabus that is sent to your UTMB email account by the program teaching the course or posted on Blackboard.
Any changes to current registration are done on-line using UTMB mySTAR (Student Center > Enrollment) if done prior to the full-term drop/add date on the GSBS calendar. After that point, it must be done on paper.

To be considered full-term, you must be registered for a minimum of 9 credit hours each term. There are exceptions, so you must confirm with your program director.

**International Students Only** --- There will be at least one service indicator (i.e., hold) on your record preventing you from registering. Send an email to request an appointment with our Assistant Director of Student for Scholarships and Grants, Anne Hale (aehale@utmb.edu), to get your visa paperwork signed. You will need to bring your I20, visa, and I94 card. She is located on the 2nd floor “Old Red” in the Office of Enrollment Services. Once that is done, your F-1 hold will be cleared, and then you are to go online to mySTAR (Student Center > Enrollment) and get registered for the term.

**REGISTRATION**

Course registration is required for each term (3 times a year), you will register for courses via mySTAR. But before registration can happen, all official admission documents, health forms, and other required forms must be on file with Enrollment Services.

Registration for each term starts:  
- August 1   Fall  
- December 1   Spring  
- April 1   Summer

Registering for courses is possible provided there are no service indicators (i.e., holds) on your student records. It is your responsibility to make sure your schedule is accurate and that you get registered EACH term—-that means you enroll 3 times a year. You cannot register any earlier than the “open” dates indicated above for each term.

One item you might notice missing is a final, official transcript from a school currently attending (and/or foreign validation). You will need to request again for another official transcript be sent directly to Enrollment Services with all grades posted on it and with degree awarded, if applicable. If admission or other documents are not on file, students will have a “hold” (what is known as negative indicator) on their record which will prevent registration.

To access your student information via this portal, you must use your UTMB Health user name and password. If you do not know that information, contact the Information Services (IS) helpdesk (409-772-5200) to ask them to reset it for you. Numbers to contact them are on the log-in page of mySTAR. Also, it is important that you check your UTMB email account once established or it will be inactivated.
HEALTH INSURANCE

Another part of registration is verifying health insurance coverage. You are required to health insurance as a condition of enrollment and verify coverage every term (3 times/year). Information about this requirement can be found at: https://www.utmb.edu/enrollmentservices/home. Failure to verify health insurance will cause you to be dropped from your courses. You must handle this issue each registration period. Students on salary will have it through their UTMB employee appointment.

IMMUNIZATIONS

All students in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences are required to have certain immunizations, which is handled through the Student Health office at UTMB. This will appear on your checklist within Student Center and a guide for uploading immunizations requirements to Campus Solutions/mySTAR is online https://www.utmb.edu/studenthealth/. Your admission is not finalized until this condition is also met. Direct any questions to Student Health office.

TUITION AND FEES

If you will receive a Graduate Assistantship (i.e., salary), your tuition may be covered. You must confirm and coordinate with your program coordinator about this matter on whether you have to provide them with information. Sponsorship form to request payment through internal funding sources must be prepared and submitted by the payment deadline.

If you are responsible for paying them or are NOT awarded a salary, you must handle payment each term according to the posted deadlines. The rates can be found at https://www.utmb.edu/enrollmentservices/resources/studentaccounts/tuition-and-fee-sheets.

Payment Deadline – By the Friday before classes begin to avoid late fees, unless instructed otherwise. Methods of payment can be online or in-person at the Bursar’s office, 2nd floor Administration Building. Check GSBS Academic Calendar for specific date depending on term of matriculation.
BOOKSTORE

Textbooks can be purchased from the UTMB Bookstore located in the Moody Medical Library. Each term, you should hang on to your original receipts! For rebates and other information, check out their website https://utmbstore.com/. Requirements of textbooks by programs for each term are posted online, just prior to open registration date.

PARKING

You must be registered as a full-time student and have your identification badge before a parking tag can be obtained. Access to contract garages or lot parking requires a UTMB ID badge [as well as to the Alumni Field House and Library resources]. During Fall orientation, special arrangements are being arranged so students can pre-purchase hang tag/street side online and drive to pick up them up. See New Student Checklist for more information.

HOUSING

Other useful sites not on the Checklist to help locate your new home are as follows:

http://www.utmb.edu/utmbliving/

http://www.galvendailynews.com/

http://www.galveston.com/

http://www.galvestontx.gov/city_services/newresidents.cfm

http://gsbs.utmb.edu/ [Current Students > Handbooks, Policies & Procedures]

Seek advice from a current student before deciding where to live.
UPDATE PERSONAL INFORMATION

It is important that you update your records with your new local address and phone numbers. Keep in mind that this is information used by our campus operator and the addresses in these records are used for any correspondence mailed from Enrollment Services or UTMB Health.

You must go to each area below as they are in different systems, as indicated below; however, you will not be able to access the employee portal until your effective hire date.

1) Student – mySTAR (Student Center > Personal Information)

2) Employee – Click on “Emp Self Service / Paycheck”. A local address must be on file for payroll purposes so the appropriate state tax is applied and also in case anything is sent to you by postal mail. If on salary, we encourage signing up for direct deposit. Don’t forget about adding your emergency contact person and phone number for that individual.

TRANSPORTATION

Houston has two major commercial airports, both linked to Galveston by limousine service (information provided below). The closer of the two, Hobby Airport, is about an hour's drive up I-45. The other is Houston Intercontinental George Bush Airport which is about another hour further. Contact Galveston Limousine directly or book online at http://www.galvestonlimo.com/ [409-740-5466 / 8am-5:30pm Central / 1-800-640-4826]. Although this shuttle service is available, there are also taxis outside of the airport. Limo is most likely to be cheaper than paying for a taxi but that also depends on your destination. So check the pricing and schedule pick-up times for both options to see what works with your arrival etc. The shuttle is a van (either white or maroon) with "Galveston Limousine" written on the side. Confirm when making your reservation where you should meet the attendant. If you choose the limo, print the schedule so you have it during your travel.