



## The Physician Scientist Training Program (M.D./Ph.D. Program)

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences  
F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine



The M.D./Ph.D. Program at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) was established to train outstanding, dedicated, military officers as independent physician-scientists to carry out both clinical investigations and biomedical research in the basic sciences. The Program combines a rigorous basic science graduate curriculum with outstanding clinical training, and special integrated M.D./Ph.D. activities that qualify students for careers in academic medicine, biomedical and clinical research, as well as clinical practice.

The decision to enter this Program is formidable and requires the student to dedicate 7-8 years to complete this challenging combination of medical and scientific training. Entering students must demonstrate a high level of preparedness, outstanding academic credentials, motivation and commitment to the goals of the Program. Matriculants to the M.D./Ph.D. Program must maintain all requirements necessary to be commissioned into the United States military throughout the Ph.D. portion of his/her training.

### Financial Support and Military Service

Students admitted to M.D./Ph.D. Program will receive a graduate stipend from the Graduate Program for the first three years. In most cases, the M.D./Ph.D. student will be commissioned in the United States military as an O-1, at the end of the third year in the program. Commissioning will mark the beginning of the student's military service.

### Application and Admission Procedures

Applicants interested in the M.D./Ph.D. Program will first apply directly to the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine using the Association of American Medical Colleges Application Service (AMCAS). Applicants from whom a secondary application to the M.D. program is requested will indicate their interest in the M.D./Ph.D. Program and return a completed USU Ph.D. Program application (GRE scores not required) along with the secondary Medical School application materials. The Admissions Committee for the Medical School Program will review the application and, if deemed acceptable for admission into the M.D. Program, forward the file to the Graduate Education Office. The Admissions Committee of the appropriate Graduate Program will review the graduate application and determine if the applicant is acceptable for the Ph.D. Program. If the applicant is not accepted into a Ph.D. Program, they may continue the medical school application process.

### The Curriculum

The curriculum combines and integrates the requirements for both the M.D. and the Ph.D degrees. The M.D./Ph.D. Program consists of three phases to be completed in seven to eight years. The first or Graduate Program phase will generally last three years. The M.D./Ph.D. student will complete this initial phase as a civilian, under the guidance of the Graduate Program director, thesis advisor, and M.D./Ph.D. Advisory Committee. The student will complete all required courses for the Ph.D. during the first and second years and many of the courses required for the first 2 years of the Medical School curriculum. The qualifying examination for advancement to candidacy will be taken at the end of the second year and a doctoral thesis proposal subsequently submitted to the thesis advisory committee. The third year will be a research year.

The transition phase begins after the third year and will last two years. The student will complete all requirements to be commissioned in the United States military and will attend Officer Basic Training. As a uniformed officer, the student will complete the remaining requirements of the first and second years of the Medical School curriculum. The student will also continue to spend significant time on thesis research, finalize the thesis project, and prepare and defend his/her doctoral dissertation.

The final phase of the M.D./Ph.D. Program is the clinical phase over the 6-7<sup>th</sup> years of the Program. The student will begin full participation in the Medical School curriculum and complete all required clinical rotations and clerkships. Subsequent to the completion of all requirements, the student will be awarded both the M.D. and the Ph.D. degrees and commissioned as an active duty officer (O-3) at commencement.

**Contacts:** Office of Medical School Admissions 1-800-772-1743 or [admissions@usuhs.mil](mailto:admissions@usuhs.mil)  
Office of Graduate Education 1-800-772-1747 or [graduateprogram@usuhs.mil](mailto:graduateprogram@usuhs.mil)