

**UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

**M.D./Ph.D. PROGRAM**

Physician-scientists provide a critical link in translating the advances in basic research to clinical practice. Because of their in-depth clinical training, combined with extensive biomedical research training, M.D./Ph.D. scientists have a unique perspective with which to view medical problems and seek solutions. At the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) specialized training in interdisciplinary biomedical research and in clinical medicine prepares the student for this highly rewarding career.

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Six to eight years of academic study are usually required to complete the rigorous requirements of the M.D./Ph.D. program. Students must be admitted into the College of Medicine and into Graduate School through the Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (IBS) Ph.D. Program. The IBS Graduate Program spans multiple departments across the UAMS campus enabling students to conduct their graduate research training in a broad range of disciplines.

Enrolled students first complete the initial two preclinical years of the College of Medicine curriculum, then enter the Graduate School for the Ph.D. portion of their dual-degree training. The IBS Graduate Program and specialized Interdisciplinary Tracks provide them with in-depth and integrated training in focal areas of biomedical science under the guidance of their major advisor. Any member of the UAMS Graduate Faculty is eligible to serve as a major advisor for the Ph.D. training portion if they are affiliated with an IBS Interdisciplinary Track and have an active, funded research program.

Graduate training in the IBS Program is tailored to meet the individual interests and needs of the M.D./Ph.D. student. During this phase the student takes advanced course work, passes the Ph.D. candidacy examination, conducts original research under the direction of a faculty advisor, and writes and defends the dissertation. The IBS Graduate Ph.D. Program accepts credits earned in medical school for the preclinical basic science courses. Additional required courses include Scientific Communications and Ethics (Grant Writing), Biostatistics, Seminar and advanced courses, if required by the Interdisciplinary Tracks. While additional courses may be taken or prescribed, the focus of the graduate phase is on hands-on research training.

Before re-entering medical school for the last two years of clinical training, permission from the dissertation committee must be obtained. The curriculum for the remaining two years includes required and elective clinical courses. Senior research electives may be taken to complete graduate work. Dissertation credits will be earned during the clinical years until the dissertation defense examination is completed. Upon completion of all requirements, M.D./Ph.D. students are recognized at Commencement by receiving both the M.D. and Ph.D. degrees. College of Medicine and Graduate School standards of academic achievement apply separately for the M.D. and Ph.D. degrees; however, students are expected to maintain high academic standards at all times to remain

qualified for continued scholarship support.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

The M.D./Ph.D. Program is offered to a limited number of qualified students who have an exceptional potential for research. Qualified students applying to the UAMS College of Medicine may apply for this program at the time of their application. In addition, freshman (M1) or sophomore (M2) medical students may also apply. Enrollees are required to pass Step 1 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination at the conclusion of the sophomore year in order to begin full-time study in the Graduate School. The IBS Graduate Program and the Graduate School require a minimum grade point average of 2.85 on a four-point scale to remain eligible for financial support during the graduate component of the program.

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Each year, institutional scholarships/loans will be awarded by the College of Medicine to the very best applicants to the M.D./Ph.D. Program. This scholarship/loan will be equal to the amount of tuition for each year of the medical school curriculum. Year to year renewal of the scholarship/loan will be contingent upon satisfactory academic progress. Satisfactory academic performance includes maintaining a grade point average that will meet the requirements of the Graduate School, and passing of Step 1 of the USMLE. During the graduate phase of the program Graduate School tuition and a stipend of \$24,000 per year will be provided for students by their major advisor. Students in the M.D./Ph.D. program are required to submit a training grant application (e.g., Kirschstein NRSA Individual Training Grant (F30), or similar from other extramural sources) during the second year of their graduate training.

Scholarships/loans awarded under this program are converted to grants and are forgiven upon successful completion of the M.D./Ph.D. program. The M.D./Ph.D. scholarship will be converted to a loan following: 1) failure to remain in enrollment status at the College of Medicine and/or Graduate School continuously to completion of the M.D./Ph.D. program for any reason other than temporary illness, 2) failure to pass Step 1 of the USMLE Board exam after three attempts, 3) failure to make satisfactory academic progress in the M.D./Ph.D. program as determined by the College of Medicine and the Graduate School.

If a student fails to complete the program, the scholarships/loans will become payable 6 months after the completion of the Residency/Fellowship program or 6 months after termination of enrollment in the College of Medicine, unless other arrangements are made with the UAMS Student Financial Services Office. Interest on these funds, which will be delineated on the appropriate promissory notes, will not exceed 5% above the federal discount rate.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

For more information about the IBS Graduate Program and the IBS Interdisciplinary Tracks, please visit our website: [www.uams.edu/ibs](http://www.uams.edu/ibs).

You may also contact the M.D./Ph.D. Program Director, Dr. William D. Wessinger, by phone (501-686-5514) or by email ([wdwessinger@uams.edu](mailto:wdwessinger@uams.edu)).

## **HOW TO APPLY**

The application deadline is November 1, but early applications are encouraged. If you are interested in applying for the M.D./Ph.D. Program, 1) indicate on your AMCAS application that you are applying for the Combined Medical Degree/Ph.D. Program and complete the required sections, and 2) complete and submit the attached application form (be sure to sign the release (below) so your application materials can be shared with the UAMS Graduate School). Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores will not be required for acceptance by the Graduate School; MCAT scores will be used in their place for evaluation purposes.

Current students in the UAMS Medical School (M1 and M2) should contact Dr. Wessinger directly.

**UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
M.D./Ph.D. Scholarship / Loan Program  
APPLICATION**

Please PRINT or complete on computer:

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE OF LEGAL RESIDENCE ON AMCAS APPLICATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PRESENT MAILING ADDRESS:**

**Street:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS:**

**Street:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE OF BIRTH:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CITIZENSHIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAJOR / DEGREE** \_\_\_\_\_ **GPA:** \_\_\_\_\_

RELEASE OF COLLEGE OF MEDICINE APPLICATION MATERIALS:

**I hereby give permission to release all materials and information in my application and student files at the UAMS College of Medicine to the UAMS Graduate School and the M.D./Ph.D. Scholarship Committee.**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Submit this application to:

**M.D./Ph.D. Program  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
College of Medicine  
4301 West Markham Street, #551  
Little Rock, AR 72205**