

MD/PHD

Overview

Applicants interested in additional information on **MD degrees**, contact the Office of Admissions and Student Affairs:

Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (CST)

Phone: 504-988-5331

Email: medsch@tulane.edu

For **PhD program** information, contact bms@tulane.edu

Tulane brings together some of the nation’s most talented young people with nationally- and internationally-recognized teachers and researchers: all in the context of a vibrant city replete with opportunities both in and out of the lab and classroom. Whatever studies you pursue, your learning will intersect with the city’s unique mix of influences- ethnic, musical, architectural, geographical, commercial, political, environmental, and social. Beyond the classroom and lab, Tulane also provides you with multiple opportunities for career development and possible career exploration, both in and outside of academia. As a Tulane graduate student, you will find unmatched opportunities: opportunities to pursue ideas and work that matters to others, and opportunities to grow and mature.

There are two tracks to receiving a combined MD/PHD degree, also known as the Physician Scientist Program (PSP). Both tracks start with Medical School for 2 years, followed by 3-4 years in the BMS Phd program before returning to Medical School for the last 2 years.

PSP-A students apply through the Medical School AMCAS application process for both degrees. Applicants cannot apply to the PSP-A program and Medical School. They must choose one.

- 2 students are accepted each year. Must have exceptional academic credentials and prior research experience.
- Accepted students receive a fellowship covering both medical and graduate school tuition costs.
- A stipend is paid for the duration of study in both the Graduate School and Medical School.
- Accepted students must begin research lab rotations the summer prior to entry into medical school.
- Accepted students must complete both the PhD and MD degree.

Track B or PSP-B students must have applied for and been accepted into Tulane Medical School. PSP-B track students apply for the PhD program through the Biomedical Sciences application system any time after beginning medical school studies but no later than the beginning of their third year of medical school.

- A stipend is paid for the duration of the program after acceptance.
- PSP-B students receive tuition remittance only for the PhD portion of their studies, not Medical School.

Requirements

MD Requirements

Students complete their pre-clinical curriculum (first and second years) as a cohort and are registered by the School of Medicine Office of Admissions and Student Affairs. First- and second-year students will receive information through email listservs and dean’s hours about how and when to choose their preclinical electives.

Third-year students complete their seven required clinical clerkships in a lock-step fashion. Third-year students will receive information through email listservs and dean’s hours about how and when to find information about their third-year clerkships through eMedley’s eCurriculum, and how to request a particular clinical clerkship path.

Fourth-year students select block dates for their required fourth-year rotations and electives through a lottery system. Fourth-year students will receive information through email listservs and dean’s hours about how to use eMedley’s eCurriculum’s registration and scheduling resources.

Year 1		Credit Hours
GANT 1008	Gross Anatomy	8
BIOC 1010	Biochemistry	7
GENE 1007	Genetics	1
HSTO 1001	Histology	5

PYSI 1002	Physiology	5
FIM1 1005	Foundations Med I	5
One pre-clinical elective in first or second year		1
Credit Hours		32
Year 2		
BRBH 2006	Brain, Mind and Behavior	6
CLDG 2004	Clinical Diagnosis	3
FIM2 2005	Foundations Med II	2
IMMU 2001	Immunology	1
MICR 2000	Intro to Infectious Diseases	4
PATH 2002	Mechnms of Disease	14
PHAR 2003	Pharmacology	5
One pre-clinical elective in first or second year		1
Credit Hours		36
Year 3		
Passing score on USMLE Step 1 ¹		
FAMY 3000	Family Medicine	6
SURG 3000	Surgery	8
PEDS 3000	Pediatrics	8
PYCH 3000	Psychiatry	4
NEUR 3000	Neurology	4
OBGY 3000	Obstetrics & Gynecology	8
MED 3000	Medicine	8
Credit Hours		46
Year 4		
Passing scores on USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge and Clinical Skills ²		
MED 4409	Community Health ³	4
EMER 4020	Emergency Medicine	2
ACLS training (complete before EMER4020) ⁴		
RADS 3020	Radiology	2
Acting Internship (see various departments)		4
Clinical electives (see various departments) ⁵		30
5 Interdisciplinary Seminars (offered through Office of Medical Education)		
Credit Hours		42
Total Credit Hours		156

¹ Students must record a passing USMLE Step 1 score by October of their third year or they will be placed on leave of absence. See the Tulane School of Medicine handbook and policies for more information.

² Students must record passing USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) and Clinical Skills (CS) scores to graduate. Students are encouraged to take both Step 2 CK and Step 2 CS by December of their fourth year. See the Tulane School of Medicine handbook and policies for more information.

³ Students in Tulane's MD/MPH combined program and students who matriculated with or before the Class of 2015 are exempt from the MED4409 requirement but must complete 34 weeks' worth of electives.

⁴ ACLS training is provided through Tulane University's SIM Center. Students should consult the SIM Center for available training days/times.

⁵ Students in Class of 2021 are limited to a maximum of 1 online elective in their T3 year, and are limited to a maximum of 4 online electives in their T4 year; this limit should assist students with the busy interview season, but will also help students focus primarily on face-to-face, clinical elective opportunities. Students graduating after 2021 are advised that the Curriculum Committee may further reduce the maximum number of online electives that T4s may complete.

PhD Curriculum

In the first two semesters, all students take the identical core curriculum, described below. In conjunction with the course work in the first year, students rotate in 6-week blocks through three of the Program's participating research laboratories of the student's choice. This allows students to

become more familiar with BMS research and faculty. Students should choose a Dissertation Advisor by the end of the second semester but must choose a Dissertation Advisor by the end of the third semester. Students may choose to further specify their study by choosing an Area of Research Emphasis (a Departmental Track in Anatomy, Biochemistry, Medical Genetics and Genomics, Microbiology and Immunology, Pathology, Pharmacology or Physiology). An area of research emphasis may add further course requirements beyond those required for the Biomedical Sciences PhD degree without specialization.

Year 1		Credit Hours
Fall		
BMSP 6070	Advanced Cell Biology	3
GBCH 6010	Graduate Biochemistry	4
BMSP 7140	Biomedical Sci Seminar	1
BMSP 7120	Research Topics and Rotations (2 credits for seminar, 2 for first rotation)	4
BMSP 7100	Biomed Sciences Workshop	1
Credit Hours		13
Spring		
GBCH 7250	Biomedical Statistics and Data Analysis	2
EPID 7810	Human Molecular Genetics	3
BMSP 7770	Physiological Basis of Disease	3
BMSP 7150	Seminar	1
BMSP 7130	Research Topics and Rotations (2 credits each for 2nd and 3rd rotations)	4
BMSP 7110	Workshop	1
Credit Hours		14
Year 2		
Fall		
BMSP 7140	Biomedical Sci Seminar	1
BMSP 7100	Biomed Sciences Workshop	1
BMSP 7990	Independent Study	1-6
Electives (to be chosen in consultation with dissertation advisor)		
Credit Hours		3-8
Spring		
BMSP 7150	Seminar	1
Workshop ¹		1-6
MIIM 7400	Responsible Conduct of Biomedical Research	2
Electives (to be chosen in consultation with dissertation advisor)		
Credit Hours		4-9
Summer Session		
Students must begin their dissertation research or perform more research rotations during the Summer semester of their first year.		
Credit Hours		0
Total Credit Hours		34-44

¹ BMSP 7110 Workshop (1 c.h.), BMSP 7990 Independent Study (1-6 c.h.), or another mentor focused workshop course

Ideally, the student should choose a dissertation advisor at the end of the Spring semester.

Total for Second Year Fall + Spring must equal at least 21 credit hours

Coursework in the 2nd year must include at least 6 credit hours of lecture-based course work (Electives) and 11 credit hours of Independent Study (Research).

A minimum of 48 credit hours of course work and independent study is required for the PhD. All formal course work is to be completed within the first two years. Students may take Independent Study (BMSP 7990 Independent Study (1-6 c.h.) or equivalent) for 1-6 credits per semester for a maximum of 12 credits total during the first two years. The remaining hours of coursework are selected from the elective curriculum by the student in consultation with the dissertation advisor. Once coursework is completed, the student must demonstrate the ability to carry out independent study

and research in a chosen field, as evidenced in the dissertation. Students ordinarily complete the requirements for the Ph.D. degree between four and seven years from the date of matriculation in the program.

Physician/Scientist Program Requirements

Medical School- Years 1 & 2

Our medical school first and second year curriculum provides the necessary foundation for graduates to be well prepared to enter any field of medicine. Emphasis has been placed on self-directed learning, integration of basic and clinical sciences, and more active forms of learning. Students' medical careers begin with the White Coat Ceremony, which defines the commitment and dedication they have made to their patients and themselves as they enter medical school. Students learn basic science knowledge during the first two years in lectures, problem-based learning sessions, small group discussions, laboratories, and clinical correlations. In mid-June of the second year, students sit for Step 1 of the USMLE.

Graduate School

P/SP students enter the graduate years full-time after completing Step 1 of the USMLE. Students may elect to do a third research rotation, or if they have already completed two research rotations, may select a graduate program and a dissertation advisor, and begin work on their Ph.D. dissertation.

Coursework during the graduate years emphasizes basic principles and concepts in biochemistry, biostatistics, genetics, and cell biology, with additional courses specific to the area of concentration. Additional program requirements include weekly seminar series, and student research presentations. All students take an online course in ethics and must complete a proposal-based Preliminary Examination, usually after the first year of graduate school. When the dissertation advisory committee is satisfied that the aims of the research project have been met and the dissertation has been defended successfully, the requirements for the Ph.D. will have been completed.

P/SP students prepare to re-enter medical school as they near completion of their dissertation. Typically students begin medical school in July or mid-August with the third year medical student class. Students anticipating return to medical school notify the medical school in January and complete the clerkship selection process, which is coordinated by the Office of Student Affairs of the medical school.

Up to 24 credit hours of coursework is transferred from the students' medical school.

Medical School - Years 3 & 4

P/SP students begin third year medical school clerkships about July 1 of their seventh year, after completing their Ph.D. dissertation.

The majority of clinical training is offered in the third and fourth years. Tulane has created a "combined" third and fourth year, whereby students have 20 months of training, of which 15 are required and 5 are elective. The requirements for the third and fourth year include: 8-week clerkships in internal medicine, surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, and psychiatry/neurology, a 6 week clerkship in family medicine, 2 weeks of radiology, emergency medicine, and outpatient surgery, and 5 one month electives, one month of ambulatory internal medicine, and a sub-internship.

Students are also required to participate in a new interdisciplinary seminar series in which students choose from a variety of offerings. The entire family medicine clerkship is an ambulatory based experience with a community preceptor, most of whom practice in rural settings. The medicine and surgery clerkships are in-patient experiences, while the other clerkships offer a balance of inpatient and outpatient experience.

Physician/Scientist Program Curriculum

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First Year

Fall:

BMSP 7100 Workshop (1 credit)
BMSP 7140 Seminar (1 credit)
BMSP 7990 Independent Study (4-6 credits depending upon elective chosen)
Elective Courses
Attend BMS Retreat (no credits)
Safety Training (no credits)

Spring:

GBCH 7250 Biostatistics (2 credits)
BMSP 7110 Workshop (1 credit)
BMSP 7150 Seminar (1 credit)
BMSP 7990 Independent Study (2-4 credits depending upon elective chosen)
Elective
Course Transfer from Medical School (24 credits)

Second Year

The second year consists of only Workshop (BMSP 7100 - 1 credit/semester) and Seminar (BMSP 7140 1 credit/semester) to complete a total of 48 credit hours. Students must also register for Independent Study (BMSP 7990) or Selected topics (BMSP 7500) to maintain full time status. Second year will have no other formal didactic courses. However, if a student chooses a mentor within a specific area of research emphasis, further requirements may be necessary.

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Medical School - Years 3 & 4