

Drexel University College of Medicine M.D./Ph.D. Program

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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The following describes academic policies and procedures pertaining to the M.D./Ph.D. Program:

- I. The MD/PhD Advisory Committee shall comprise five members from DUCOM Basic Science Departments and three from Clinical Departments, one member from the Medical Engineering Program, the DUCOM Dean of Students and Associate Dean for Admissions. The Vice Dean for Educational and Academic Affairs and the Vice Dean for Research will serve as ex officio members.
- II. The MD/PhD Advisory Committee serves as the oversight committee and the admissions committee for the MD/PhD Program.
 - a. The standard route of entry is prior to beginning medical school. Admission is based upon undergraduate grades, MCAT scores and letters of recommendation, as well as laboratory and clinical experiences and personal interview.
 - b. A student can apply for admission after the 1st or 2nd year of medical school. Admission is based on pre-matriculation data (II a), academic performance during medical school and participation in research between years 1 and 2. Medical School tuition scholarship would begin only after the student has entered the program, i.e. it would not be retroactive.
- III. MD/PhD students' performance will be reviewed annually by the MD/PhD Advisory Committee.
- IV. MD/PhD students must achieve a passing grade in all Medical School courses. Students will be dismissed from the program with a failure in any major course. MD/PhD students must have a grade point average (including only major courses) at or above the class mean at the end of each year of medical school. It is incumbent upon the student to monitor his/her performance. Failure to meet this requirement can result in dismissal from the program.
- V. MD/PhD students must achieve a "B" or better in all graduate courses. Failure to do so can result in dismissal from the program.
- VI. MD/PhD students must do a laboratory research rotation in the summer between Years 1 and 2 of medical school. The rotation laboratory supervisor should be chosen in consultation with the Director of the MD/PhD Program.
- VII. Graduate studies formally begin at the end of Year 2 of Medical School. Entry into graduate studies requires a score at or above the national mean on USMLE Step One. Passing can substitute for the Preliminary Exam. Poor performance on USMLE Step One can result in dismissal from the program.
- VIII. MD/PhD students are strongly encouraged to do one research rotation in addition to that in the lab in which the dissertation research will be performed. The rotation laboratory supervisor(s) should be chosen in consultation with either the MD/PhD Program Director and/or the Director of the specific graduate program.
- IX. MD/PhD students at DUCOM are not required to take the entire Core Curriculum but are required to fulfill program specific requirements and to take the required course in Scientific Integrity.
- X. The course requirements for MD/PhD students in the Medical Engineering Program are detailed in the MD/PhD in Medical Engineering Program Guidelines.
- XI. Progress toward completion of the PhD involves the following timeline:

- MD/PhD students **must** declare their choice of a Graduate Program and a dissertation advisor by November 1st of Year 1 of graduate work and members of their dissertation committee by May 1st of Year 1. The chosen dissertation advisor and the dissertation committee are subject to the approval of the MD/PhD Advisory Committee.
 - MD/PhD students **must** successfully complete their Qualifying Exam by January of Year 2 of graduate study.
 - In graduate programs where the Qualifying exam is not the dissertation proposal, MD/PhD students **must** have completed their dissertation proposal with approval by their Thesis Committee by March of Year 2.
 - MD/PhD students are encouraged to apply for an NIH F30 NRSA award.
 - MD/PhD students should complete their PhD studies and defend their dissertation within 4 years after the start of graduate studies. Extension of this time limit is subject to the approval by the MD/PhD Advisory Committee.
- XII. MD/PhD students **must** have successfully defended and submitted their dissertation, as well as Forms H and I, to the graduate school **prior to** starting Year 3 of Medical School.
- XIII. MD/PhD students will be encouraged to participate in clinical experiences throughout their PhD studies and particularly during the months prior to entering Year 3. Arrangements for this experience will be made through the members of the MD/PhD Advisory Committee designated as the Clinical Transition Subcommittee.
- XIV. MD/PhD students **must** pass the Clinical Proficiency Exam prior to entering Year 3 of Medical School.
- XV. MD/PhD students have the option of participating in the MD/PhD Pathway during Year 4 of the medical school curriculum. This pathway includes four blocks of research; MD/PhD students can receive Year 4 graduation credit for research work performed during PhD studies. The purpose of this option is to accommodate the student who completes the PhD requirements between August 1st and September 30th. Failure to have defended and submitted the dissertation, as well as Forms H and I, to the graduate school by September 30th will delay entry into Year 3 until the following year.
- XVI. The MD and PhD degrees will be conferred only upon completion of the requirements for **BOTH** degrees.
- XVII. The MD/PhD Advisory Committee has been authorized by the BGEC and the ECC to enforce the Policies and Procedures of the MD/PhD Program.