MD/PHD PROGRAM

http://mdphd.med.miami.edu/

Overview

The Miller School of Medicine MD / PhD Program provides a unique training environment for exceptionally qualified individuals who want to pursue careers in academic medicine and research. The curriculum comprises the school’s outstanding preclinical and clinical training, rigorous PhD graduate training and several elements, including professional development workshops and other activities, specifically designed to enhance the MD / PhD training experience. There has been a long tradition of research excellence and physician scientist training at the Miller School of Medicine. With the opportunities for basic and clinical research here, Miami’s diverse population and access to Latin America and the Caribbean, the backdrop of a vibrant city, make the Miller School a unique place for MD / PhD training.

PhD Programs

The following doctoral programs, described elsewhere in this bulletin, participate in the MD / PhD Program. The MD / PhD Program office can provide you with further information about these programs and the research interests of their faculty.

- Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (http://biomed.med.miami.edu/graduate-programs/biochemistry-and-molecular-biology)
- Biostatistics (http://www.biostat.med.miami.edu/academics/phd-in-biostatistics)
- Cancer Biology (http://biomed.med.miami.edu/graduate-programs/cancer-biology)
- Epidemiology (http://publichealth.med.miami.edu/graduate-academic-programs/phd-in-epidemiology)
- Human Genetics & Genomics (http://biomed.med.miami.edu/graduate-programs/human-genetics-and-genomics)
- Microbiology and Immunology (http://biomed.med.miami.edu/graduate-programs/microbiology-and-immunology)
- Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology (http://biomed.med.miami.edu/graduate-programs/molecular-and-cellular-pharmacology)
- Neuroscience (http://biomed.med.miami.edu/graduate-programs/neuroscience)
- Physiology and Biophysics (http://biomed.med.miami.edu/graduate-programs/physiology-and-biophysics)
- Prevention Science & Community Health (http://publichealth.med.miami.edu/graduate/academic-programs/phd-in-prevention-science)

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Admission

Admission Requirements

Admission to the MD/PhD Program is highly competitive, and interested applicants are advised to apply early in the fall. AMCAS applications must be received by the Medical Admissions Office no later than December 15. Applicants must complete the minimum course requirements (http://admissions.med.miami.edu/md-programs/general-md/prerequisites) of the MD Program to be considered for the MD / PhD Program. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is not required for matriculation into the MD/PhD Program.

Competitive applicants will have the following:

- Completed AMCAS & Secondary Application for MD / PhD
- Excellent academic record
- Strong MCAT scores
- Significant research experience
- Co-authorship on abstracts and / or peer-reviewed papers is desirable
- Strong letters of recommendation from research mentors and other scientists who can specifically address the applicant’s potential as a physician scientist
- Motivation to pursue a career as a physician scientist

Applications from under-represented groups, including minorities, individuals with disabilities and women, are encouraged.

All MD / PhD applicants are reviewed by both the MD Program Admissions Committee and the MD / PhD Program Admissions Committee. These evaluations proceed independently, and a student will still be considered for the MD program even after an unfavorable review by the MD / PhD Program. A successful applicant is granted admission to both the MD Program and the MD / PhD Program.

Full application instructions can be found at: mdphd.med.miami.edu/Admissions (http://mdphd.med.miami.edu/Admissions)

Program Plan

Program Sequence

The MD / PhD Program provides an integrated experience with exposure to clinical and research training throughout the medical and graduate phases of the program. Students complete the first two years of medical school, which are followed by their PhD training and then the final two years of clinical clerkships. Students are advised to begin the program in June to enable an early start on their research rotations as the MD program courses begin in mid-August. The summers before the second and third year are usually spent in research rotations (3 are required), but some students choose to continue their research rotations during the academic year of the first two years of medical school. It is recommended that students select a graduate program by February of their second year in the program and identify a research mentor no later than the beginning of the third year when they start graduate training. The third year is spent both in class to fulfill the graduate course

http://research.med.miami.edu/
requirements and in the mentor’s research group. Students should plan to take their PhD qualifying exam by the end of the third year. The following two or more years are spent carrying out original research for their dissertation. Students also participate in a clinical skills tutorial during graduate training to expand their exposure to the clinical setting. All PhD requirements must be completed before entry into the third year of medical school but most students continue research upon return to clinical clerkships.

Combined degree programs are long and challenging. To relieve pressure produced by the demands of the medical and graduate curricula, the University of Miami Miller, School of Medicine, MD / PhD Program provides a stimulating and supportive environment in which all combined degree students have frequent opportunities to meet and exchange ideas and for professional development. This includes a first and second year student journal club, all program clinical case discussions, opportunities to meet other physician scientists, student organized workshops and an annual MD / PhD student research symposium.