

SUNY Upstate Medical University MD/PhD Program Guide

2026-2027

Mission Statement

Our mission is to foster a diverse community of physician scientist leaders by combining exceptional clinical training with outstanding research mentorship. We value humility, intellectual curiosity, and interpersonal connection. We support the personal and professional development of our trainees to prepare them for careers as independent physician scientists, leading innovation in science and patient care.



Preface

The MD/PhD program guide serves as a reference for current MD/PhD students, advisors, and faculty members. This document will provide a general overview of the curriculum, program structure, student expectations, and training timeline of the MD/PhD program. This handbook will also provide links to policies and procedures for students when matriculated in the [Norton College of Medicine \(NCOM\)](#), the [College of Graduate Studies \(COGS\)](#), and [policies specific to the MD/PhD program](#). This handbook will be revised at the start of each academic year. Students are responsible for reviewing and following updated policies and procedures of the MD/PhD program.

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2026/67MD/PhD Admissions Committee: TBD

SUNY Upstate MD/PhD Program Overview and Timeline

General Overview

Upstate Medical University's MD/PhD Program is committed to developing and nurturing future physician-scientist leaders. In this combined training program, students will complete coursework in both the Upstate Norton College of Medicine (NCOM) and the College of Graduate Studies (COGS). During the first two years of training, students complete courses in NCOM and complete two laboratory rotations. Students then transition to full-time coursework and dissertation work in COGS for four years. After successful defense of the doctoral dissertation, students re-enter NCOM to complete required clinical clerkships and electives for the last two years. The combined MD/PhD program is completed in eight years. Throughout their training, students will also participate in mandatory MD/PhD specific coursework and activities. Annual stipends and tuition waivers are provided for all students enrolled in the MD/PhD program who remain in good academic standing.

Student Mentorship

The MD/PhD program is comprised of a multidisciplinary curriculum that utilizes the diverse educational, clinical, and scientific resources of NCOM and COGS. In addition, students engage in educational and mentoring activities specific to the MD/PhD program throughout their training. The emphasis of a student's

training will vary over time as they transition through the program. Their individual needs and progress will be monitored and supported by MD/PhD program leadership, which consists of the program director, assistant program director, and program coordinator.

The MD/PhD program will facilitate mentorship in various facets of our students' clinical and scientific areas of interest. After acceptance to the program, prior to matriculation, MD/PhD program leadership meets students to discuss their clinical and research interests and facilitate a smooth transition to our training program. While enrolled in the MD/PhD program, students meet with the program director or assistant program director at least once per semester to review student progress and address any concerns. This is an opportunity to discuss programmatic issues, academic difficulties/successes, lab selection, progress in dissertation work, lab environment, plans for publications, grant opportunities, extracurricular activities in NCOM/COGS, and career planning. The MD/PhD leadership team fosters a collaborative mentorship model that engages peers, faculty, alumni, faculty, and the scientific community. MD/PhD program leadership will be the ongoing thread of mentorship through our students' careers at Upstate.

Summer Lab Rotations

All students in the MD/PhD program are required to spend a minimum 7-week summer laboratory research rotation prior to the start of medical school and after the first two semesters of medical school classes. For the student, these rotations aim to provide insight into the laboratory's scientific environment, the advisor's mentorship style, and to help identify a suitable lab for completing their dissertation research. For the rotation advisor or faculty member, the goal is to assess the student's scientific potential, compatibility with the lab environment, and the feasibility of a long-term mentoring relationship. Before matriculation, the MD/PhD program director meets each student to discuss their research interests and provide guidance on potential rotation mentors. The student may also meet with members of the MD/PhD advisory committee who can recommend specific laboratory mentors in their respective departments. After receiving a list of potential lab mentors, the student is responsible for reaching out to individual mentors, scheduling meetings, selecting a prospective rotation mentor, and submitting the [MD/PhD Lab Rotation Enrollment Form](#) to the MD/PhD program coordinator prior to matriculation.

The MD/PhD program director will meet with the student during multiple advisory meetings during the first year of medical school to advise the student on the second lab rotation. The [MD/PhD Lab Rotation Enrollment Form](#) must be completed and signed by the student, lab mentor, and MD/PhD program director by March 31 of their first year.

The rotation advisor is responsible for collaboratively selecting a project with the student, providing ongoing mentorship, and evaluating the student's performance at the conclusion of the rotation. Prior to the end of the rotation, the student should share the lab evaluation form with the mentor. It is strongly encouraged that the mentor and student complete the evaluation together and reflect on the overall rotation experience. Any sensitive feedback that cannot be shared in that setting may be communicated confidentially with the MD/PhD program director. Students present their summer research during MD/PhD Grand Rounds and receive peer feedback. To support this, students are encouraged to prepare a draft of their presentation to review with their summer research mentor before the rotation concludes.

Medical School Classwork (pre-clinical coursework; years 1-2)

After completing the first summer lab rotation, the MD/PhD student joins the required [new student orientation](#) with the incoming class of medical students. Students then start coursework in NCOM. [Academic schedules](#) and [first year curriculum](#), including holidays and semester breaks are linked. MD/PhD students enrolled in NCOM are not expected or required to engage in laboratory work during this period. This is a challenging time, and students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with [support services](#) through the Student Affairs Office. MD/PhD students are expected to attend and actively participate in MD/PhD Grand Rounds throughout the preclinical curriculum. In the event of academic difficulties – such as failed or incomplete coursework – students must meet promptly with the MD/PhD program director to develop a remediation plan aimed at supporting their academic success.

Requirements for Entry into Dissertation Laboratory

After completion of the pre-clinical medical school curriculum, the two summer lab rotations, and successful completion of the USMLE step I, students transition to the COGS to start their dissertation work. Students are required to select a thesis advisor, or get approval for a third rotation, before starting the 'dedicated' study period for USMLE Step I. Students will schedule a tracking meeting with the program administrator and will be responsible for facilitating completion of a [dissertation advisor and program declaration form](#). This form is signed by the student, the thesis advisor, the MD/PhD program director, the Chair of the advisor's primary department, and the program director of the degree granting program. The advisor must be able to fund the student's annual stipend, and the Department Chair must agree to support a student's salary if the thesis advisor loses funding. Students transitioning to graduate school will begin their dissertation research on site at the start of their original medical school cohort's third-year clerkship orientation. As stated in [advisement policy](#) of the COGS, the student and faculty member are responsible for completing an advising agreement, career development plan, and meeting regularly for guidance on the progress of dissertation research during the PhD.

As outlined in the NCOM [USMLE Step 1 policy](#), all students in the MD/PhD program are required to complete and pass the USMLE Step 1 prior to transitioning to the PhD portion of their studies. If the student does not pass the USMLE Step 1 by _____, the student must meet with the MD/PhD program director within one week of score release to discuss a remediation plan.

PhD; College of Graduate Studies (years 3-6)

MD/PhD students enrolled in the COGS must be registered each semester to maintain an "active student" status. Student registration generally occurs twice each year in June and November. The NCOM Course Selection Book is linked [here](#).

To remain in good academic standing, MD/PhD students are required to take the following courses in COGS:

- GS637, Responsible Conduct of Scientific Research (Research Ethics) – 2 credits (Fall of 1st year in COGS)

- MDPH 601, Research Design for Physician-Scientists, 3 credits (Fall of 1st year in COGS)
- MDPH 602, MD/PhD Grand Rounds, recurring every semester
- MDPH 603 MD/PhD Patient Care and Clinical Skills, recurring every semester

Any relevant program requirements (timing varies).

Requirements and Timeline for Completion of the Qualifying Exam (year 3)

MD/PhD students must adhere to the [qualifying examination policy](#) for all PhD students as documented in COGS. MD/PhD students should follow departmental specific qualifying exam guidelines in organizing a committee which can be found on the [College of Graduate Studies Forms page](#). The student's department/program is responsible for completing the [qualifying examination committee appointment form](#). The PhD qualifying exam must be completed no later than one year after entering the PhD portion of the degree and can be scheduled after completion of the MD/PhD Grant Writing Class. Students who fail to successfully complete the PhD qualifying exam in one year may be dismissed from the MD/PhD program. An extension of this deadline may be granted for extenuating circumstances by petition to the MD/PhD program director and the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. As described in the [advisement policy](#), following successful completion of the PhD qualifying exam, a thesis advisory committee must be established and meet at least twice a year. Completed committee reports will be required to be submitted to the program administrator every six months to register in the College of Graduate Studies.

Timeline for Completion of the PhD

As written in the [time limitation for completion of programs policy](#), no more than six years (first 18 months of NCOM and four years in COGS) may elapse between matriculation into the MD/PhD program and successful defense of the PhD dissertation. The student and the advisor must jointly complete the [petition to request an extension of the time of limitation for PhD training](#) and submit to the Dean of the COGS to request an extension beyond this time limit. If granted, the student must complete the defense of the dissertation by the end of the 7th year and return to medical school clerkships. Throughout this extended training in COGS, the student stipend will continue to be supported by the sponsoring laboratory or department, and the tuition waiver remains in effect. Failure to complete the PhD by the time limit will result in referral of the student to the MD/PhD academic review board and may result in dismissal from the MD/PhD program.

Dissertation Defense and Transition to Medical School Clinical Clerkships (year 6)

Please refer to the COGS [Dissertation & Thesis Defense policy](#) for specific requirements for the dissertation defense. A member of the MD/PhD Admissions and Advisory Committee or a faculty member who has mentored a previous MD/PhD student will serve on each student's [thesis defense committee](#). Students must follow program-specific requirements for their dissertation defense. The student is responsible for completing the [dissertation exam committee appointment form](#). The [policy for the written dissertation/thesis](#) describes the requirements for the written dissertation, including the format, chapter layout, figures, bibliography, approval process, and the process for final submission of the thesis. The [Time Limitation for Completion of Programs policy](#) states that MD/PhD students must complete all requirements of the COGS, including

submitting their final dissertation , before returning to NCOM. As stated in the [Graduate Assistantship and Stipend Policy](#), MD/PhD students who fail to complete final requirements of the PhD prior to returning to NCOM will have their stipend terminated.

During the final year of their PhD dissertation, MD/PhD students must schedule an advisement meeting with the Assistant Dean of Clinical Sciences and the MD/PhD program director to select a clerkship track. These meetings must occur by September 30th of the fall semester preceding their anticipated spring defense. After these meetings, the program administrator must be notified of a student's preferred clerkship track at a date determined by the Phase 2 coordinators in NCOM (subject to change each year). As stated in the NCOM [Clerkship Schedule and Postponement Policy](#), MD/PhD students are allowed to select their clerkship schedule preferences before the general clerkship selection process begins. The final track selection is determined by the registrar's office.

Clinical Clerkships in NCOM (years 7-8)

An overview of the medical school curriculum, including required third year clerkships and fourth year electives are available [here](#). Following the transition to clerkships, MD/PhD students will continue to meet biannually with MD/PhD program leadership to facilitate career mentorship and guidance on the residency application process. There is no expectation that students continue to work in the dissertation laboratory during third year clerkships. A student may choose to complete experiments and address manuscript revisions during this time but must be mindful of successfully completing clinical responsibilities as well. If a student experiences academic difficulties – such as failed or incomplete coursework – they must promptly meet with the MD/PhD program director to develop a remediation plan that supports their academic success.

Graduation

Students are awarded the MD and PhD at the completion of the combined program. Prior to graduation from the MD/PhD program each student must submit at least one first-author publication of experimental data from their dissertation work to a peer-reviewed journal.

Oversight of Academic and Professional Development

Due to the multidisciplinary nature of their training, MD/PhD students must adhere to the policies, standards and requirements of the MD/PhD program, NCOM, and COGS always. Academic progress of MD/PhD students will be overseen by the NCOM's Academic Review Board (ARB) for the MD portion of their degree. The MD/PhD ARB is responsible for comprehensive oversight of academic progress throughout the student's dual-degree training. The MD/PhD ARB is comprised of the MD/PhD program director, the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies, the Dean of Student Affairs, the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, two members of the MD/PhD admissions committee and the registrar. The MD/PhD director is a non-voting member to preserve his/her role as a student advocate. The registrar is also a non-voting member. Individual members of the MD/PhD ARB will communicate the outcomes of the MD/PhD ARB to their respective program.

The [Academic Progress, Review and Appeal Committees Policy](#) outlines the process for tracking academic advancement of students enrolled in NCOM. [The Academic Status: Evaluation; Promotion; Remediation; Dismissal Policy](#) outlines the procedures for assessing student performance, advancing academic standing, and addressing concerns through remediation or dismissal. It details both the academic and professional criteria guiding these decisions. When enrolled in the COGS, the [Academic Evaluation and Promotion Policy](#) outlines the process for evaluating, remediating, and dismissing students.

The MD/PhD program academic review board may convene to consider concerns raised by MD/PhD program leadership or concerns reported in the individual colleges. Some examples include, but are not limited to:

- referral to the NCOM student progress committee
- referral to the NCOM academic review board
- report of professionalism concerns
- failure of USMLE step I
- failure of USMLE step II
- failure of timely completion of MD/PhD specific requirements.

The MD/PhD ARB reserves the right to convene and consider a student's academic standing based upon a student's progress in either the COGS or NCOM.

When the MD/PhD ARB is convened, members will seek input from the educational program in which the student is currently enrolled (NCOM or COGS), and when appropriate, from the alternate program as well. In keeping with standard university practices and policies, the MD/PhD ARB will also manage the process of reviewing and addressing any concerns in student academic performance or conduct in the joint program.

Any student who is placed on any form of probationary or disciplinary status in one of the degree-granting programs may also be placed on a similar status in the other degree program. MD/PhD students will be removed from the program for receiving a deficient grade in two or more courses or in over 25% of the non-elective credits attempted in one academic year. If a student is removed from the MD/PhD program by action of the MD/PhD ARB, such removal does not preclude the student from petitioning to continue their studies in either the MD or PhD program individually, subject to the policies and approval processes of the respective program.

Students have the right to appeal decisions rendered through the MD/PhD ARB, College of Medicine Student Progress Committee, and the Graduate Council in the College of Graduate Studies as outlined in the [Norton Colleges of Medicine](#), [College of Graduate Studies](#), and [MD/PhD](#) policies and procedures.

MD/PhD ARB decisions can be appealed in writing to the Dean of the Norton College of Medicine within five business days. Appeal decisions are rendered in five business days and communicated with the student and MD/PhD ARB. Appeals will be considered if:

- there is new evidence not reasonably available at the time of the ARB meeting that may have changed the outcome
- procedural error that is shown to have had a significant impact on the outcome of the hearing

- errors in the interpretation or application of college policy are so substantial that they interfere with a fair hearing.

As stated in the [Graduate Assistantship and Stipend Policy](#), the stipend is terminated if a student is placed on administrative leave or terminated from the program.

MD/PhD Program Specific Requirements

Course requirements

To remain in good standing in the MD/PhD Program, students are required to receive a 'Pass' or 'Satisfactory' grade in the MDPH 601, Research Design for Physician-Scientists, MDPH 602, MD/PhD Grand Rounds, and MDPH 603 MD/PhD Patient Care and Clinical Skills (PhD years only).

Pre-doctoral Fellowship Application Requirements

All MD/PhD students are required to complete MDPH 601, Research Design for Physician-Scientists or a department-specific grant writing course. Completion of this requirement is intended to support the development and submission of a predoctoral fellowship. Individual Pre-doctoral Fellowship (F30 or F31) applications must be submitted within six months of successful completion of the qualifying exam. An extension of this deadline may be granted for extenuating circumstances by petition to the MD/PhD program director. Students who are not eligible for this grant opportunity (such as international students) are required to submit a grant to an alternative granting agency. If the predoctoral fellowship is granted and the yearly award is lower than the student's salary as delineated by COGS, the thesis advisor will fund the difference.

The MD/PhD program director will provide an institutional letter to support a student's grant application. The program director must be contacted one month prior to submission to request a letter.

Resources for fellowship applications are included under the heading 'fellowship guidelines' below

Grand Rounds

All MD/PhD students will be registered in MDPH 602, MD/PhD Grand Rounds for every semester of their training. The goal of MD/PhD Grand Rounds is to facilitate peer mentorship, create a sense of community, and a culture of inquiry. The MD/PhD Grand Rounds course recurs weekly during the academic calendar. All MD/PhD students participate in Grand Rounds and are required to attend except for those in clinical clerkships and students attending scientific meetings. Attendance at grand rounds is a program requirement. If a student cannot attend, an email must be sent prior to grand rounds to the program director and program coordinator. First- and second-year students will present their summer laboratory rotation work. First year graduate students present a Clinical Case from the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) with mentorship

from MD/PhD program leadership. Second year graduate students present their dissertation work and grant proposals for peer review. Third year graduate students present a critical review of a clinical trial, and fourth year graduate students present a Clinical Case from the NEJM. Students in their fourth year of medical school present a 'Senior Capstone Presentation' of a topic of their own choosing. Students are encouraged to approach learning with humility and curiosity to enhance discussion of clinical topics, promote peer feedback, and develop competences in medical education.

Clinical Training during Dissertation Work

MD/PhD students often express concern about maintaining their clinical skills during the PhD phase of their training. To address this concern, all MD/PhD students are enrolled in MDPH 603 MD/PhD Patient Care and Clinical Skills during their PhD years. This course consists of two complementary components. First, core clinical skills—including medical interviewing, physical examination, and clinical reasoning—are taught in the simulation center in collaboration with the Standardized Patient Program. This component emphasizes deliberate practice, self-reflection, and structured feedback from peers and experienced clinicians to support skill development. Second, each student participates in a longitudinal clinical experience. This experience is designed to maintain clinical engagement, allow exploration of potential career paths, and further refine clinical skills in a real-world setting. MD/PhD program leadership will help facilitate finding a clinical mentor, and the student is responsible for scheduling clinical sessions and reporting them to the program administrator. The student is required to submit a progress note or history and physical note to the program director and program coordinator after completion of their monthly clinical experience.

Publication Requirement for Graduation

Prior to graduation from the MD/PhD program, each student must have at least one submitted first-author publication of experimental data from their dissertation work in a peer-reviewed journal. To strengthen their residency application, students are strongly encouraged to submit a first author manuscript prior to their dissertation defense. Early submission allows time for peer-review and potential revisions, enabling students to present a comprehensive body of scholarly work to residency programs.

Academic Performance

Students must notify the MD/PhD program director and schedule a meeting in the event of any incomplete or failing grade in coursework in either NCOM or COGS. This meeting is intended to facilitate the development of a successful remediation plan to support the student's academic progress.

If a student is allowed to repeat medical school classwork and remain in the MD/PhD program on a probationary period as decided by the MD/PhD ARB, stipend support and tuition waiver will be terminated during remediation of classes and will resume upon successful completion of medical school classwork. The student will be responsible for tuition payments during this remediation period. Failure to successfully remediate medical school classwork during this probationary period will result in removal from the MD/PhD program. In addition, a student will be removed from the MD/PhD program for receiving a deficient grade in two or more courses or in over 25% of the non-elective credits attempted in one academic year.

Voluntary Withdrawal from the MD/PhD Program

Students who choose to voluntarily withdraw from the MD/PhD program must adhere to the [Withdrawal Policy](#) outlined in the Student Handbook. Upon withdrawal, stipend support and tuition remission will be discontinued effective immediately. Students who voluntarily resign from the MD/PhD program without completing the PhD degree requirements will be required to repay the tuition previously waived during enrollment in NCOM. Students may submit an appeal to the MD/PhD Program Director to request a waiver of this repayment in cases of special circumstances, typically those related to health, that necessitated their withdrawal. Repayment of the personal stipend received while in the program will not be required. If a student voluntarily withdraws from the MD/PhD program while enrolled in COGS and elects to continue their medical education, they will re-enter the medical curriculum to complete their clinical clerkships.

Involuntary Withdrawal from the MD/PhD Program

In accordance with the processes, procedures and policies set forth in the [Student Handbook](#), MD/PhD students may be dismissed from the program for reasons that include, but are not limited to, violations of the Code of Student Conduct, University Policy, and Academic Performance. Upon dismissal from the program, stipend support and tuition remission will be immediately terminated.

Second Job Rule

As stated in the [Work Outside of Upstate Medical University Policy](#), students are prohibited from pursuing additional employment outside of their paid assistantship. MD/PhD students are supported financially with a tuition waiver and stipend to minimize the inevitable debt burden of higher education. Of note, when enrolled in COGS, the stipend is not contingent upon teaching responsibilities that will add to additional pressures in completing graduate school coursework and dissertation work in a timely manner. Students are prohibited from receiving compensation for other paid work during their enrollment in the program to facilitate focus on the multiple responsibilities of being an MD/PhD student. With approval of the thesis advisor and MD/PhD program director, a student may do a limited amount of volunteer unpaid work (gaining teaching experience or developing clinical skills).

Travel

While enrolled in COGS, MD/PhD students can refer to the [travel policy](#) for details on support for attending scientific conferences. The primary source of funding for travel and research related expenses of graduate students for their dissertation work lies with their research mentor and research laboratory. Based on funds availability, the MD/PhD program will encourage our students' career development by supporting scientific meetings that emphasize physician scientist career development. For attendance of these conferences, students must present their dissertation work in an oral presentation or poster format. During the latter half of the PhD timeline, students are encouraged to attend the National MD/PhD Conference or the regional or annual APSA meeting.

MD/PhD students presenting at scientific meetings can apply for \$500.00 of support per meeting from the MD/PhD program. This funding is available to students in their PhD years. Funding will be limited to two awards during PhD training and will be awarded if alternative funding is unavailable to students during this time.

Students will be required to complete a [Request Form for Travel Funding](#). If the travel request is approved, students are required to keep receipts for transportation (plane, bus, taxi, etc), meals, hotel, and any other costs associated with the trip. Receipts must be turned into the MD/PhD Program Coordinator within one week upon return from the conference for the paperwork to be submitted for reimbursement.

Student Involvement in Recruitment

MD/PhD students play a vital role in the program's recruitment efforts. Each year, the program hosts virtual interviews, informational sessions, and 'immersion days' for prospective applicants. Except when engaged in required medical school classwork, direct patient care, qualifying exam, or thesis defense preparation, students are expected to attend recruitment activities – including social events and meals – to help support and represent the program.

Specifically medical student roles include:

- Student informational panel on interview days
- Admissions committee membership
- Welcoming committee
- Student hosting
- Campus tours
- Hosting of lab visits

Transfer and Elective Credits

College of Medicine

MD/PhD students may take elective research credit in NCOM. Students will receive a maximum of 12 credits for this research. Additional time in the laboratory beyond 12 weeks will not be granted elective credit that counts toward fulfilling the graduation requirement of 32 NCOM elective credits. To apply for this research credit, MD/PhD students will complete the Add/Drop form and the Unique Elective Form. The Add/Drop form will require the signature of the director of the MD/PhD program, and the chair of the department in which the research will be conducted, and the Associate Dean of Curriculum. Of note, as stated in the [NCOM Graduation Requirements and Honors policy](#), starting with the 2023, 32 NCOM elective credits are required. For MD/PhD students who entered the program prior to this date, 25 NCOM elective credits are required. In addition, students who complete the MD/PhD students are exempt from the basic science selective requirement.

MD/PhD Students are eligible to apply for up to 9 credits from the Grand Rounds Course towards College of Medicine Elective credits. Credits earned for Grand Rounds course and Research Elective Credits cannot exceed 12 out of the required 32 College of Medicine Elective Credits.

College of Graduate Studies

As detailed in the [The Graduation Requirements Policy](#) to meet the 30 credit coursework requirements for a PhD, 24 credits earned during the basic science curriculum during the first two years in NCOM are transferred to COGS. These credits are based on criteria set forth by the Graduate Programs Coordinator, the Dean of College of Graduate Studies, and the MD/PhD Program Director. The courses transferred are those that fulfill the COGS core curriculum and typically ones that correlate with the degree-granting program you choose.

MD/PhD Student Leadership Opportunities

MD/PhD Orientation Committee

- Goal: to help newly matriculated students acclimate to the MD/PhD program
- Responsibilities: plan and participate in orientation events, work closely with program administrator and be available for newly matriculated students

MD/PhD Social Committee

- Goal: to create a cohesive culture for the MD/PhD community
- Responsibilities: organize social events throughout the academic year for MD/PhD students

Recruitment Panel/Welcome Committee

- Goal: provide resources for MD/PhD applicants and support recruitment of excellent candidates to the program
- Responsibilities: organize and attend virtual recruitment panels. Organize and plan 'immersion days' for accepted and high priority alternate MD/PhD students

SURF Journal Club

- Goal: provide mentorship for future scientists and physician scientists enrolled in the SURF program
- Responsibilities: attend and lead journal clubs for the SURF program

Transition Panels

- Goal: to facilitate seamless transition through the multiple phases of the MD/PhD program
- Responsibilities: provide resources for students about to transition to the next phase of their training

New MD/PhD Student Mentorship

- Goal: provide one-on-one peer mentorship for newly matriculated MD/PhD students
- Responsibilities: meet and check in with a newly matriculated MD/PhD student

Tri-Institutional Conference

- Goal: to create a physician-scientist community in the Upstate New York area
- Responsibilities: work with program leadership in hosting the tri-institutional conference once every three years.

MD/PhD Grant Writing Workshop Tutor

- Goal: provide peer mentorship for students in the grant writing course on the logistics of grant writing and submission

MD/PhD Clinical Skills and Patient Care Tutor

- Goal: provide peer mentorship for PhD students enrolled in the clinical skills and patient care course in history, physical exam, and clinical reasoning skills

MD/PhD Alumni Liaison

- Goal: Engage with Upstate's MD/PhD program alumni and build strong relationships between the alumni and the students for mentorship and networking.
- Responsibilities: Utilize the MD/PhD alumni database maintained by the MD/PhD program administration, update contacts as needed, provide and assist in mentoring and visiting opportunities with alumni

Predoctoral Grant Resources

Sponsored Programs – Pre-Award Services

Jennifer Rudes – Director, 4-5384 rudesj@upstate.edu

Alert sponsored programs as soon as you know where you are applying and what you are applying to, they will help you through this entire process

Sponsored Programs –Post Award Services

Deb Weber – Sponsored Programs Admin., 4-4666 weberd@upstate.edu

- Once a project is accepted, establishes new accounts, renewals, and extensions
- Works with PIs and Fellows regarding questions on budget adjustments and sponsor guidelines
- Contacts sponsors as needed for clarification on guidelines and other requirements
- Assists with questions on electronic completion of Termination Notice via xTrain at Fellowship ending

Term of Fellowship

As an MD/PhD student, please request the maximum number of years of support the fellowship will allow or the number of years you need to complete your degree. You can apply for up to 6 years on an F30, and this would include your last two years of medical school. You may factor in a 3% increase in each year's tuition and fees.

Potential Award/Fellowships for MD/PhD Students

- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Components of the National Institute of Health, Specialties for Awards
- National Institute on Aging (NIA/NIH)
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA/NIH)
- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD/NIH)
- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA/NIH)
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS/NIH)

- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH/NIH)
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS/NIH)
- Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS/NIH)
- National Cancer Institute (NCI)
- National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM)
- National Eye Institute (NEI)
- National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)
- National Institute on Aging (NIA)
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)
- National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS)
- National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)
- National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)
- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)
- National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)
- National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)
- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
- National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)
- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
- National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)
- National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)

Alternate Award/Fellowships for MD/PhD Students

- American Association of University Women
- American Cancer Society
- American Chemical Society, Division of Analytical Chemistry: Pfizer Graduate
- Travel Awards in Analytical Chemistry
- American Diabetes Association
- American Federation for Aging Research Scholarship
- American Heart Association Regional Affiliates Predoctoral Fellowship
- American Physiological Society
- American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
- Howard Hughes Medical Institute Medical Fellows Program
- Josephine de Karman Predoctoral Fellowship
- NATO Predoctoral Fellowship with Partner Nations
- Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans

Additional Resources

Administration

Adam Waickman, PhD- MD/PhD Program Director
Auyon Ghosh, MD, MPH- Assistant MD/PhD Program Director ghosha@upstate.edu
Andrea Cifonelli- MD/PhD Program Coordinator
Jennifer Brennan- Graduate Studies Executive Coordinator
Cheryl Small- Assistant to the Dean of the College of Graduate Studies
Shaunna Arnold- Coordinator of Career Development, Alumni and Special Events
John Gillies- Coordinator of Curriculum, Assessment, and Analytics
Gary Chan, PhD- Dean of the College of Graduate Studies
Bruce Knutson, PhD- Assistant Dean of the College of Graduate Studies
Lawrence Chin, MD, FAANS, FACS – Dean of the College of Medicine
Lynn Cleary, MD- Vice President of Academic Affairs
Stephen Thomas, MD– Vice President of Research
Dana Mihaila, MD, PhD- Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education mihailda@upstate.edu
Matthew Mason, MD- Assistant Dean for Clinical Sciences

Student Affairs

Robert Ruiz - Dean of Student Affairs ruizr@upstated.edu 4-4816
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Bursar- 315-464-5148, Email:BURSARS@upstate.edu

Academic Support Services

Two transitions in the academic curriculum are particularly challenging for MD/PhD students. First, the start of the NCOM basic science curriculum is often difficult given the delivery of a high volume of information in a small amount of time. Second, the transition from the PhD years to MS3 is often difficult because of the evaluation by NBME shelf exams. NCOM has robust [Academic Support Services](#) including academic counseling, workshops that address learning strategies and time management, and tutor resources.

Student Health

Location: Fourth floor, Jacobsen Hall, 4-5470
Medical Director: Jarrod Bagatell, MD
Clinical Manager: Bridget McCarthy, FNP

Student Administrative Assistant: Lori Brooks

Phone: 315 464-5470

Email: eshealth@upstate.edu

Upstate Family Medicine

Phone: (315) 492-3400 (after hours, holidays and weekends)

Student Counseling

Student Counseling Center

Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences TU4

1st Floor

719 Harrison Street

Phone- 464-3138

Initial Appointments

Students who are seeking services will meet with a staff person in Student Counseling for an initial consultation. During this time, we will talk with you about your concerns and make recommendations for services that may be helpful. Recommendations may include ongoing services through SCS or referral to a community provider.

If you would like to make an appointment for an initial consultation, please contact Student Counseling at 464-3138. We strongly recommend that you call in advance for an appointment, as we cannot accommodate walk-in sessions. Please note that intake consultation times are pre reserved in staff calendars, but that scheduling is more flexible if you return for ongoing services.

Messages left after business hours or over the weekends will be returned on the next business day. Most appointments occur within 5 to 7 school days of the initial call; however, at high-volume times of the year this time may be extended.

Please Note: No outside party can make an appointment for a student. All appointments must be set up by the person seeking services. If you are concerned about a friend or fellow student, you may set up a consultation appointment to talk about your concerns.

Ongoing Services

If counseling services are recommended after the initial consultation, all appointments for Services are scheduled between you and your counselor.

If You are in Crisis

In the case of a genuine emergency, students should call 911 (from cell) or Public Safety (464- 4000 from campus landline) or go directly to the nearest emergency room.

Students in crisis during business hours may contact the Student Counseling Center at (315) 464-3138. Let the secretary know that your need is urgent when you call. They will return your call as soon as possible to determine if follow-up assistance or intervention may be indicated. Please be aware that messages left after business hours will not be received until the next business day.

Other options during times of crisis include:

- CONTACT24-hour Crisis Hotline - (315) 251-0600 Trained counselors are available by phone 24/7 to provide free, anonymous crisis counseling, crisis intervention, and referral for community services.
- St Joseph's Hospital CPEP (Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program) - (315) 448-6555
 - 301 Prospect Ave., Syracuse, NY 13203.
 - This emergency program is available 24/7 to anyone with an emotional or psychiatric crisis. CPEP provides crisis intervention, assessment, and treatment, as well as referral for ongoing services. Students seeking services here will need to use personal health insurance to cover associated costs.
- SUNY Upstate Medical University Emergency Room - (315) 464-5540 (switchboard)
 - 750 East Adams Street, Syracuse, NY 13210-2375
 - SUNY Upstate provides emergency assessment, psychiatric hospitalization, and outpatient mental health care. Individuals in crisis may present to the ER or call the switchboard to speak to ER personnel.
- Vera House/Rape Crisis Center - (315) 468-3260
 - Vera House provides a 24-hour hotline, counseling, support, and advocacy/referral services for women, men and children who are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault.
- The National Graduate Student Crisis Line is a free, confidential hotline to assist graduate students who are feeling overwhelmed by stress or other concerns. Call 1-800-472-3457 to reach a trained counselor 24 hours a day.
- The Crisis Text Line provides free, anonymous crisis intervention via text, 24/7.
<https://www.crisistextline.org/>
- The Middle Earth Hotline provides trained peer counseling assistance for crisis and non- crisis support. Callers may remain anonymous. Call (518) 442-5777 1:00 pm – midnight, Mondays through Thursdays, or 24/7 Fridays through Sundays.

All forms linked throughout this document can be found here: [Graduate Studies Forms](#):

