Biomedical Sciences
Joint MD/PhD Degree

Physician-scientists play a unique role in biomedicine by studying patients and their diseases. They take observations from the bedside into the laboratory, make basic discoveries and translate their discoveries into new methods for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease. The UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences strongly believes that the training of physician-scientists is critical to the future of medicine.

The MD/PhD Scholars Program is designed to prepare a select group of outstanding students for careers in academic medicine and research. Students admitted to this highly competitive program pursue original research in laboratories and/or clinical settings with members of the graduate faculty. They also complete the medical school curriculum. The integrated training for both degrees allows a compression of the total academic effort as some course work can be applied to both degrees.

Admission Requirements

Through the cooperation of the School of Graduate Studies and the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, students may concurrently pursue the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Biomedical Sciences and the Doctor of Medicine degree. The minimum time required to complete the joint program is six years of full-time academic study.

Students interested in the joint M.D./Ph.D. program should first obtain admission to the School of Medicine and Health Sciences M.D. program, through the normal application and selection process. Once admitted, the student is eligible to apply for admission to the Ph.D. program, but must do so not later than the end of the first year of Medical School.

Final admission requirements for the M.D./Ph.D. program include:
1. Satisfactory performance in the first two years of the medical education curriculum with passing scores on all required assessment tools.
2. Successful completion of the USMLE Step 1 examination.
3. All other UND School of Graduate Studies admission requirements listed in the UND Undergraduate and Graduate Catalog.
4. A Statement of Goals must be included with the application materials. This statement will describe the student’s academic achievements, research experience and accomplishments, career goals, and objectives for applying to the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program.

If admission to a Ph.D. program is granted, the student must apply to the School of Medicine and Health Sciences Medical Student Academic Performance Committee for a “modification of original program” which will allow the student to pursue the M.D. degree and Ph.D. degree concurrently. The student also must request the Office of Student Affairs to certify to the School of Graduate Studies their satisfactory completion of the first two years of the M.D. program.

Degree Requirements

Students seeking the Ph.D. degree in the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program as part of the combined M.D./Ph.D. must satisfy all general Ph.D. degree requirements set forth by the School of Graduate Studies as well as particular requirements set forth by the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program. In addition to course work, the Ph.D. degree requires completion of an acceptable dissertation in a program of study designed by the student with Faculty Advisory Committee approval.

Apply online: http://graduateschool.und.edu
Deadlines apply. See our website for more details.

Last Updated: 8/4/2014
Email: questions@gradschool.und.edu
1. A minimum of 90 credit hours of graduate level courses including research and dissertation. Completion of the first two years of the medical education curriculum will be transferred as 22 credits toward the Ph.D.

2. Completion of the following graduate level courses:
   a. BIMD516 – Responsible Conduct in Research – 2 credits
   b. BIMD518 – Grant Writing – 2 credits
   c. Completion of a scholarly tool, normally acquired during the first two years of the Medical Curriculum
   d. BIMD590 – Research – at least 42 credits
   e. BIMD999 – Dissertation – 6 credits

3. Completion of a minimum of 6 credit hours of graduate level elective courses. Please refer to the academic catalog for course options.

4. A student must obtain at least a “B” in all required courses in order to remain in good standing in the graduate program. If less than a “B” is received, the student will be given the opportunity to remediate in a manner determined by the course director. If remediation is unsuccessful, the student may petition the Graduate Faculty to take the course a second time. In the event that the student is unable to raise the grade to at least a “B”, the student must petition the Graduate Faculty to be allowed to remain the program.

5. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA in accordance with School of Graduate Studies guidelines (UND Graduate and Undergraduate Academic Catalog).

6. Students must successfully complete the comprehensive examination.

7. Students must fulfill the teaching requirement as defined by the student’s Faculty Advisory Committee.

8. Research and Dissertation: The Ph.D. degree requires completion of a dissertation based on the results of a project completed by the graduate student under the guidance of a faculty advisor. The project must represent an original and independent investigation by the student. It is expected that the student produce at least one first author peer-reviewed manuscript accepted for publication in a scientific or academic journal prior to the defense of their dissertation. The dissertation prepared by the candidate must be presented orally in a public forum and defended before the Faculty Advisory Committee and the Departmental Graduate Faculty and will be open to all members of the academic community.

Faculty and Areas of Expertise

We encourage all applicants for the Biomedical Sciences degree to review the faculty listing on the Department of Basic Sciences website to learn more about their research expertise. Visit med.und.edu/basic-sciences

Contact Information
Dr. John A. Watt
Director, MD/PhD Biomedical Sciences program
School of Medicine and Health Sciences
Department of Basic Sciences
University of North Dakota
501 North Columbia Road
Grand Forks, ND 58203-9037

E: john.watt@med.UND.edu
http://www.med.und.edu/basic-sciences

Apply online: http://graduateschool.und.edu
Deadlines apply. See our website for more details.
Email: questions@gradschool.und.edu
Last Updated: 8/4/2014