

COMBINED M.D./PH.D. PROGRAM

The Creighton Medical Scientist Training Program is designed to prepare highly qualified individuals for careers in academic medicine with emphasis on pre-clinical and clinical research. To accomplish this goal, the program provides for efficient integration of a graduate program in research with a full complement of clinical study for the degree of doctor of medicine. The combined program requirements for both M.D. and Ph.D. degrees may be expected to be completed in six or more years of continuous study.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The combined M.D./Ph.D. program occurs in four interrelated sections.

- I.** Two years of science and clinical activities basic to medical practice.
- II.** Two or more years of research and academic training along with dissertation preparation to fulfill the requirements for the Ph.D. degree.
- III.** One year of core clinical clerkships in the medical school.
- IV.** One year of elective courses, clinical clerkships, and research.

Part I is devoted to academic course work in the medical curriculum, predominately in the basic sciences of the medical school program. These include anatomy, molecular and cellular biology, microbiology, host defense, pharmacology, behavioral medicine, and neuroscience in the first year. In the second year, a multidisciplinary approach to clinical medicine and pathophysiology is taken. Students in the M.D./Ph.D. program also attend seminars that focus on topics not included in medical school course work.

The summer prior to the first year and the summer between the first and second years are both devoted to orientation to research activities in the student's chosen department. During this time, the student may take graduate level courses or begin specialized research. This also allows the student the opportunity to acquaint him/herself with the faculty and their various research interests. By the end of Part I, the student will have determined the area of graduate research for the dissertation, selected a research advisor, and successfully passed Step 1 of the USMLE.

Part II of the curriculum is comprised of graduate level course work and research appropriate to the student's area of specialization. During the first year of Part II, the student participates in the activities of the major department with other graduate students in the department and completes course requirements and preliminary examinations. The preliminary examination is given both orally and in writing in the field of specialization as well as in other areas important to the program of graduate study. The student will complete the dissertation project and write the Ph.D. dissertation during the period.

Part III of the program begins after dissertation research is complete and the thesis has been successfully defended. During the M3 year, the student rotates through six required clerkships, each of which is eight weeks in length. These clerkships are completed with the current third year medical school class.

Part IV, a 38-week period of study, includes both selective and elective clinical programs, but allows crediting of up to 16 weeks for dissertation writing and defense (already completed during Part II in fulfillment of graduate school requirements for the Ph.D.)

When all of the above are accomplished, the M.D. and Ph.D. degrees are awarded simultaneously at the completion of all four parts. This program is possible because of the following commitments:

1. Selection of candidates with strong scientific background and excellent time management skills so that academic work can be accelerated.
2. Commitment of large blocks of time for graduate research.
3. Spirit of collaboration and cooperation between clinical and basic science faculty and the student.

DEPARTMENTS OF STUDY FOR THE Ph.D.

1. Biomedical Sciences, including Molecular and Cellular Biology, Biological Chemistry, Anatomy, and Physiology.
2. Pharmacology
3. Medical Microbiology and Immunology

The program is conducted in the facilities of the Creighton University School of Medicine and the Graduate School. Laboratories for research work are located in the Criss complex of the School of Medicine, the Health Professions Center and Boys Town National Research Hospital (both adjacent to Creighton University Medical Center), and the Omaha Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Excellent library and computer facilities are conveniently located on campus.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND TUITION REMISSION

Generally, two Dean's fellowships are available for each year. The specific number of students admitted to the program in any given year may vary and is subject to availability of funds. This package includes stipends for Part II and tuition remission for Parts II, III, and IV. Students are responsible for tuition during the first two years of Part I.

ELIGIBILITY

Successful applicants will be accepted by both the School of Medicine and the Graduate School, and will hold the bachelor's degree from an accredited academic institution. A productive undergraduate research record is also highly desirable, as it demonstrates an aptitude for and commitment to scientific research. Applications to the M.D./Ph.D. program are accepted concomitantly with applications for entry into the first year medical school class. The successful applicant will first gain acceptance to Creighton University School of Medicine. At that time, the application for the M.D./Ph.D. program will be considered by the M.D./Ph.D. Admissions Committee. Upon acceptance to the M.D./Ph.D. program. The candidate will then apply to the Creighton University Graduate School.

Preference is given to individuals currently enrolled in medical study at Creighton.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND INFORMATION

Further information about application materials and procedures may be obtained from the Assistant Dean for Admissions, Office of Medical Admissions, Creighton University School of Medicine, Criss II, Room 316, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, Nebraska 68178. Telephone (402) 280- 2799. Fax (402) 280-1241, email: medschadm@creighton.edu. web page: www.medicine.creighton.edu.

