

MD/PHD

Contacts

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Program Website (<https://www.jefferson.edu/academics/colleges-schools-institutes/skmc/programs/md-phd/overview.html>)

Program Description

The MD/PhD program of Thomas Jefferson University provides training that integrates hypothesis-driven investigation with clinical observation and experience that drive the clinical translation of laboratory-based research discoveries. The program goal is to produce highly motivated physician investigators who will undertake life-long careers in biomedical research, translating fundamental discoveries into improved health care delivery, and serving as role models for the next generation of investigators. Our trainees acquire the skills to provide outstanding patient care, lead discovery in biomedical research, advocate for basic and translational research, and assume leadership roles in biomedical research.

Learning Goals/Outcomes

The MD/PhD program is built upon a strongly collaborative and well-integrated partnership that incorporates the medical education and research programs of the Sidney Kimmel Medical College and the biomedical PhD training programs of the Jefferson College of Life Sciences.

Our goal is to give you the opportunity to develop into motivated and enthusiastic physician-scientists who will elect a life-long career in biomedical research, translating fundamental discoveries into improved healthcare delivery and serving as role models for the next generation of investigators.

Curriculum:

Students in the MD/PhD Program take courses at both Sidney Kimmel Medical College (SKMC) and Jefferson College of Life Sciences (JCLS).

Studies begin in SKMC with a restructured medical education curriculum, JeffMD (<https://www.jefferson.edu/academics/colleges-schools-institutes/skmc/undergraduate-medical-education.html>), a curriculum designed to meet our student's needs as tomorrow's medical leaders. Students will complete research rotations before and/or during vacations in SKMC Phase 1 (<https://www.jefferson.edu/academics/colleges-schools-institutes/skmc/undergraduate-medical-education/curriculum/phase-1.html>). During Phase 1 students will participate in GC 710, 712 Current Topics in Translational Biomedical Research: (1 credit each semester, see below for details.) After completing Phase 1 in SKMC and the USMLE Step 1, students select a thesis mentor and PhD Program (<https://www.jefferson.edu/academics/colleges-schools-institutes/life-sciences/degrees-programs/phd-programs.html>) in JCLS where they will complete their study for the PhD.

Credits are awarded for SKMC Phase 1, accounting for a substantial number of the credits required for the PhD thesis. In addition, six didactic credits and 20 research credits are awarded for MD/PhD

specific coursework completed during SKMC Phase 1. Thus, MD/PhD students should be able to fulfill most remaining coursework early, providing significant time for bench research. Some courses are required of MD/PhD students in all PhD programs and are listed below. Other requirements are program-specific and listed with the appropriate PhD Program (<https://www.jefferson.edu/university/life-sciences/degrees-programs.html>). As much of the remaining coursework as possible should be completed during the first year in JCLS.