The University of Kentucky MD/PhD Training Program leverages the strong institutional environment to prepare exceptional students to assume leadership positions at the forefront of scientific and medical discovery. The MD/PhD Program has benefited from broad institutional investment to promote basic, translational, and clinical science by attracting top-caliber students and producing well-prepared physician-scientists. As one of only a handful of universities to have six healthcare colleges on the same campus, we offer a wide range of graduate training opportunities. The range of multidisciplinary research is what makes UK unique.

Did you know

The University of Kentucky’s MD/PhD Program trains the best and brightest in the skills, intellectual tools and science of both clinical medicine and ground-breaking biomedical research.
Fast Facts:

- Integrated curriculum
- In fiscal year 2019, UK investigators brought in $417.1 million in research awards. Of that total, $241.8 million were federal grants, including $159.3 million from the National Institutes of Health.
- UK is currently one of only 22 public institutions with a trifecta of federal designations of excellence — for aging, in cancer and in translational science.
- Average time to dual degree is 7.6 years
- Students receive a competitive stipend during medical and graduate school.
- Students receive funding for tuition and fees during their MD/PhD training program years.

50% of our students have published research articles before entering into the program.
University of Kentucky (UK) has strategically invested in faculty recruitment and research infrastructure, enhancing an already robust training environment for physician-scientists. This fosters an integrated approach to research and healthcare that emphasizes: cancer, neuroscience/aging, obesity/diabetes, addiction/substance use, healthcare disparities and cardiovascular disease. As a result, UK ranked in the top 10% of US institutions in the 2019 NSF Higher Education Research and Development Survey, a ranking likely to be sustained in 2020 as UK funding increased by >25%. UK’s strategic plan is facilitated by outstanding transdisciplinary centers.

• UK is unique as its colleges (Medicine, Public Health, Pharmacy, Nursing, Engineering) and its hospitals are within walking distance, giving MD/PhD students ready access to a breadth of research expertise and clinical experiences.

• The UK Albert B. Chandler Hospital, a 569-bed, acute care hospital, is the only Level I trauma center and has the only Level IV neonatal intensive care unit in the region.

• There are 100 intensive care beds and 17 operating rooms. With over 1,600 full-time faculty UK is well-positioned to provide for the education and training of our future physician-scientists.

The University of Kentucky MD/PhD Program is designed to prepare exceptional students to assume leadership positions at the forefront of scientific and medical discovery.
Sidney (Wally) Whiteheart, Ph.D., FAHA
Professor, Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry
PhD – John Hopkins University of Medicine
Postdoctoral Fellow - Princeton University
Postdoctoral Fellow - Sloan-Kettering Institute

Richard D. King, MD, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Neurology
MD/PhD – Baylor College of Medicine
Residency – Harvard Medical School
Fellow – University of Texas at Dallas
Fellow – University of Utah

Brandon A. Miller, MD, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery
MD/PhD – The Ohio State University
Residency – Emory University School of Medicine
Fellow – Washington University in St. Louis
Our current students’ qualifications are impressive, not only in terms of academic records, but also in community service, leadership roles, and scientific achievements. During their training, students gain national visibility by presenting high-caliber science at prestigious meetings in the U.S. and at international forums.

Students in our program benefit from participation in NIH-funded research programs that serve as a pipeline to a career in biomedical science. These include training in disease-specific areas such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, neurobiology and drug addition. Mechanistic training programs focus on oxidative stress, pharmacology, nutritional science, biochemistry, nanotechnology, risk behaviors and other areas.

60% of our students receive extramurally funded fellowships for their doctoral studies*

*American Heart Association Predoctoral Fellowship. NIH Individual Predoctoral F30 Awards. Biomedical Engineering Halcomb Fellowship Award.
Upon graduating, students typically move on to residencies at prestigious institutions such as:

- Bascom Palmer Eye Institute - Ophthalmology
- Emory University - Internal Medicine/Research Track
- Indiana University - Internal Medicine - Pulmonary, Critical Care
- Johns Hopkins University - Psychiatry
- Mayo Clinic Rochester - Neurology
- The Ohio State - Anesthesiology & Pediatric Cardiology
- University of Alabama at Birmingham - Genetics/Pediatrics
- University of California, Davis - Radiology
- University of California, Los Angeles - Psychiatry
- University of California, San Francisco - Dermatology
- University of Pennsylvania - Neurology
- University of Texas-Southwestern - Psychiatry
- University of Washington - Neuropathology
- Vanderbilt University - General Surgery
- Wake Forest University - Neurology
- Washington University in St. Louis - Radiology

As one of UK’s MD-PhD students you instantly become part of a “family” comprised of research and clinical faculty and staff who make up our mentoring community.

Did you know

Our students have had leadership roles in organizations such as the American Physician Scientist Association and positions as co-chair on the Gordon Research Conference Seminars, and the American Medical Association student board. They hold patents and pursue funding from small business awards.
The University of Kentucky College of Medicine, which was founded in 1960, provides innovative, high-quality education through its nationally recognized curriculum.

The college’s mission is to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes that promote professionalism, teamwork, life-long learning, empathy, scholarship, cultural sensitivity, and leadership, with the goal of providing excellence in education, health care and research within the Commonwealth of Kentucky and beyond. Students can tailor their educational experience by selecting from doctoral programs from departments across campus.
Possible PhD programs include:
Biochemistry
Biomedical Engineering
Clinical & Translational Science
Public Health: Epidemiology & Biostatistics
Microbiology, Immunology & Molecular Genetics
Neuroscience
Pharmacology & Nutritional Sciences
Pharmaceutical Science: Medicinal, Bioorganic & Computational Chemistry
Pharmaceutical Science: Clinic & Experimental Therapeutics
Physiology
Toxicology & Cancer Biology

The University of Kentucky MD/PhD Program utilizes an integrated approach to scientific and clinical training that emphasizes interdisciplinary research of importance to human health and disease.

Did you know

UK is one of only a few universities in the nation to have all six health science colleges - Medicine, Dentistry, Health Sciences, Nursing, Pharmacy and Public Health - on one campus.
The University of Kentucky recently accomplished the equivalent of a “triple crown” in the academic medical world, becoming only the 22nd medical center in the country to have a National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation at the Markey Cancer Center; a federally funded Alzheimer’s Disease Center (ADC) at the UK Sanders-Brown Center on Aging; and a Clinical and Translational Science Awards grant at the Center for Clinical and Translational Science. As part of this consortium, UK shares the common vision of improving human health by transforming the research and training environment to enhance the efficiency and quality of clinical and translational research.

One of Nine

Sanders Brown Center on Aging at the University of Kentucky was among the first 10 Alzheimer’s Disease Centers funded by the National Institutes of Health. Currently, only 31 designated Alzheimer’s Disease Centers exist in the U.S. and only nine, including Sanders-Brown, have been continuously funded since the designation was launched.

29th

For the fourth straight year (2020), the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center has earned a top 50 national ranking for cancer care, this year climbing to number 29.
University of Kentucky research facilities include:
Barnstable Brown Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center
Center for Drug and Alcohol Research
Gill Heart Institute and the Saha Cardiovascular Research Center
Graduate Center for Biomedical Engineering
Kentucky Neuroscience Institute
Spinal Cord & Brain Injury Research Center

The UK CCTS Pilot Funding Program stimulates innovative science to accelerate improvements in health. Our funding prioritizes multidisciplinary research and projects that focus on health disparities, particularly in Appalachia. Since our first CTSA funding in 2011, it has supported 71 pilot projects.

Did you know
UK is one of the institutions designated a Research I University by the Carnegie Foundation. Only 108 universities in the country share this distinction as high research institutions.
CONTACT US

For more information or to apply, contact:

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We are committed to diversity and encourage applications from women and members of racial, ethnic, and/or demographic groups currently underrepresented in biomedical science.