“Harnessing the power of the scientific method to alleviate suffering from disease is one of humankind’s proudest achievements…”

- Barry S. Coller, MD, physician-in-chief
The Rockefeller University Hospital

Why choose the University of Kentucky’s MD/PhD program?

- Funding: UK College of Medicine contracts and grants reached nearly 116,000,000 in the last fiscal year.
- Fellowship offers: More than 60% of our students are awarded extramural fellowships for their doctoral studies.
- Integrated curriculum: Average time to dual degree is 7.3 years.
- Competitive stipend during medical and graduate school.
- Expenses paid for presentations at national meetings.
- Financial support for tuition and fees.
- UK’s MD/PhD students are routinely published in major medical journals, including Science, Nature, PNAS, Journal of Biological Chemistry, and Nature Medicine.
- UK is one of only 60 medical academic centers to receive a Clinical Translational Science Award from the National Institutes of Health’s National Center for Research Resources. 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.

For more information, contact:

Susan S. Smyth, MD/PhD, Program Director
Therese Stearns, Administrative Director

EMAIL  md-phd-program@lsv.uky.edu
WEBSITE  mc.uky.edu/MDPhD/
PHONE  (859) 323-2274
FAX  (859) 257-3235
50 years of excellence in medical education, research, and clinical care

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. 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. What makes UK unique is the range of multidisciplinary research and the exchange between investigators from different academic disciplines in our research centers.

Our current students’ qualifications are impressive, not only in terms of academic records, but also in community service, leadership roles, and scientific achievements. More than half of our diverse student population have published articles before joining the program.

On a national level, our students gain visibility through their leadership roles in organizations such as the American Physician Scientist Association, positions as co-chair of the Gordon Research Conference seminars, and by presenting high-caliber science at national and international meetings. Students in our program benefit from extra-mural training that serves as a pipeline to graduate training in NIH-funded research programs. These include a mix of the mechanistic: oxidative stress, drug abuse biochemistry, and muscle biology; as well as the disease-specific, such as therapeutic strategies for neurodegeneration, cancer nanotechnology, the neurobiology of aging, and cardiovascular disease.

Upon graduating, students typically move on to residencies at prestigious institutions such as the Mayo Clinic, Johns Hopkins University, University of Texas-Southwestern, and Washington State University.

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 mentor community, experts who will help guide your career. Join our budding physician-scientists program and help bridge the gap between bench discoveries and bedside treatments to transform the future of medical practice.

“..."A dual-degree program is composed of people and resources, and at UK you truly do get the best of both worlds."” — Greg Wehner

research facilities

MD/PhD Students engage in cutting-edge research at UK’s progressive and nationally renowned research and treatment centers, including:

Barnstable Brown Kentucky Diabetes and Obesity Center
Center for Clinical Translational Science
Center for Drug and Alcohol Research
Gill Heart Institute and the Saha Cardiovascular Research Center
Graduate Center for Biomedical Engineering
Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences
Graduate Center for Toxicology
Kentucky Neuroscience Institute
Markey Cancer Center
Morris K. Udall Parkinson’s Disease Research Center of Excellence
Sanders-Brown Center on Aging
Spinal Cord & Brain Injury Research Center

clinical services

UK Healthcare, nationally ranked among best by U.S. News & World Report, is the clinical enterprise of the University of Kentucky, which encompasses UK’s Albert P. Chandler Hospital, Kentucky’s Children’s Hospital, UK Good Samaritan Hospital, Gill Heart Institute, Markey Cancer Center, Kentucky Neuroscience Institute, Kentucky Clinics, as well as the clinical activities of our six health sciences colleges.

UK’s PhD programs (select)

Anatomy and Neurobiology
Biology
Biomedical Engineering
Chemistry
Clinical and Translational Science
Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics
Molecular and Biomedical Pharmacology
Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry
Nutritional Sciences
Pharmaceutical Sciences/Clinical and Experimental Therapeutics
Physiology
Toxicology