

Growth, Development, and Disabilities MD/PhD Training Program

Timeline and application procedure

The GDDTP application requires completion of the BSD graduate school application, three letters of recommendation, University of Chicago transcript and the completion of several essays. Students must also meet the specific entrance and degree requirements of their chosen PhD degree program. Applicants undergo two formal interviews for the GDDTP program and may also be required to interview with their graduate program. Successful applicants seek out a research sponsor and graduate degree unit prior to applying to the program and generally have fulfilled at least some graduate course requirements.

Students entering the GDDTP after MS2: First year students interested in the GDDTP program are required to participate in the Pritzker School of Medicine Summer Research Program in order to explore graduate programs and potential mentors. Formal applications are due March 1 (Winter Quarter) of the second year of medical school. Decisions announced by the end of the Spring Quarter and appointments typically begin in Summer Quarter. After the PhD is completed, students return to Pritzker for MS3 in Summer Quarter. **The preferred entry point is after the second year of medical school, as the timeline of support from the training grant best supports this approach (see below).**

Students entering the GDDTP after MS1: First year students interested in the GDDTP program are required to participate in the Pritzker School of Medicine Summer Research Program in order to explore graduate programs and potential mentors. Applications from MS1 students are allowed with special permission and are due by August 15 with notification by early September. Appointments begin in Autumn Quarter. After the PhD is completed, students return to Pritzker for MS2 in Autumn Quarter.

Funding/Support

Funding is provided by the NIH. Trainees in the program may receive up to five years of full tuition support, health insurance and a living stipend. This usually encompasses three years of the PhD phase of training, and the final two years of MD training (the clinical years). Over the total duration of training grant support, more than 50% of the award period must be devoted to full-time graduate research training leading to the doctoral research degree, per NIH guidelines. If needed, additional years of graduate training will be supported through research funds available from trainee advisors or other sources.

Research Opportunities

Many of the current PhD degree-granting departments and committees in The Division of Biological Sciences, as well as some in other Divisions, are available to trainees. It is preferred that the research area and ultimate clinical specialty of participating students be aligned with the mission of the NIH funding institute, NICHD: <https://www.nichd.nih.gov/grants-funding/opportunities-mechanisms/areas-research/Pages/default.aspx>

Citizenship Requirement

The GDDTP program is federally funded by the National Institutes of Health and requires U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status.

Further Information

Please visit <http://pritzker.uchicago.edu/page/growth-development-and-disabilities-training-program> for an application and additional information.