Clinical research provides a critical link in applying basic research to patient care. Specialized training in biomedical research and in clinical medicine prepares the student for this highly rewarding career. The M.D./Ph.D. Program at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences has been developed to respond to the need for biomedical scientist-clinicians trained in multiple medical and scientific arenas. M.D./Ph.D. scientists differ from basic scientists in that their in-depth clinical training, combined with extensive biomedical research gives them a unique perspective with which to view medical problems.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Six to eight years of academic study are essential to complete the M.D./Ph.D. program. Students must be admitted into the College of Medicine and into one of the Ph.D. programs within the UAMS Graduate School. At the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Ph.D. programs are available in the Departments of Anatomy and Neuroscience, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Interdisciplinary Toxicology, Microbiology and Immunology, Pharmacology, and Physiology and Biophysics.

M.D./Ph.D. students first complete the initial two preclinical years of the Medical College program. They then conduct original research in a specific discipline in the Graduate School for two to four years. They then complete the last two clinical years of Medical College curriculum and receive both the M.D. and Ph.D. degrees. Credits earned in many of the preclinical basic science courses in the College of Medicine will be accepted toward the Ph.D. program. The graduate curriculum is designed around the individual interests and needs of the M.D./Ph.D. student. College of Medicine and Graduate School standards of academic achievement apply separately for the M.D. and Ph.D. degrees.

The Graduate School portion of the program is individually tailored to personal career goals and normally involves two to four years of study, including advanced course work, original research under the direction of a faculty advisor, the Ph.D. candidacy examination, a dissertation, and defense of the dissertation. The curriculum for the remaining two years includes required and elective clinical courses. Senior research electives may also be taken to complete graduate work. Dissertation credits will be earned during the clinical years until the dissertation defense examination is completed.
ELIGIBILITY

The M.D./Ph.D. program is offered to a limited number of qualified students who have an exceptional potential for research. Any student applying for admission to the College of Medical may apply for this program. Freshman or sophomore medical students may also apply. Enrollees are required to pass Step 1 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination at the conclusion of the sophomore year in order to engage in full-time study in the Graduate School. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores will not be required for acceptance by the Graduate School. MCAT scores will be submitted for evaluation purposes.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Each year, institutional M.D./Ph.D. scholarships are awarded by the College of Medicine to the very best students applying to the program. The scholarship will be equal to the amount of tuition for each year of medical school. Year to year renewal of the scholarship will be contingent upon satisfactory academic progress. Satisfactory academic performance includes maintaining a grade point average that will meet the requirements of the Graduate School, and passing step 1 of the USMLE. During the graduate phase of the program, a stipend of approximately $18,500 per year will be provided for each student and graduate tuition will be paid.

If you are interested in applying for the M.D./Ph.D. program, please complete and return the M.D./Ph.D. Scholarship Application to: M.D./Ph.D. Program, University of Arkansas College of Medicine, 4301 West Markham, Slot 511, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205.