

Choosing a Graduate Program for MD/PhD Students

After passing Step 1, completing the MD program's TTCE course, and completing 1-3 research rotations, MD/PhD students should choose a mentor and lab to join. Students will also need to finalize their graduate program choice, although this may be done before Spring term if there are program courses that would be beneficial to take Spring term. Students will need to select between the following graduate programs:

- Behavioral Neuroscience Graduate Program
- Biomedical Informatics educational programs:
 - Health & Clinical Informatics
 - Bioinformatics & Computational Biomedicine
- Neuroscience Graduate Program
- Program in Biomedical Sciences (PBMS) – research hubs include:
 - Biochemical, Molecular, and Structural Biology
 - Chemical Physiology
 - Development, Differentiation, and Disease
 - Genome Sciences
 - Infectious Disease and Immunology
 - Integrated Cancer Biology

Please see the [Graduate Programs in MD/PhD web page](#) for links to any of these program websites.

Discussion of possible programs and mentors with your SOC and the appropriate graduate program director(s) should take place the Spring through Fall terms prior to your transition. Email mdphdadmin@ohsu.edu to inform the MD/PhD program of your decision. This decision will then be communicated to the selected graduate program to start any required paperwork.

Rotations and Coursework

During Spring term you'll be registered for CONJ 601-MD/PhD Research or research credits related to your graduate program of choice. During this term, you'll need to complete any remaining research rotations in order to identify a permanent mentor and a particular graduate program, if not already decided.

Faculty rotation mentors should be faculty within the graduate program that you are considering. You should meet with the director of your preferred graduate program to get their input on selecting rotations and mentors. Ideally students should select a

mentor and pick a specific graduate program by the end of Spring term, but no later than the end of Summer term.

Work with your SOC, mentor, and graduate program director to develop a plan for required coursework within your selected graduate program. Please note that you must complete all requirements of your chosen graduate program. Continue to work and meet with your SOC until your dissertation advisory committee (DAC) is officially formed. Students should meet with their SOC and DAC every 6 months after committee formation.

Changing Graduate Programs

The best time to vacillate between programs is the Winter through Summer terms of your second year, and most importantly *before* you officially join a program. If for some reason you decide you want to switch graduate programs after you officially join a program, you will need to go through a formal petition process with the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies. You must receive approval from both the graduate program you are leaving and the graduate program you are entering in an official letter request to the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies. This process is not recommended, however we prize student success above all else and recognize that there may be extenuating circumstances leading to this decision.

Please consult with the MD/PhD Director and Coordinator before starting this process.