



FAQ for Potential & Current Mentors to MD/PhD Students

An FAQ sheet to answer all of your questions!

When and how are MD/PhD students funded?

MD/PhD students are funded by the School of Medicine Dean’s Office and the NIH MSTP T32 throughout the program (see below). Once an MD/PhD student has chosen a lab, their mentor will pick up the student’s funding in Spring term at the end of their first year as a PhD student.

Program/Year	Term(s)	Funding Type	Example Student	Other Notes
MS1/Year 1	Summer B (Aug)-Spring	T32 + SOM Dean’s Scholar	Summer B 2020-Spring 2021	Not part of GRU
MS2/Year 2	Summer-Winter	SOM Dean’s Scholar + Laurels (Tuition)	Summer 2021-Winter 2022	
Grad0	Spring (April)	SOM Dean’s Scholar	Spring 2022	Joins GRU in Spring
Grad1/Year 3	Summer-Winter	T32 + SOM Dean’s Scholar	Summer 2022-Winter 2023	Applicable for ARCS
	Spring (April)	T32 + PhD Mentor	Spring 2023	
Grad2+ /Year4+ (until transition back to MD)	Summer-Spring	PhD Mentor (student may receive F award in later years)	Summer 2023-Spring 2025 for 3 years of PhD	Must apply for F30 or equivalent by Grad 3 (Aug 2024)
MS3-4 /Year ~6-7	Summer-Spring	SOM Dean’s Scholar + Laurels (Tuition) + T32/F30 if applicable	Summer 2025-Spring 2027	Not part of GRU

What is the total cost to a mentor for having an MD/PhD trainee in their lab?

The cost of a MD/PhD trainee is the same as the cost of a PhD student, with the exception of the first PhD year. Please refer to the “Cost of a SOM PhD Graduate Student in the GRU” document that is released by the SOM Graduate Studies office each year. Please email somgrad@ohsu.edu for details and questions.

Are MD/PhD students represented by the Graduate Researchers United (GRU) union?

MD/PhD students are represented by the GRU and covered under the GRU contract during their PhD years only. Please email mdphdadmin@ohsu.edu if you have additional questions.

Are MD/PhD students required to write a NRSA grant?

Yes. All MD/PhD students are required to apply for a NRSA F30 award or an equivalent, such as the American Heart Association (AHA) grant. A student's funding is still guaranteed if they do not receive the award.

We calculated an 83% success rate over the entire program in 2020. We encourage resubmissions if the student is not awarded on first try. We also encourage students to reach out to their peers and program leadership for support, in addition to mentor & PhD program support, during this time.

What are the requirements of an MD/PhD student during their PhD years?

MD/PhD students are required to complete all components of their PhD including DAC meetings, lab work and meetings, and courses.

In addition, MD/PhD students are required to participate in MD/PhD-specific activities, including:

- [MD/PhD Journal Club](#) – a weekly course that is required throughout their time in the program
- [Professional Development Fundamentals](#) – a spring term course held at the beginning of their program. If they miss it during their Grad0 term, they will need to take it the following year
- [Longitudinal Clinical Clerkship](#) – 15-30 clinical hours each quarter depending on their year in the program. These hours & activities can be flexible, but are an important part of their training.
 - Students must maintain their bi-annual Basic Life Support (BLS) certification to participate in this course
- [NRSA F30 Submission](#) – see “Are MD/PhD students required to write a NRSA grant?” above
- [MD/PhD activities:](#)
 - [MD/PhD annual retreat](#) – all students are required to attend this annual event, typically held in the spring. This retreat is co-planned by the Grad3 year students with the MD/PhD program coordinator
 - [MD/PhD new student welcome](#) – August each year to welcome incoming MD/PhD students
 - [MD/PhD interview activities](#) – students are asked to participate in the 3 interview weeks each year, typically Oct-Jan annually, and second look in late winter/early spring. Our admissions committee has 4 student representatives that will be active Aug-Jan annually. Our program has 2 admissions liaisons that are active year-round.



- APSA – American Physician Scientist Association annual conference in Chicago, IL typically the first week of April. Students on our T32 and our APSA representative are given priority.
- Other leadership positions & activities – the MD/PhD program has other leadership positions and irregular activities that we encourage our students to participate in. We encourage students to engage in OHSU's Research Week and other professional & career development conferences and activities.

Do MD/PhD students graduate from their PhD & do mentors cover the graduation fee?

Yes, and yes. MD/PhD students graduate from their PhD the term in which they submit their dissertation to the library. The PhD mentor is required to cover all tuition and fees, including graduation fees. Please refer to [section 8.4 in the GRU contract](#) for more information.

Do MD/PhD students have to complete their PhD training within 4 years?

On average our students complete PhDs within 3-4 years and we encourage them to maximize their protected research time. Some students may need more or less time depending on several factors, including but not limited to student's research & productivity and advice from their mentor(s). We generally discourage planned PhDs that will take much longer than 4 years to ensure the student is finishing their physician-scientist pathway in a timely manner.

If you have additional question, please email mdphdadmin@ohsu.edu for more information.