

Medical Scholars Program
University of Illinois at
Urbana/Champaign

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A Little Background

- ~150 MD/PhD, MD/JD, and MD/MBA students in the program
- Students in 30 graduate programs
- ~125 first year med students are at Urbana
 - 50 go to Peoria for M2-M4
 - 50 go to Rockford for M2-M4
 - 25 stay at Urbana for M2-M4
 - 60-80% MD/PhD

Our Standard Pathway

- Start in Graduate School
 - Classes, rotations, get started on the thesis work
- Take the M1 classes as they progress through the PhD
 - 1-2 Med classes per semester PhD years 2-5
- We encourage students to finish the M1 and PhD at the same time
- Avg completion time is 5 yrs
- M2-M4 for a total of 8 yrs

Other Clinical Opportunities

- Our medical students started and fully operate a free clinic in town
 - Big business in school physicals
- Volunteer at another free clinic in town
- Serve on the board of the campus health center
- Clinical preceptorship
 - Shadow a local physician

Pros and Cons?

- Students are fully integrated into their graduate program and are treated like any other graduate student
- Students think like a graduate student when in M1 and M2
- They really are doing both at the same time
- It does take some time away from the lab
- It might be 6 years between taking Biochemistry and Step 1
- The transition from M2-M3 is seamless

Pros and Cons?

- M1 is essentially funded by the graduate program. (We don't charge them.)
- They begin to think like an MD during their graduate studies, but not as much as someone who has completed M1 and M2
- Students in the PhD programs can apply
- We often tell students to start the PhD and then reapply