



MD/PhD Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the admissions process after I submit my AMCAS application?

Your MD/PhD Program application follows the same path as an MD application. You will be screened to ensure you are either a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident and have a valid MCAT score. If you meet both of these requirements, you will be invited to complete a secondary application that must be submitted within 30 days of invitation. Once your secondary application is reviewed, you will either be invited to interview, placed on hold for further consideration, or your application may be denied. The Office of Admissions and Recruitment will notify you by email of the initial decision. If invited to interview, you will be notified of the selected date and your interview itinerary. Please note that your interview is generally concluded in one day, but may be extended to two days. Your Applicant Visit Day (AVD) will include the use of the Multi-Mini Interview (MMI) process together with all MD candidates visiting that day, followed by a formal interview with members of MD/PhD Committee. You will also have dinner with members of the MD/PhD Committee and other applicants. After your Applicant Visit Day, your application will be, once again, reviewed and you will either receive notification of an acceptance, rejection or placement on a waitlist. Those accepted will receive a phone call, while other decisions will be shared by email communication.

2. How many applicants do you review? Interview? Admit?

The number of applicants reviewed each application season varies. However, we have committed to inviting to campus and interviewing 16 candidates with a goal of admitting two students to the MD/PhD program.

3. What is estimated time for completing the program?

Seven to eight years, including the MD and MD/PhD curricula.

4. What is the curriculum?

- a. During the first two years, the student enters the MD curriculum, including the pre-clerkship organ system based blocks, capstones, doctoring and clinical experiences. Time devoted to the Scholarly Project curriculum during these years may be used to support research rotations and preparation for future PhD research.
- b. The MD/PhD Program years begin after USMLE Step 1 has been completed at the end of the second year of medical school. During this period, MD/PhD students take graduate coursework along with seminars, professional development curricula, and research credits. A sample plan of study for the MD/PhD Program in Clinical Translational Sciences is available at:

<http://phoenixmed.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/education/degree-programs/mdphd/md-phd-cts-schedule.pdf>

- c. After the PhD is complete, students re-enter their third and fourth year of medical school to complete their clinical clerkships, including medicine, pediatrics, surgery, pediatrics, psychiatry and others.
5. I'm currently enrolled in the College of Medicine – Phoenix. Am I eligible to apply to the MD/PhD program?

No. Interest in this program must be identified at time of application.

6. What are the application requirements?

All applicants to the MD/PhD Program are expected to have outstanding undergraduate grades (GPA of at least 3.5) and high scores on the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT).

Letters of recommendation from research supervisor(s) are an important component of the evaluation process. At least one and preferably two letters from research mentors should attest to the applicant's abilities, research productivity and commitment to a career in medical research.

Additionally, a minimum of one year of research experience is required. The goal of the program is to train the next generation of academic physician scientists. Therefore, an important factor in selecting MD/PhD applicants is evidence of a passion for research supported by substantial research experiences that have provided opportunities for independent and critical scientific thinking. A significant number of MD/PhD applicants have spent one or more years completing research, thus confirming their desire for a career in research. Consequently, it is recommended that MD/PhD candidates have at least one year of documented research experience. Publications and/or presentations at national meetings are encouraged. Successful applicants will be those who recognize and are capable of meeting the demands and responsibilities of the MD/PhD program, which is at a minimum seven years in duration.

7. Do you accept international students?

International students are not eligible for admission to the program at this time.

8. Does the MD/PhD program accept transfer students?

Transfer students are not eligible for admission to the program at this time.

9. I would like to be an MD/PhD applicant. Do I need to submit a separate application for the PhD component?

No. You will complete the AMCAS application, select the MD/PhD dual-degree option and complete one additional secondary question regarding your specific interest in this program and research experiences.

10. Do I need to take the GRE?

The MCAT is the only standardized examination score that must be submitted with your application.

11. Can I change my application type from MD/PhD to just an MD application after I have submitted it to AMCAS?

Only prior to receiving the secondary application. Once that has been submitted, your application is reviewed in a varying manner based on the program.

12. What financial support is available for MD/PhD students?

MD/PhD students' tuition and salary are supported by COM – Phoenix during their medical training years. Typically, tuition and salary during the MD/PhD years are supported by the student's mentor or by the PhD Program. Hence, MD/PhD students are funded by the program throughout their training years at COM – Phoenix.

13. How flexible is the program in terms of area for PhD study?

PhD studies in the Clinical Translational Sciences (CTS) program at COM – Phoenix are extremely flexible. In addition to a core curriculum, CTS coursework is related to your area of clinical interest, translational research area, or health-related discipline. Additional information is available at: <http://phoenixmed.arizona.edu/md-phd/cts> or <https://cts.uahs.arizona.edu>.