

Certificate of Distinction in Research

The Certificate of Distinction in Research Program for Medical Students is structured across a four-year extracurricular program with deliverable requirements. This program emphasizes progressive skill-building in medical research, culminating in scholarly outputs and professional competencies.

Program Objectives

- Equip medical students with foundational and advanced skills in clinical and translational research.
- Provide structured mentorship and experience in designing, conducting, and disseminating original research.
- Recognize students who demonstrate excellence and commitment to research during their medical education.

YEAR 1: Foundations in Scientific Research and Protocol Development (September MS1 – June MS1)

Year 1 Fall:

- Attendance at fall workshops/events:
 - Research Mentor Fair
- Deliverables:
 - Submit Research COD Application by December 15th

Year 1 Spring/Summer:

- Attendance at spring workshops:
 - UA Mentor Institute Level 1 Asynchronous Training (prior to Level 2)
 - UA Mentor Institute Level 2 In-Person Training
 - Literature Review & Library Resources Training
- Completion of online educational/regulatory modules
 - Research Ethics & Human Subjects Protection (CITI) Training
- Completion of online educational modules
 - Introduction to Scientific Concepts & Research Design
 - Fundamentals of Epidemiology
 - Biostatistics for Medical Research
 - Research Proposal Development
- Deliverables:
 - CITI & HIPAA Certification
 - Creation of ORCID Account
 - Start to meet with research faculty to request mentorship
 - Identify/establish connection with faculty mentor & submit info to COD by 5/1
 - Submit annual progress report and research question by 6/30
 - MS1 mentor/mentee evaluation by 6/30

YEAR 2: Clinical Research Execution and Analysis (July MS2 – February MS2)

- Attendance at workshop:
 - Grant Writing Workshop
- Completion of online educational modules
 - Clinical Trials Operations (Study Start-Up & Site Initiation)
 - Good Clinical Practice (GCP)

- IRB Protocol Submission and Regulatory Processes
- Data Collection & Management
- Deliverables:
 - Submit research proposal including hypothesis, background, and methodology by 10/1
 - Preliminary research progress report by 2/28
 - MS2 mentor/mentee evaluation by 2/28

YEAR 3: Scholarly Outputs, Presentation & Publication Development (March MS3 – March MS3)

- Attendance at workshops:
 - Intro to Data Analysis and Interpretation
 - Manuscript Writing and Scholarly Publication
- Completion of online educational modules
 - Journal Selection and Impact
 - Abstract and Scientific Poster Development
- Deliverables:
 - Completed abstract for conference submission
 - Complete an oral presentation at a regional or national conference
 - Submit a manuscript draft for mentor review
 - MS3 mentor/mentee evaluation by 2/28

YEAR 4: Professional Development and Leadership Training (April MS4 – May MS4)

- Attendance at workshop:
 - Principles of Research Leadership and Collaboration
- Completion of online educational modules
 - Professional Societies, Faculty Affiliations and Career Development Plans
 - Leading Research Teams and Projects
 - Dissemination and Impact of Research
- Deliverables:
 - Final manuscript (submitted or accepted in a peer-reviewed journal)
 - Submit a final professional development plan (target journals, career pathway, fellowships)
 - Final mentor/mentee evaluation and research program summary by 3/30
 - Poster presentation at UACOMP Research Week

Completion Criteria for Certificate of Distinction

To be eligible to receive the Certificate of Distinction in Research, students must:

- Attend a minimum of 5 workshops/events over 4 years
- Successfully complete extracurricular deliverables through the end of Year 3
- Submit a research manuscript and complete external presentation by end of Year 4
- Demonstrate professional growth through mentor feedback and leadership participation