Mission Statement

The unique perspective of the M.D. Ph.D. is poised to enhance translational biomedical research by bridging basic science, patient oriented research, and population based investigation. The M.D. Ph.D. program at Wake Forest University School of Medicine is young, relatively small, diverse, and excellent. Its students embody the principles of compassion, passion, perspicacity, patience, and energy embedded in a creative mind. The program fosters graduates whose knowledge and experience are both broad and deep, who are emotionally intelligent, who honor the profession, and who can “think otherwise”, as they seek to improve human health.

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“I When I began the MD/PhD program at Wake, I knew it would be a long journey. I intuited that the path would not always be a direct one. What I may not have guessed was how much I would get to determine my own course. All along the way, my medical and graduate school advisors have given me invaluable guidance and support, but they also recognized when I needed the flexibility to pursue my individual goals. Each of us in the MD/PhD program has a different idea of what we hope to do with our dual degrees, and we are encouraged to define our own paths at Wake Forest.”

Isabel Newton
M.D., Ph.D., Recent Graduate

“Science and medicine are becoming increasingly more collaborative, especially in the realm of translational research, bridging the divide between basic science and clinical application. As a student in the MD/PhD program at Wake Forest, I found myself in a richly collaborative environment, working with a diverse team of nationally and internationally recognized clinicians and scientists who supported and facilitated my specific interests. The exceptional mentorship and opportunities provided at Wake Forest have been instrumental in my development as a physician-scientist, and have prepared me well to enter the future of medicine and scientific discovery.”

Chris Whitlow
M.D., Ph.D., Recent Graduate
The program seeks outstanding and mature students who have already shown aptitude and enthusiasm for research beyond the typical college curriculum. Interviews are based on the competitiveness of the applicant pool. The average GPA is 3.76 and the average combined MCAT score is 33 for those who have matriculated into the program.

Why WFUSM MD/PhD program? The MD/PhD program at WFUSM provides a supportive yet challenging environment to develop future physician scientists. We offer:

- a small, flexible and personal program
- a medical curriculum that blends traditional and problem-based learning while stressing the importance of the doctor-patient relationship
- elite scientists pioneering advances in areas from cancer to aging to regenerative medicine
- a highly collaborative and interdepartmental research environment

The strength of the medical curriculum and the graduate research environment, along with the outstanding faculty and members of the program makes WFUSM’s MD/PhD program one of the strongest in the country.

Financial Aid

Competitive scholarships that are awarded include full tuition, an annual stipend, and an IBM thinkpad.

Overview of MD/PhD Program Course Progression

* Actual graduation year varies, overall length of program is between 6-8 years (the number of graduate school years changes with the progression of the individual thesis project, usually between 2-4 years)