

## About UMMS

University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) is consistently ranked in the top ten percent of the nation's 129 medical schools for excellence in primary care education by weekly news magazine U.S. News & World Report in its annual review "America's Best Graduate Schools."

Beyond its core mission of distinction in medical education, the past decade has seen UMMS explode onto the national scene as a major center for research. The institution also ranks near the top among public medical schools in the Northeast in the amount of funding awarded by the National Institutes of Health. Federal and private research grants and contracts at UMMS rose from about \$2 million in 1977 to more than \$200 million in FY 2009, making it one of the fastest-growing research institutions in the U.S.



University of Massachusetts Medical School  
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences



## Eligibility

The MMPP is open to UMMS physicians with an MD or equivalent degree and UMMS graduate and undergraduate medical students who are officially enrolled in any of the clinical clerkship, residency and/or fellowship programs at UMMS, or who have completed such clinical training. Medical students applying for MMPP must receive their MD before starting MMPP training. Candidates will be reviewed and selected for participation in the program by the MMPP Advisory Board.

## Financial Support

Stipends will be commensurate with post-graduate training levels as defined by the Office of Graduate Medical Education (GME) at UMMS.

Millennium PhD Program  
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[www.umassmed.edu/gsbs](http://www.umassmed.edu/gsbs)

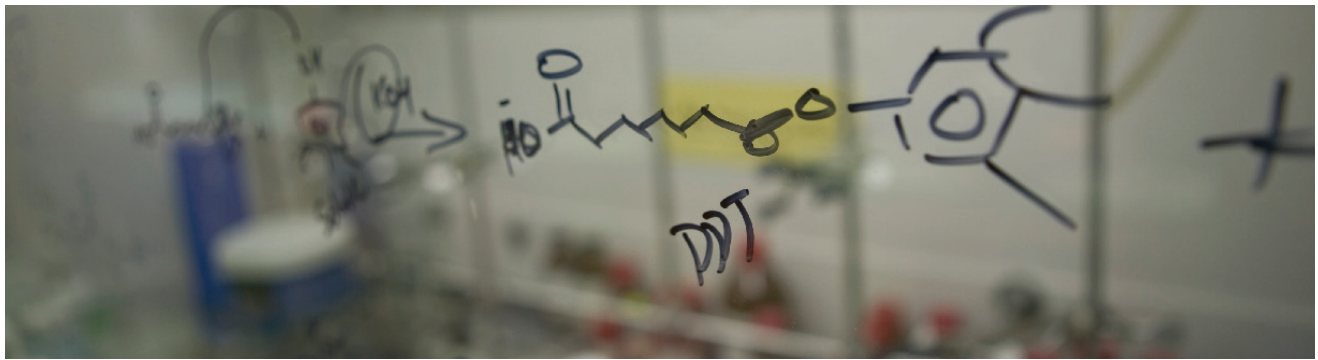
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Millennium PhD  
Program

## About the Program

As the pace of biomedical research accelerates in the new millennium, it is critical that advances in basic biomedical research are translated to improved strategies to prevent, diagnose and treat human disease. Physician-scientists play a critical role in bridging the gap between basic science and clinical practice.

A unique PhD program, the Millennium MD/PhD Program (MMPP), has been developed at the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) to ensure that physicians are equipped with the necessary tools to allow patients to benefit from the remarkable advances in knowledge derived from basic biomedical research.



## Program of Study

MMPP is an innovative program designed for highly motivated physicians who are interested in becoming scientific investigators in biomedical sciences. The overall goal of this program is to provide formal, structured, and rigorous training to enhance the opportunities for trainees to succeed in their future careers in academic medicine. A primary objective is to prepare physician scientists to compete for grant funding to support their chosen areas of research at the end of MMPP training.

### Mentors

Candidates can select their thesis research topic from the existing graduate programs at UMMS. In addition, they can select from a pool of experienced scientists and educators for PhD training, from both the basic science and clinical science departments to ensure a high quality PhD education. Research mentors for MMPP candidates will be reviewed and nominated by the advisory board of the MMPP at the time of acceptance with final appointment by the Dean of the GSBS.

### Course Requirement

The MMPP program is a streamlined and flexible graduate curriculum that is designed to meet the needs of candidates so they can quickly engage in their thesis research. The mentor and each candidate's advisory committee are responsible for assigning a special set of graduate courses based on the educational background and research direction of each candidate. The course work is kept to a minimum. The candidates will have ample opportunity to participate in other forms of education including journal clubs, seminars, and meetings with invited faculty speakers from other institutions.

### Qualifying Exam and Thesis Defense

The Qualifying Exam is based on the proposed thesis research topic. In consultation with their mentors, the MMPP candidates select a Qualifying Committee, which will generally become the Thesis Advisory Committee and ultimately the Thesis Defense Committee. The final thesis writing and defense process will be similar to the conventional PhD candidates in the GSBS. The Dean of GSBS appoints the thesis defense committee chair and outside member.

### Clinical Service

Students may devote up to 20% of their time to fulfilling clinical service and training requirements during their MMPP studies. The research mentor and the clinical program director are responsible for a detailed schedule and monitoring for a trainee's progress. Trainees are required to submit a research progress report twice a year to their thesis advisory committees.