



**Concurrent – Combined Degree Programs Overview**  
**Concurrent – Combined Degree Committee**

**(Recibido en el CECSi 3/oct/2016)**

## MD- PhD Program School of Medicine and Graduate Program at the Medical Sciences Campus

(Retrieved from MD PhD Program Proposal approved by the Academic Senate by Certification #76-22 on July 21, 1976).

- I. Application Process
  - a. The Student must apply to both the MD Program and the PhD Program
  - b. The Student must comply with both application requirements
  - c. Note: **Admission to both programs per se DOES NOT constitute direct admissions to the MD/PhD Program. This means that if the student is NOT accepted to the MD/PhD Program he/she will need to withdraw from one of the programs.**
  - d. The student, once admitted to both programs, must write a letter to the Dean of Medicine requesting admission to the MD-PhD Program School of Medicine and Graduate Program at the Medical Sciences Campus.
  - e. The Dean of Medicine will refer this letter to the Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee (i.e. M.D.- Ph.D Committee) for their consideration and recommendations.
  - f. Students **may apply** AFTER the first year of MD Program.
- II. Selection and Admissions Process
  - a. The Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee will evaluate all applications.
    - i. Course work in science and mathematics.
    - ii. Research experience should count heavily in the selection of candidates.
    - iii. Motivations and desires to become medical scientists and active participants in academic life.
  - b. Initial admissions is of tentative nature until student is in a position to define his/her research interests, has obtained consent from a faculty member to act as his/her preceptor (thesis mentor) and has been formally accepted by the department.
- III. Requirements
  - a. Minimum of 6 calendar years to a maximum of 10 calendar years:
    - i. Year I and II: MD Program and PhD seminars and selected readings
    - ii. Must pass all MD courses with A or B (minimum of 3.0 GPA).
    - iii. Must pass all Year I and II courses and must take and pass the Clinical Skills Assessment Exam (CSA) and the USMLE Step 1 prior to requesting the Leave of Absence with the purpose of studying and continuing with PhD studies.
    - iv. Minimum of 3 years doing graduate studies, doctoral dissertation research and writing of thesis.
    - v. The student must complete the PhD including thesis prior to re-entering the MD Program.
    - vi. After PhD completion the student must request re-admission to the MD Program.
    - vii. After completing the PhD, the student will need to complete a Clinical Skills re-entry training prior to beginning clinical courses.
  - b. Students placed in Academic Probation will be dismissed from the MD-PhD Program and will need to withdraw from one of the programs.
  - c. Students must participate in a teaching program within the department of their choice not to exceed one contact hour per week.

- d. All requirements delineated on the *Policies and Guidelines for Academic Evaluation and Advancement of Medical Students*, including Section: *Special Policies and Guidelines to Monitor Performance of Students in Concurrent-Combined Programs*.
  - i. The student must maintain a GPA of 3.0 individually in each program to continue on the MD-PhD program.
  - ii. Failure to do so will require the student to withdraw from one of the two programs or be dismissed from the PhD Program (this is independent if the GPA less than 3.0 is on the MD Program).

IV. Evaluation of Progress

- a. Every 6 months by the Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee.
- b. The purpose is to determine the adequacy of the individual's professional development, to determine areas of concern and possible corrective actions.
- c. At the end of the first year, and every year thereafter, specific recommendations shall be made for the continuance or rejection of the individual in the MD-PhD Program.

V. Support

- a. Full tuition allowance.
- b. Stipend while on the PhD phase and the last two years of the MD Program: \$2,400 yearly which includes scholarships and any allocations. This will be provided for "ayudantia de catedra".

## Mayo Foundation and The University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus Integrated M.D./Ph.D Program

(Retrieved from the legal agreement made by Mayo Clinic Through the May Graduate School and the University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus and signed on January 20, 2011)

- I. Application Process
  - a. Students already admitted to the UPR MD Program must first write a letter addressed to both the Associate Dean of Biomedical Sciences and the Combined Degrees Committee (i.e. UPR-MSC M.D./Ph.D Committee) requesting **permission to apply** to the Integrated MD-PhD Program with Mayo-UPR. Deadline for submission is June 30.
  - b. Once the Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee grants the permission to apply, students must apply to the Mayo Graduate Studies (MGS) using the Apply Yourself:
    - i. Letters of recommendations including one from the Advancement Committee.
    - ii. Official school transcripts.
    - iii. Complete application by December 1.
  - c. Students **may apply** AFTER the first year of MD Program.
  - d. It is highly recommended that students participate in the MGS Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program.
- II. Selection and Admissions Process
  - a. The Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee will request a letter of recommendation and approval for entering this MD- PhD program from the student's year Advancement Committee (i.e. Promotions Committee).
  - b. The Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee AND the Associate Dean of Biomedical Sciences will evaluate all preliminary applications.
    - i. Recommendation by the Advancement Committee
    - ii. Good Academic Standing
    - iii. GPA of 3.0 or more
    - iv. Research Experience
    - v. Appropriate non-cognitive factors including a genuine commitment to the program.
  - c. The Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee AND the Associate Dean of Biomedical Sciences will recommend to the Dean of Medicine the list of students with approval for applying to the Mayo Graduate Studies Program.
  - d. The Dean of Medicine will give final authority for application to the Mayo Graduate Studies by way of letter to the Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee.
  - e. The Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee will notify such list to the Mayo MD/PhD Concurrent Degree Coordinator.
  - f. The Mayo MD/PhD Concurrent Degree Coordinator will notify the final list to the MGS PhD Admissions Committee and will notify students they may apply.
  - g. MGS PhD Admissions Committee will review competed applications.
    - i. Outstanding academic record.
    - ii. Extensive and successful laboratory research (e.g. participation in the MGS Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program)
    - iii. Personal qualities exemplary of future leaders in biomedical research

iv. Other criteria developed by the Committee.

### III. Program Requirements

- a. Meet all MD Program Requirements.
- b. Must pass all MD courses with A or B (minimum of 3.0 GPA).
- c. Must pass all Year I and II courses and must take and pass the Clinical Skills Assessment Exam (CSA) and the USMLE Step 1 prior to requesting the Leave of Absence with the purpose of studying and continuing with PhD studies.
- d. Students placed in Academic Probation will be dismissed from the MD-PhD Program and will need to withdraw from one of the programs.
- e. All requirements delineated on the *Policies and Guidelines for Academic Evaluation and Advancement of Medical Students*, including Section: *Special Policies and Guidelines to Monitor Performance of Students in Concurrent-Combined Programs*.
  - i. The student must maintain a GPA of 3.0 individually in each program to continue on the MD-PhD program.
  - ii. Failure to do so will require the student to withdraw from one of the two programs or be dismissed from the PhD Program (this is independent if the GPA less than 3.0 is on the MD Program).
- f. Beginning the summer following the student's acceptance, students will participate in laboratory rotations.
- g. Students will also be invited to participate in all activities of the Mayo MD/PhD Program.
- h. Student must request a Leave of Absence with the purpose of studying to undergo PhD studies.
- i. While on the PhD program students will be required to complete the same academic requirements, standards and certification degree completion established by the MSG for other Mayo PhD students including all qualifying exams and thesis proposals.
- j. Students must write and defend their thesis at MGS before returning to the medical school.
- k. During their PhD phase students shall have the possibility to participate in the Clinical Pathological Correlations and re-entry program as other Mayo MD/PhD students in anticipation of their return to the UPR-SOM.
- l. After PhD completion the student must request re-admission to the MD Program.
- m. Following completion of the PhD students will return to complete the MD Program. The student will need to complete a Clinical Skills re-entry training prior to beginning clinical courses. This may be done at Mayo if available.
- n. The student must present their completed thesis to the Committee with an open invitation to the faculty of medicine.

### IV. Evaluation of Progress

- a. Every 6 months by the Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee.
- b. The purpose is to determine the adequacy of the individual's professional development, to determine areas of concern and possible corrective actions.
- c. At the end of the first year, and every year thereafter, specific recommendations shall be made for the continuance or rejection of the individual in the MD-PhD Program.

### V. Support

- a. Full tuition and registration fees allowance and healthcare insurance coverage.

**The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and The University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus School of Medicine M.D./PhD. Program**

(Retrieved from the agreement among the University of Puerto Rico, Medical Sciences Campus, School of Medicine, the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. Signed on June 26, 2008)

- I. Application Process
  - a. Students have two options
    - i. Option #1: they can apply to the UPR-SOM MD Program and at the same time to the University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS) through each institution's respective online application process. To be considered by GSBS applicants must first be accepted at the MD Program.
    - ii. Option #2: Students already admitted to the UPR MD Program must first write a letter addressed to the Combined Degrees Committee (i.e. UPR Combined-Concurrent Degrees Committee) requesting **admission** to the MD-PhD Dual Degree Program with University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS)-UPR School of Medicine (UPR-SOM).
  - b. Students will need to comply with the GSBS Admissions requirements.
  - c. It is highly recommended that students participate in the UT-MD Anderson Summer Programs if they are considering applying using Option #2.
- II. Selection and Admissions Process
  - a. For Option #2
    - i. The Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee will request a letter of recommendation and approval for entering this MD- PhD program from the student's year Advancement Committee (i.e. Promotions Committee).
    - ii. The Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee will evaluate all preliminary applications.
      1. Recommendation by the Advancement Committee
      2. Good Academic Standing
      3. GPA of 3.0 or more
      4. Research Experience
      5. Appropriate non-cognitive factors including a genuine commitment to the program.
    - iii. The Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee will recommend to the Program Committee the list of students they should evaluate to the MD-PhD Dual Degree Program.
    - iv. The Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee will notify such list to the MD/PhD Concurrent Degree Coordinator (i.e.Co-Director).
    - v. The MD/PhD Concurrent Degree Coordinator will notify the final list to the Program Committee and will notify students their application will be considered.

- b. The Program Committee will be composed of the MD/PhD Concurrent Degree Program Coordinator (which serves as the Program Co-Director), the UT Co-Director, the Dean of the GSBS, the Dean of the UPR-SOM, the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs of the UPR-SOM, and the Associate Dean of Admissions of GSBS.
- c. The Program Committee review completed applications and recommend admissions to the GSBS Admissions Committee.
  - i. Outstanding academic record.
  - ii. Extensive and successful laboratory research
  - iii. Personal qualities exemplary of future leaders in biomedical research
  - iv. Other criteria developed by the Program Committee.
  - v. Priority will be given to applicants who are deemed most likely to become future biomedical leaders in Puerto Rico.

### III. Program Requirements

- a. Meet all MD Program Requirements.
- b. Must pass all MD courses with A or B (minimum of 3.0 GPA).
- c. Must pass all Year I II and III courses and must take and pass the Clinical Skills Assessment Exam (CSA); the USMLE Step 1 (may take it twice only) and the USMLE Step 2CK all within 36 consecutive months prior to requesting the Leave of Absence with the purpose of studying and continuing with PhD studies.**
- d. Students placed in Academic Probation will be dismissed from the MD-PhD Program and will need to withdraw from one of the programs.
- e. Students not completing requirements delineated in III c of this document will be dismissed from the MD-PhD Program and will need to withdraw from one of the programs.
- f. All requirements delineated on the *Policies and Guidelines for Academic Evaluation and Advancement of Medical Students*, including Section: *Special Policies and Guidelines to Monitor Performance of Students in Concurrent-Combined Programs*.
  - i. The student must maintain a GPA of 3.0 individually in each program to continue on the MD-PhD program.
  - ii. Failure to do so will require the student to withdraw from one of the two programs or be dismissed from the PhD Program (this is independent if the GPA less than 3.0 is on the MD Program).
- g. Take elective research seminar.
- h. Students will follow the program requirements (as per agreement). Including elective courses and tutorials.
- i. Student must request a Leave of Absence with the purpose of studying to undergo PhD studies.
- j. Students must take and pass the GSBS oral exam and write and defend their thesis at GSBS before returning to the medical school.
- k. During their PhD phase students shall have the possibility to participate in limited clinical training.
- l. After PhD completion the student must request re-admission to the MD Program.
- m. Following completion of the PhD students will return to complete the MD Program. The student will need to compete a Clinical Skills re-entry training prior to beginning clinical courses.

- IV. Evaluation of Progress
  - a. Students will be assigned two mentors: one from UPR SOM (the Concurrent Program Coordinator for the UT- UPR Dual Degree MD-PhD Program) and one from GSBS.
  - b. Mentors will monitor progress and make periodic reports (**minimum of one report at the end of each semester**) to the Program Committee and to the Combined-Concurrent Degrees Committee.
  - c. The PhD mentor must be approved by the Co-Directors of the program and the Deans of both programs.
  - d. The Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee is responsible for evaluating the student's progress in medical school, graduate school and the Program.
  - e. The Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee will provide the Program Committee each semester with a student report including appropriate recommendations of whether or not the student should continue.
- V. Support
  - a. Full tuition and registration fees allowance and healthcare insurance coverage.

## **Yale University and The University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus School of Medicine M.D./Ph.D. Program**

(Retrieved from the agreement between Yale University in behalf of its School of Medicine and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and The University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus School of Medicine. Cooperative Agreement- M.D./Ph.D Program Proposal, pending approval)

- I. Application Process
  - a. Students have two options
    - i. Option #1: they can apply to the UPR-SOM MD Program and at the same time to the Yale's Combined Program in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences (BBS) through each institution's respective online application process. To be considered by Yale applicants must first be accepted at the MD Program.
    - ii. Option #2: students who have completed one year of medical training and have demonstrated exceptional abilities may apply to Yale after receiving permission from UPR-SOM
      1. To receive permission students first write a letter addressed to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs requesting **permission to apply** to the Yale – UPR MD-PhD Program.
      2. With this letter, students will include medical school transcripts.
  - b. Students will need to comply with the GSBS Admissions requirements.
  - c. Students **may apply** AFTER the first year of MD Program.
- II. Selection and Admissions Process
  - a. The Associate Dean of Academic Affairs will refer interested students to the Combined-Concurrent Degrees Committee who will request a letter of recommendation and approval for entering this MD- PhD program from the student's year Advancement Committee (i.e. Promotions Committee).
  - b. The Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee will evaluate all preliminary applications.
    - i. Recommendation by the Advancement Committee
    - ii. Good Academic Standing
    - iii. GPA of 3.0 or more
    - iv. Research Experience
    - v. Appropriate non-cognitive factors including a genuine commitment to the program.
  - c. The Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee will recommend to the Yale Combined Committee the list of students they should evaluate to the MD-PhD Program.
  - d. The Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee will notify such list to the MD/PhD Concurrent Degree Coordinator (i.e. Coordinator of the UPR-MSC-SOM Yale MD/PhD Program).
  - e. The MD/PhD Concurrent Degree Coordinator will notify the final list to the Yale Combined Committee and will notify students their application will be considered.
  - f. The Yale Combined Committee will be composed of the Director of the Biological and Biomedical Sciences Program, the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) of the Ph.D.

Program to which the student has indicated an interest at Yale, the MD/PhD Faculty Committee, the Associate Dean of the Yale Graduate School, and the Coordinator of the UPR-MSC-SOM Yale MD/PhD Program.

- g. Applicants will travel to New Haven to be interviewed.
- h. The Yale Combined Committee criteria for admission.
  - i. Grades and MCAT scores
  - ii. Research experience
  - iii. Letters of recommendations
  - iv. Interpersonal characteristics including but not limited to maturity and leadership
  - v. Goals and vision for the future
  - vi. Proficiency in English. Any candidate whose native language is not English must take the International English Language Test or the Test of English as a Foreign Language.
- i. Formal admission offers will be issued by Yale and cosigned by the BBS Director and Yale MD/PhD Program.

### III. Program Requirements

- a. Meet all MD Program Requirements.
- b. Must pass all MD courses with A or B (minimum of 3.0 GPA).
- c. Must pass all Year I II and III courses and must take and pass the Clinical Skills Assessment Exam (CSA); the USMLE Step 1 and the USMLE Step 2CK all within 36 consecutive months prior to requesting the Leave of Absence with the purpose of studying and continuing with PhD studies.**
- d. While on the first three years of the MD Program students will return to New Haven annually to the MD/PhD Program's Annual Retreat, a two-day mandatory activity for MD/PhD students.
- e. While on the first three years of the MD Program the MD/PhD Program will organize activities such as video conferencing Research in Progress seminars and podcasting of an advanced graduate level cell biology course titled "Frontiers in Translational Research".
- f. Students placed in Academic Probation will be dismissed from the MD-PhD Program and will need to withdraw from one of the programs.
- g. Students not completing requirements delineated in III c of this document will be dismissed from the MD-PhD Program and will need to withdraw from one of the programs.
- h. All requirements delineated on the *Policies and Guidelines for Academic Evaluation and Advancement of Medical Students*, including Section: *Special Policies and Guidelines to Monitor Performance of Students in Concurrent-Combined Programs*.
  - i. The student must maintain a GPA of 3.0 individually in each program to continue on the MD-PhD program.
  - ii. Failure to do so will require the student to withdraw from one of the two programs or be dismissed from the PhD Program (this is independent if the GPA less than 3.0 is on the MD Program).
- i. Take summer program and evaluate potential PhD mentors. Meet with the Director of Graduate Studies of their proposed PhD program to discuss coursework.

- j. Students will follow the program requirements (as per agreement). Including elective courses and tutorials.
- k. Student must request a Leave of Absence with the purpose of studying to undergo PhD studies.
- l. During their first year of the PhD phase fall semester students may have the option to complete two additional rotations and identify an advisor.
- m. After PhD completion, which includes thesis acceptance, the student must request re-admission to the MD Program.
- n. Following completion of the PhD students will return to complete the MD Program. The student will need to complete a Clinical Skills re-entry training prior to beginning clinical courses.

IV. Evaluation of Progress

- a. The Program Coordinator will monitor progress and make periodic reports (**minimum of one report at the end of each semester**) to the Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee.
- b. The Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee is responsible for evaluating the student's progress in medical school, graduate school and the Program.

V. Support

- a. Full tuition and registration fees allowance and healthcare insurance coverage.

**Proposal of the School of Law and the School of Medicine of the University of Puerto Rico for the joint offering of the J.D Degree and M.D Degree**

(Retrieved from the Approved Proposal by the School of Medicine Faculty on December 5, 2000 and School of Law Faculty on December 22, 2000)

- I. Application Process
  - a. Students have two options
    - i. Option #1: Once admitted to the UPR- SoM, they can apply to the UPR-SOL.
    - ii. Option #2: Once admitted to the UPR SoL they can apply to the UPR- SoM.
  - b. Students must notify their program of the intention of applying to the concurrent program in writing through a letter addressed to the dean of the school.**
  - c. Students accepted by any of the two options MUST notify the Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee by way of letter directed to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs notifying acceptance to both programs.
- II. Selection Process:
  - a. Once a dean of law or medicine receive a notification of intention to apply to the concurrent program, the dean will notify the Program Coordinator.
  - b. The Program Coordinator will coordinate a meeting with the Dean of the School of Medicine, the Dean of the School of Law, and the program coordinator at the school of law (or vice versa). These group will comprise the Combined Committee.
  - c. The Combined Committee will evaluate the applicants and recommend to the respective admissions committee.
  - d. The student mentor while on the MD Program will be the Program Coordinator.
- III. Program Requirements
  - a. Meet all MD Program Requirements.
  - b. Meet all JD Program Requirements.
  - c. Must pass all MD courses with A or B (minimum of 3.0 GPA).
  - d. For Option #1 students: Must pass all Year I II courses and must take and pass the Clinical Skills Assessment Exam (CSA); the USMLE Step 1 prior to requesting the Leave of Absence with the purpose of studying and continuing with JD studies.**
  - e. All requirements delineated on the *Policies and Guidelines for Academic Evaluation and Advancement of Medical Students*, including Section: *Special Policies and Guidelines to Monitor Performance of Students in Concurrent-Combined Programs*.
    - i. The student must maintain a GPA of 2.0 individually in each program.
  - f. Students will follow the program requirements (as per agreement). Including elective courses.
  - g. Student must request a Leave of Absence with the purpose of studying to undergo JD studies.
  - h. After JD completion, which includes thesis acceptance, the student must request re-admission to the MD Program.
  - i. Following completion of the JD students will return to complete the MD Program. The student will need to compete a Clinical Skills re-entry training prior to beginning clinical courses.

- j. The UPR –SOM requires students in this program provide a yearly written report of their academic status and progress while in Law School. This report must be submitted to the Academic Programs Coordinator at the Curriculum Office.

IV. Evaluation of Progress

- a. The Program Coordinator will monitor progress and make periodic reports (**minimum of one report at the end of each semester**) to the Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee.
- b. The Combined- Concurrent Degrees Committee is responsible for evaluating the student's progress in medical school, graduate school and the Program.

V. Support

- a. Full tuition and registration fees allowance and healthcare insurance coverage.