

Duke Medical Scientist Training Program

Third-year Admission to MD/PhD Dual-degree Program

The Duke University School of Medicine Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP), a dual-degree MD/PhD program, will offer admission for fall 2025 to a few current Duke University School of Medicine students. Current second- and third-year Duke medical students who are interested in graduate PhD training at Duke are invited to apply. These students would join a Duke PhD program in the 2025 fall semester as first-year PhD students. After completing graduate training, which typically lasts four to five years, students would return to finish the last year of medical school. Completion of the PhD would substitute for the third-year School of Medicine research requirement for current second-year medical students.

Financial support:

Full financial support – covering all four to five years of the PhD program and the fourth year of medical school – is available for admitted students. While the MSTP will not reimburse tuition or fees for medical school years already completed, MSTP will cover tuition, fees and stipend (stipend is estimated as \$40,667 for 2025-2026 - 12-month rate) for three years – the first two graduate program years and the fourth year of medical school. The student's PhD mentor will provide financial support for the upper-level graduate program years. Financial support for the fourth year of medical school, covered by MSTP, is contingent upon completion of the PhD.

Eligibility:

The program is open to current Duke University School of Medicine students in the second or third year of medical school. Since a significant portion of MSTP's student support funding comes from a National Institutes of Health training grant, applicants must be US citizens or permanent residents (green card holders). Diversity in the training group is a consideration.

Application process:

Interested Duke University School of Medicine students should submit the following application materials:

- Statement of the applicant's motivation for obtaining a PhD
- Summary of prior research experience
- Description of the area of research interest
- Statement of future goals as a physician scientist
- 2 or 3 letters of recommendation, which emphasize the applicant's potential for and commitment to research
- Letter from School of Medicine Advisory Dean with support for application to the program

Application deadline:

The deadline for submission of applications is **February 28, 2025**. Please submit all application materials by email to MSTP@duke.edu. Applicants will be interviewed during **late March or early April 2025** and decisions will be announced by **May 1, 2025**.

For further information please contact **Dr. Christopher Kontos** (cdkontos@duke.edu), Duke MSTP Director or **Andrea Liu** (andrea.liu@duke.edu) Duke MSTP Assistant Director.