

# DOCTOR OF MEDICINE AND DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY COMBINED DEGREE PROGRAM

The purpose of this program is to provide research training for highly motivated medical students planning careers in academic medicine.

The College of Medicine offers a combined training program leading to both Doctor of Medicine (MD) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees.

To accomplish this, our program integrates the studies and requirements for both the MD and PhD degrees, providing students with many opportunities to relate their study of clinical medicine with basic biomedical science. Such training produces medical scientists with unique insights into human disease processes.

The MD/PhD program typically requires seven to nine years to complete the combined degree requirements. The program is flexible in many ways and is designed to meet the individual educational needs of the student. Students entering the program are enrolled in the summer semester five weeks prior to medical school orientation. During this semester, students complete six credit hours of graduate research and, in consultation with the Program Director, a self-selected five-week rotation in a research lab. This rotation introduces students to the laboratories and potential research advisors.

Throughout the training, all MD/PhD students are required to participate in MSCI 620/920 (The Scientific Basis of Medicine). This course, which grew out of the MD/PhD Journal Club, reviews recent papers in the medical literature and utilizes a group setting to further develop critical analysis skills as well as facilitate interaction and dialogue between peers and MD/PhD trained faculty. In addition, students are encouraged to attend at least one research seminar per week to assist in identifying a major discipline area for graduate training.

Lastly, this program is dedicated to developing outstanding physician-scientists who excel in their field and are competitive at the national level. The curriculum is designed to meet the individual educational needs of students while promoting excellence. To this end, MD/PhD students have two options for completing their training:

## Option 1

Students follow the medical school curriculum and cover the basic medical sciences during their pre-clinical training period which extends through December of their second year. Next, students begin their PhD training. During this period, students:

- Complete a second research rotation;
- Select a PhD advisor;
- Finish required coursework, including electives in their specialized discipline area; and
- Finalize a meritorious research project and publish their work as well as write, and defend their dissertation.

After completing the PhD requirements, students finish their clinical clerkships and the fourth year of medical school.

## Option 2

Students complete medical school basic sciences courses and clinical clerkships prior to their PhD training. After completing their clinical clerkships, students complete a second research rotation and begin their formal PhD training:

- Select a PhD advisor;
- Complete coursework requirements including electives in their specialized discipline area; and
- Finalize a meritorious research project and publish their work as well as write and defend their dissertation.

Following their dissertation defense, students complete their fourth year of medical school.

For both options the MD and PhD degrees are awarded after the requirements for both degrees have been fulfilled.

## Program Requirements

### Program Requirements

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### Student's Advisory Committee

After receiving admission to graduate studies, students will consult with the graduate program concerning selection of a chair and members for an advisory committee representative of the student's field(s) of study and research.

The student's advisory committee will consist of no fewer than four members, where the chair or co-chair must be from the student's department (or intercollegiate faculty, if applicable), and at least one or more of the members must have an appointment to a department other than the student's major department. The external member for a student in an interdisciplinary degree program must be from a department different from the chair of the student's advisory committee. The chair, in consultation with the student, will select the remainder of the advisory committee.

Only members of the Graduate Committee Faculty located on Texas A&M University campuses may serve as chair of a student's advisory committee. Other members of the Graduate Committee Faculty – including those located off-campus or outside the university (if permitted by program, department, and college/school policy) – may serve as co-chair or member (but not chair).

The advisory committee as a group – and as individual members – are responsible for advising the student on academic matters. The duties include responsibility for approving the student's proposed degree plan; research proposal; dissertation; and conducting examinations. The advisory committee members' approval of a degree plan indicates their willingness to accept the responsibility for guiding and directing the entire academic program of the student and for initiating all academic actions concerning the student. Additionally, in the case of academic deficiency, the advisory committee is responsible for initiating recommendations to the Graduate and Professional School.

The chair of the advisory committee, who usually has immediate supervision of the student's degree program, has the responsibility for calling meetings at any time considered desirable.

If the chair of the student's advisory committee is unavailable for an extended period of time in any academic period during which the student is involved in activities relating to an internship, thesis or professional paper – and is registered for courses such as 684, 691, 692, or 693 – the Department Head or intercollegiate faculty Chair may appoint an alternate advisory committee chair during the interim period.

If the chair of a student's advisory committee is on an approved leave of absence – and the student is near completion of the degree and wants the chair to continue to serve in this role – a written request must be submitted to the Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate and Professional School, by the Department Head or intercollegiate faculty Chair, that the faculty member who is on an approved leave of absence be allowed to continue to serve as chair of the advisory committee – without a co-chair – for up to one year. The request must confirm that the faculty member is able to engage in the required duties as chair during the leave of absence. Extensions beyond the one-year period (if necessary) may be granted with additional approval of the Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate and Professional School.

If the chair of a student's advisory committee voluntarily separates from the University, and the student is nearing completion of the degree, the chair may continue to serve in this role – at the student's request – for up to one year. Two options are available:

- The chair may continue, with a co-chair, without additional approval by the Graduate and Professional School. The student must select a current member of the Graduate Committee Faculty – from the student's academic program and located near the Texas A&M University campus site – to serve as co-chair of the advisory committee.
- The chair may continue, without a co-chair, with approval by the Graduate and Professional School. A written request must be submitted to the Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate and Professional School by the Department Head or intercollegiate faculty Chair to allow the faculty member to continue as chair, without a co-chair, of the advisory committee.

For both options, extensions beyond the one-year period (if necessary) may be granted with additional approval of the Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate and Professional School.

Although individual committee members may be replaced by petition for valid reasons, all members of a student's advisory committee cannot resign *en masse*.

## Degree Plan

The student's advisory committee – in consultation with the student – will evaluate the student's previous education, develop a proposed degree plan, and outline a research problem based upon the student's degree objectives. When completed, as indicated by the dissertation, the degree plan will constitute the basic requirements for the degree.

The degree plan must be created, submitted, and approved through the online Document Processing Submission System (<http://ogsdps.tamu.edu/>) (DPSS). The degree plan must be submitted prior to the deadline imposed by the student's college or school and approved by the Graduate and Professional School no later than 90 days prior to the preliminary examination.

A degree plan must carry a reasonable amount of 691 (Research).

Additional coursework may be added to the approved degree plan by petition through DPSS, if it is deemed necessary by the student's advisory committee, to correct deficiencies in the student's academic preparation. No changes can be made to the degree plan once the student's Request for Final Examination is approved by the Graduate and Professional School.

Coursework included on the degree plan is subject to the requirements and restrictions detailed in the Credit Requirement and Limitations on Credits and Coursework sections in each degree program page.

Degree program time limits apply to courses listed on a degree plan. Details are available on the Time Limits section in each degree program page.

## Credit Requirements

Students who have completed a master's degree are required to complete a minimum of 64 hours for the Doctor of Philosophy degree. Students who have completed a DDS/DMD, DVM, or MD at an accredited academic institution within the United States are also required to complete a minimum of 64 hours. Students enrolled in an approved combination program which includes a doctoral degree, and in which the doctoral degree will be awarded at the same time as another advanced degree, must complete a minimum of 64 hours. Students enrolled in a master's degree and a doctoral degree simultaneously must have their master's degree awarded before they are eligible to complete a 64-hour doctoral degree.

Students who have completed a baccalaureate degree, but have not completed another advanced degree, must complete a minimum of 96 hours. Completion of a DDS/DMD, DVM, or MD degree at an international institution are also required to complete of a minimum of 96 hours.

A field of study may be primarily in one department or in a combination of departments.

## Limitations on Credits and Coursework

Credit-hour requirements are subject to the following limitations:

1. To receive a graduate degree from Texas A&M University, students must earn one-third or more of the credits through the institution's own direct instruction. This limitation also applies to joint degree programs.
2. Transfer credits may be used toward meeting the credit hour requirements under the following limitations:
  - Courses taken in residence at an accredited United States or international institution (recognized by the Office of

Admissions), with a final grade of B or greater, may be considered for transfer credit if – at the time the courses were completed – the courses would be accepted for credit toward a similar degree for a student in degree-seeking status at the host institution.

- An official transcript from the institution at which transfer coursework was taken must be sent directly to the Office of Admissions. Credit for coursework submitted for transfer from any college or university must be shown in semester credit hours or equated to semester credit hours.
  - Grades for courses completed at other institutions are not included in computing the GPA.
  - Coursework in which no formal grades are given, or in which grades other than A or B were earned (for example, CR, P, S, U, H, etc.), is not accepted for transfer credit.
  - Except for officially approved cooperative doctoral programs, credit for thesis or dissertation research – or the equivalent – is not transferable.
  - Courses used toward a degree at another institution may not be applied for transferred graduate credit.
    - Courses used toward a certificate, but not applied to an awarded degree, may be considered for transfer.
    - If the course to be transferred was taken for a certificate or prior to the conferral of a degree at the transfer institution, a letter from the registrar at that institution stating that the course was not applied for credit toward the degree must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School.
  - Credit for “internship” coursework in any form, or taken by extension, is not transferable.
  - Courses for which transfer credits are sought must be approved by the student’s advisory committee and the Graduate and Professional School.
3. Approval to enroll in any professional course should be obtained from the Department Head or intercollegiate faculty Chair (if applicable) in which the course will be offered before including such a course on a degree plan.
  4. A maximum of 9 credit hours of advanced undergraduate courses (400-level) may be considered for application to the degree plan.
  5. No more than 50 percent of the non-research credit hours required for an in-person degree program may be completed through distance education courses.
  6. No credit may be obtained by correspondence study, by extension, or for any course of fewer than three weeks duration.

Some departments may have additional or more restrictive requirements. Exceptions will be permitted only in unusual cases and when petitioned by the student’s advisory committee and approved by the Graduate and Professional School.

## Research Proposal

The general field of research to be used for the dissertation should be agreed on by the student and the advisory committee at their first meeting, as a basis for selecting the proper courses to support the proposed research. As soon thereafter as the research project can be outlined in reasonable detail, the dissertation research proposal should be completed. The research proposal should be approved at a meeting of the student’s advisory committee, at which time the feasibility of the

proposed research and the adequacy of available facilities should be reviewed.

For doctoral students, a Research Proposal should be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School through the Academic Requirements Completion System (ARCS) according to guidelines and deadlines set by the individual academic unit or program and as soon as possible following the completion of formal coursework on a degree plan but no later than 20 working days prior to the submission of the Final Examination Request. Students must have an approved research proposal to be admitted to candidacy.

Compliance issues must be addressed if a graduate student is performing research involving human subjects, animals, infectious biohazards or recombinant DNA. A student engaged in these types of research should check with the Office of Research Compliance and Biosafety at 979-458-1467 to address questions about all research compliance responsibilities. Additional information can also be obtained on the website <http://rcb.tamu.edu> (<http://rcb.tamu.edu/>).

## Examinations

### Preliminary Examination

The student’s major department (or chair of the intercollegiate faculty, if applicable) and his or her advisory committee may require qualifying, cumulative or other types of examinations at any time deemed desirable. These examinations are entirely at the discretion of the department and the student’s advisory committee.

The preliminary examination is required. The preliminary examination for a doctoral student shall be given no earlier than a date at which the student is within 6 credit hours of completion of the formal coursework on the degree plan (i.e., all coursework on the degree plan except 681, 684, 690, 691 and 692 courses). The student is strongly encouraged to complete the Preliminary Examination no later than the end of the semester following the completion of the formal coursework on the degree plan. The Graduate and Professional School must receive the results of the preliminary examination at least 14 weeks prior to the final examination date.

### Preliminary Examination Format

The examination shall be oral and written unless otherwise recommended by the student’s advisory committee and approved by the Graduate and Professional School. The written part of the examination will cover all fields of study included in the student’s degree plan. Each member of the advisory committee is responsible for administering a written examination in his or her particular field, unless he or she chooses to waive participation in this part of the examination. Two or more members of the advisory committee may give a joint written examination. One or more members may require a student to take a departmental or intercollegiate faculty examination to supplement or replace a written examination. Each written examination must be completed and reported as satisfactory to the chair of the advisory committee before the oral portion of the examination may be held. In case any written examination is reported unsatisfactory, the entire advisory committee must agree

1. to proceed with the oral portion of the preliminary examination, or
2. to adopt another course of action regarding the unsatisfactory written examination.

### Preliminary Examination Scheduling

Students are eligible to schedule the preliminary examination in the Academic Requirements Completion System (ARCS) if they meet the following list of eligibility requirements:

- Student is registered at Texas A&M University for the semester or summer term during which any portion of the preliminary examination may fall. If the entire examination falls between semesters, then the student must be registered for the term immediately preceding the examination.
- An approved degree plan was on file with the Graduate and Professional School at least 90 days prior to the first written examination.
- Student's cumulative GPA is at least 3.000.
- Student's degree plan GPA is at least 3.000.
- All committee members have scheduled or waived the written portion and agreed to attend the oral portion of the examination or have found a substitute. Only one substitution is allowed and it cannot be for the committee chair.
- At the end of the semester in which the exam is given, there are no more than 6 hours of coursework remaining on the degree plan (except 681, 684, 690, 691 and 692). The head of the student's department (or Chair of the Intercollegiate Faculty, if applicable) has the authority to approve a waiver of this criterion.
- The time span from the first written examination to the oral is no more than three weeks. (In cases of department-wide written examinations, this criterion is not applicable.) The head of the student's department (or chair of the intercollegiate faculty, if applicable) has the authority to approve a waiver of this criterion.

Once all requirements are met, departments or interdisciplinary degree programs may announce the schedule of the written and oral parts of the examination.

### Preliminary Examination Grading

Credit for the preliminary examination is not transferable in cases where a student changes degree programs after passing a preliminary exam. If a departmental or intercollegiate faculty examination is used as part of the written portion of the preliminary examination, it must be the last examination offered prior to the date scheduled for the preliminary examination. In the schedule of the written portion, all members of the student's advisory committee are to be included.

Through the preliminary examination, the student's advisory committee should satisfy itself that the student has demonstrated the following qualifications:

1. a mastery of the subject matter of all fields in the program;
2. an adequate knowledge of the literature in these fields and an ability to carry out bibliographical research.

In case a student is required to take, as a part of the written portion of a preliminary examination, an examination administered by a department or intercollegiate faculty, the department or intercollegiate faculty must:

1. offer the examination at least once every six months. The departmental or interdisciplinary degree program examination should be announced at least 30 days prior to the scheduled examination date.

2. assume the responsibility for marking the examination satisfactory or unsatisfactory, or otherwise graded, and in the case of unsatisfactory, stating specifically the reasons for such a mark.
3. forward the marked examination to the chair of the student's advisory committee within one week after the examination.

The chair of the student's advisory committee is responsible for making all written examinations available to the members of the advisory committee at or before the oral portion of the examination. A positive vote by all members of the graduate committee with at most one dissension is required to pass a student on his or her exam. A department or interdisciplinary degree program can have a stricter requirement provided there is consistency within all degree programs within a department or interdisciplinary program.

The student's department will promptly report the results of the Preliminary Examination to the Graduate and Professional School *via* the Academic Requirements Completion System (ARCS) within 10 working days of completion of the preliminary examination.

If an approved examination committee member substitution (one only) has been made, their approval must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School *via* ARCS. The approval of the designated department approver is also required on the request.

After passing the required preliminary oral and written examinations for a doctoral degree, the student must complete the final examination within four years of the semester in which the preliminary exam is taken. Exams taken in between terms will expire at the end of the term that ended prior to the exam. For example, a preliminary exam taken and passed during the Fall 2023 semester will expire at the end of the Fall 2027 semester. A preliminary exam taken in the time between the Summer and Fall 2023 semesters will expire at the end of the Summer 2027 semester.

### Retake of Failed Preliminary Examination

Upon approval of the student's advisory committee, with no more than one member dissenting, and the approval by the Graduate and Professional School, a student who has failed the preliminary examination may be given one re-examination, when adequate time has been given to permit the student to address the inadequacies emerging from the first examination (normally six months). The student and the advisory committee should jointly negotiate a mutually acceptable date for this purpose.

A student must be registered at Texas A&M University for a minimum of one semester credit hour in the semester or summer term in which they will take any portion of the Preliminary Examination.

### Dissertation Defense/Final Examination

Candidates for doctoral degrees must pass a final examination by deadline dates announced in the Graduate and Professional School Calendar (<https://grad.tamu.edu/knowledge-center/dates-and-deadlines/dates-and-deadlines/>) each semester. A doctoral student is allowed only one opportunity to take the final examination.

No unabsolved grades of D, F, or U for any course can be listed on the degree plan. To absolve a deficient grade, a student must repeat the course and achieve a grade of C or better. The student must be registered for all remaining hours; no hours remain to be taken on the degree plan. No student may be given a final examination until they have been admitted to candidacy and their current official cumulative and degree plan GPAs are 3.00 or better.



Refer to the Admission to Candidacy (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#degree requirementstext>) section of the graduate catalog for candidacy requirements

A student must have completed all coursework on his or her degree plan with the exception of 691 (Research) or 692 (Professional Study) hours. The preliminary examination results must have been submitted to the Graduate and Professional School 14 weeks prior to the date of the defense. The research proposal must have been submitted to the Graduate and Professional School 25 working days prior to the date of the final examination/defense. Any changes to the degree plan must be approved by the Graduate and Professional School prior to the approval of the final examination.

A request to schedule the final examination must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School *via* ARCS a minimum of 10 working days in advance of the scheduled date. Any changes to the degree plan must be approved by the Graduate and Professional School prior to the submission of the request for final examination.

The student's advisory committee will conduct this examination. Only one committee member substitution is allowed with the approval of the Graduate and Professional School. If the substitution is for the sole external member of the advisory committee – with an appointment to a department other than the student's major department – then the substitute must also be external to the student's major department. In extenuating circumstances, with approval of the Graduate and Professional School, an exception to this requirement may be granted.

The final examination is not to be administered until the dissertation or record of study is available in substantially final form to the student's advisory committee, and all concerned have had adequate time to review the document. Additionally, all English Language Proficiency requirements must be satisfied prior to scheduling the examination. Whereas the final examination may cover the broad field of the candidate's training, it is presumed that the major portion of the time will be devoted to the dissertation and closely allied topics. Persons other than members of the graduate faculty may, with mutual consent of the candidate and the major professor, be invited to attend a final examination for an advanced degree. A positive vote by all members of the graduate committee with at most one dissension is required to pass a student on his or her exam. A department can have a stricter requirement provided there is consistency within all degree programs within a department. Upon completion of the questioning of the candidate, all visitors must excuse themselves from the proceedings.

### Final Examination Grading

The student's department will promptly report the results of the Final Examination to the Graduate and Professional School *via* the Academic Requirements Completion System (ARCS) within 10 working days of completion of the final examination. The Graduate and Professional School will be automatically notified *via* ARCS of any cancellations.

A positive evaluation of the final exam by all members of a student's advisory committee with at most one dissension is required to pass a student on the final exam. If an approved committee member substitution (one only) has been made, their approval must be submitted to the Graduate and Professional School *via* ARCS.

### Dissertation

The dissertation, which must be a candidate's original work, demonstrates the ability to perform independent research. Whereas

acceptance of the dissertation is based primarily on its scholarly merit, it must also exhibit creditable literary workmanship. Dissertation formatting must be acceptable to the Graduate and Professional School as outlined in the Guidelines for Theses, Dissertations, and Records of Study.

After successful defense and approval by the student's advisory committee and the head of the student's major department (or chair of intercollegiate faculty, if applicable), a student must submit the dissertation in electronic format as a single PDF file to <https://etd.tamu.edu/>. Additionally, a dissertation approval form with original signatures must be received by the Graduate and Professional School through the Academic Requirements Completion System (ARCS). Both the PDF file and the completed ARCS approval form must be received by the deadline.

Deadline dates for submitting are announced each semester or summer term in the Graduate and Professional School Calendar (see Time Limit statement). These dates also can be accessed *via* the Graduate and Professional School website (<https://grad.tamu.edu/>). MD/PhD students must submit their final corrected and committee approved dissertation to the Graduate and Professional School no later than the published deadline during their last semester – after which both the MD and PhD degrees will be conferred.

Each student who submits a document for review is assessed a one-time thesis/dissertation processing fee through Student Business Services. This processing fee is for the thesis/dissertation services provided. After commencement, dissertations are digitally stored and made available through the Texas A&M Libraries.

A dissertation that is deemed unacceptable by the Graduate and Professional School because of excessive corrections will be returned to the student's department head or chair of the intercollegiate faculty. The manuscript must be resubmitted as a new document, and the entire review process must begin anew. All original submittal deadlines must be met during the resubmittal process to graduate.

## Additional Requirements

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### Residence

A student who enters the doctoral degree program with a baccalaureate degree must spend one academic year plus one semester in resident study at Texas A&M University. A student who holds master's degree when he/she enters doctoral degree program must spend one academic year in resident study. One academic year may include two adjacent regular semesters or one regular semester and one adjacent 10-week summer semester. The third semester is not required to be adjacent to the one year. Enrollment for each semester must be a minimum of 9 credit hours each to satisfy the residence requirement.

To satisfy the residence requirement, the student must complete a minimum of 9 credit hours per semester or 10-week summer semester in resident study at Texas A&M University for the required period. A student who enters a doctoral degree program with a baccalaureate degree may fulfill residence requirements in excess of one academic year (18 credit

hours) by registration during summer sessions or by completion of a less-than-full course load (in this context a full course load is considered 9 credit hours per semester).

Students who are employed full-time while completing their degree may fulfill total residence requirements by completion of less-than-full time course loads each semester. In order to be considered for this, the student is required to submit a Petition for Waivers and Exceptions along with verification of his/her employment to the Graduate and Professional School. An employee should submit verification of his/her employment at the time he/she submits the degree plan.

See Residence Requirements (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext>).

## Time Limit

Students in the combined PhD/MD program must clear their dissertation no later than 2 years after the final examination or within the 10 year time limit whichever occurs first.

## Continuous Registration

A student in a program leading to a Doctor of Philosophy who has completed all coursework on the degree plan other than 691 (Research) are required to be in continuous registration until all requirements for the degree have been completed.

See Continuous Registration Requirements (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#registrationandacademicstatustext>).

## Admission to Candidacy

To be admitted to candidacy for a doctoral degree, a student must have:

- completed all formal coursework on the degree plan with the exception of any remaining 681, 684, 690 and 691,
- a 3.0 Graduate GPA and a Degree Plan GPA of at least 3.0 with no grade lower than C in any course on the degree plan,
- passed the preliminary examination (written and oral portions),
- submitted an approved dissertation proposal,
- met the residence requirements.

The final examination will not be authorized for any doctoral student who has not been admitted to candidacy.

## 99-Hour and 7-Year Cap on Doctoral Degrees

In Texas, public colleges and universities are funded by the state according to the number of students enrolled. In accordance with legislation passed by the Texas Legislature, the number of hours for which state universities may receive subvention funding at the doctoral rate for any individual is limited to 99 hours. Texas A&M and other universities will not receive subvention for hours in excess of the limit.

Institutions of higher education are allowed to charge the equivalent of non-resident tuition to a resident doctoral student who has enrolled in 100 or more semester credit hours of doctoral coursework.

Doctoral students at Texas A&M have seven years to complete their degree before being charged out-of-state tuition. A doctoral student who, after seven years of study, has accumulated 100 or more doctoral hours will be charged tuition at a rate equivalent to out-of-state tuition. Please note that the tuition increases will apply to Texas residents as well as students from other states and countries who are currently charged

tuition at the resident rate. This includes those doctoral students who hold GAT, GANT, and GAR appointments or recipients of competitive fellowships who receive more than \$1,000 per semester. Doctoral students who have not accumulated 100 hours after seven years of study are eligible to pay in-state tuition if otherwise eligible.

Doctoral students who exceed the credit limit will receive notification from the Graduate and Professional School during the semester in which they are enrolled and exceeding the limit in their current degree program. The notification will explain that the State of Texas does not provide funding for any additional hours in which a student is enrolled in excess of 99 hours. Texas A&M University will recover the lost funds by requiring students in excess of 99 hours to pay tuition at the non-funded, non-resident rate. This non-funded, non-resident tuition rate status will be updated for the following semester and in all subsequent semesters until receipt of a doctoral degree. Please see the Tuition Calculator (<https://tuition.tamu.edu/>) at the non-resident rate for an example of potential charges.

The following majors are exempt from the 99-Hour Cap on Doctoral Degrees and have a limit of 130 doctoral hours:

- Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics
- Biomedical Sciences
- Clinical Psychology
- Counseling Psychology
- Epidemiology and Environmental Health
- Genetics and Genomics
- Health Services Research
- Medical Sciences
- Microbiology
- Neurosciences (School of Medicine)
- Nutrition
- Oral and Craniofacial Biomedical Sciences
- Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Public Health Sciences
- School Psychology
- Toxicology

## Languages

A student is required to possess a competent command of English. For English language proficiency requirements, see the Admissions section of this catalog. The doctoral (PhD) foreign language requirement at Texas A&M University is a departmental option, to be administered and monitored by the individual departments of academic instruction.

## Application for Degree

The MD and PhD degree are conferred in the same semester.

For information on applying for your degree, please visit the Graduation (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/academic-expectations-general-degree-requirements/#degreerequirementstext>) section.