

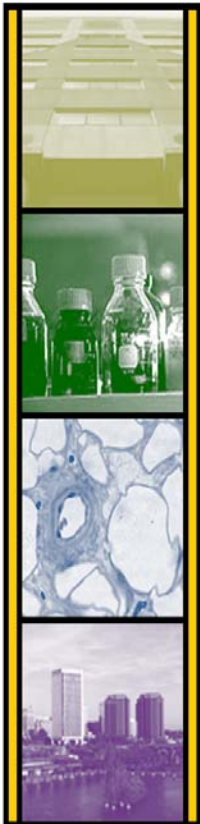
The MD/PhD Program

AT VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA



VCU

THE M.D./PH.D. PROGRAM
AT VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY



The combined MD/PhD Program at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine is training the nation's future physician-scientists. The program provides three years of medical training at the nation's fourth largest academic medical center, including a hospital consistently ranked among the top one hundred in the U.S.

In addition, the student will complete requirements for a Ph.D. degree in one of many Ph.D.-granting disciplines. These range from the traditional, such as biochemistry and human genetics to the more unusual such as medical physics. There are more than 170 investigators funded by the National Institutes of Health at VCU who can serve as research thesis advisors.

The MD/PhD Program provides financial support for the duration of training that will completely pay tuition, whether in-state or out-of-state, a yearly stipend and health insurance.

Why should you apply to the MD/PhD Program at VCU?

- The VCU MD/PhD Program does not require students to take the fourth year of medical school. Once the third-year clerkships are completed, the student can graduate and begin postgraduate training. This is unique among most programs and allows students to obtain their combined degree in six to seven years rather than the eight to nine years that other programs require.
- In addition to offering a wide range of subjects and scientists with whom students can complete their Ph.D. thesis work, VCU provides an unparalleled opportunity for clinical training. Whether at the hospitals of the VCU Health System in Richmond or in Northern Virginia, the number of patients and variety of diseases seen by physicians in the health center is enormous and students take an active role in their care.



Clockwise from top left: Richmond Skyline; West Hospital Entrance; Gateway Building; West Franklin Street; Virginia State Capitol

- Our program is small enough (about fifty students) to allow all of the students in the program to know each other. There are also many opportunities for MD/PhD students to interact among themselves. The students have two seminars per month that they arrange. For one, they invite faculty scientists to present their work and talk about what it is like to be an academic researcher. The second seminar is for students in the program to present their own research and be critically assessed by their peers. Finally, there is a yearly retreat at the Historic Tuckahoe Plantation. The agenda is arranged by the students and varies each year.

- The MD/PhD Program is intensively and actively supported by the institution. Not only does the school provide tuition and yearly stipend support with levels that are equal to any program in the country, but entering students are also given a summer stipend that allows them to rotate among research labs during the summer before their first year in medical school. In addition, every summer two students in their graduate phase go to the National MD/PhD Students and Directors Conference in Colorado to present their research and interact with students from other programs.

- Graduating MD/PhD students have been competitive for the top research-intensive residencies in the country. Recent graduates are in programs at the University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh, University of Virginia, and Johns Hopkins University in disciplines as diverse as neurosurgery, pediatrics, pathology, radiation oncology, and internal medicine. No graduate has failed to get one of his or her top two choices.



Clockwise from top left: Egyptian Building; Monument Avenue; Valentine Museum; Richmond Skyline; Virginia Mechanics Institute Building

If you have had research experience as an undergraduate student or after your graduation from college and can envision yourself with a career as a physician-scientist, we invite you to learn more about our program online at www.vcu.edu/mdphd/.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Website

- <http://www.vcu.edu/mdphd/>

Website (School of Medicine)

- <http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/>

Email Addresses

- Gordon Archer, M.D., Director
garcher@vcu.edu
- Ross Mikkelsen, Ph.D., Associate Director
rmikkels@vcu.edu
- Sandra Sorrell, Assistant to Director
ssorrell@vcu.edu

Phone and Fax

- Phone: (804) 828-0673
- Fax: (804) 828-5022

Mailing Address

- MD/PhD Program
Virginia Commonwealth University
P.O. Box 980565
Richmond, Virginia 23298-0049

Office Address (For Courier or Express Mail)

- MD/PhD Program
Virginia Commonwealth University
Medical College of Virginia Campus
Sanger Hall, Room 1-018
1101 East Marshall Street
Richmond, Virginia 23298-5048