Clinical Investigation, Ph.D.

Clinical investigation is a field in which teams of health care professionals, biostatisticians and others imagine, design, and conduct clinical research, and then take discoveries to human or animal patient populations in the health care system or in communities.

The focus of the Ph.D. in Clinical Investigation is to enable translational competency among team leaders. In other words, the graduate program trains students to help move research toward solutions for patient populations more quickly. The Ph.D. is one of fewer than 10 offered in the country with this focus.

Applicants ideally will have a health professional degree (M.D., DVM, Pharm.D., Ph.D., BSN, BSE, MPT, DPT). Clinical Investigation students are unique among UW–Madison graduate students because they enter the program with a terminal degree (with exceptions) and they are seeking training to directly apply their work with patients.

Full-time and part-time enrollment is available. Most core courses meet at 4 p.m. or later, to accommodate the schedules of working health professionals.

The graduate program in clinical investigation (GPCI) that offers the Ph.D. is housed in the UW Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR) and is designed in response to a need for clinical research training programs. The ICTR Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) facilitates UW–Madison's ability to offer a spectrum of graduate programs in clinical research. This applied, clinical and translational program complements the areas of clinical research training by the population health sciences, nursing, and other graduate programs. Representatives from the schools of Medicine and Public Health, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Veterinary Medicine, and the College of Engineering met as a task force in 2006 to design the program. All ICTR academic partners are represented in the curriculum. They are joined by partner Marshfield Clinic as members of the faculty executive committee that guides the program.

The curriculum draws from existing courses in the partner schools, and includes new courses developed exclusively for the GPCI. Coursework provides a solid foundation in research methods and analysis, including biostatistics, study design, and ethical conduct. Through electives and a research requirement, students pursue their own areas of specialization in patient-oriented clinical research.

The knowledge and skills acquired while earning a degree in clinical investigation can be applied to jobs in academic institutions; private industry, including pharmaceutical companies, insurers and managed care organizations; government agencies; non-profit organizations; and a range of local to international organizations.

ADMISSIONS

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program's admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program's website. Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/). Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Deadline</td>
<td>February 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Deadline</td>
<td>The program does not admit in the spring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Deadline</td>
<td>The program does not admit in the summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)</td>
<td>Not required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Proficiency Test</td>
<td>Every applicant whose native language is not English or whose undergraduate instruction was not in English must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements (<a href="https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency">https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency</a>).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters of Recommendation Required</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The program accepts applications each February 1 for the Ph.D. for the fall term only. Exceptions for spring admission are made rarely and only if the applicant has taken fall prerequisite courses.

The faculty executive committee for the program considers all aspects of each application. The applicant must meet the minimum requirements of the Graduate School plus those of the program, listed here:

- Have a focused area of interest in patient-oriented clinical research and a passion for continuing in a career in patient-oriented research
- Ideally have a health professional degree (M.D., DVM, Pharm.D., Ph.D., BSN, BSE, MPT, DPT).
- Identify a primary advisor to mentor and support the applicant throughout graduate study.

Acceptance into the program will depend in part on identification of a research program that aligns with a student's research interests and career goals, a student's fit with the program and likelihood of successfully completing a graduate degree. Identification of a faculty advisor and research area of study is a key consideration in the admissions process but does not guarantee admission.

Acceptance into the program does not assure funding.

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.
PROGRAM RESOURCES
Prospective Ph.D. students should see the program website (https://ictr.wisc.edu/graduate-program-in-clinical-investigation/) for funding information.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS
Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of Instruction</th>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students are able to complete a program with minimal disruptions to careers and other commitments.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirements Detail

Minimum Credit Requirement

Minimum Residence Credit Requirement

Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement

Overall Graduate GPA Requirement

Other Grade Requirements

Students must earn a B or above in all core curriculum coursework.

Assessments and Examinations

Oral preliminary exam required.

Defense of Ph.D. dissertation required. The dissertation is submitted in writing to the degree committee two weeks prior to the defense date, and then defended verbally during the defense meeting.

Language Requirements

No language requirements.

Doctoral Minor/Breadth Requirements

Doctoral students in Clinical Investigation are not required to complete a doctoral minor. Breadth is achieved in other areas of the curriculum.

REQUIRED COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH/SOC 797</td>
<td>Introduction to Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURSING/MEDICINE/POP HLTH 705</td>
<td>Seminar in Interdisciplinary Clinical Research Evidence</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAM MED 701</td>
<td>Perspectives in Multidisciplinary Clinical &amp; Translational Research</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B M I 773</td>
<td>Clinical Research Informatics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS&amp;D 900</td>
<td>Seminar-Speech Science (Topic: Research Career Development Seminar on Grant Writing)</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B M I/STAT 542</td>
<td>Introduction to Clinical Trials I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B M I 544</td>
<td>Introduction to Clinical Trials II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A graduate entry level biostatistics course. Students select one of the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B M I/STAT 541</td>
<td>Introduction to Biostatistics</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B M I 699</td>
<td>Independent Study (Topic: Introduction to Biostatistics)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B M I/POP HLTH 551</td>
<td>Introduction to Biostatistics for Population Health</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; B M I/POP HLTH 552</td>
<td>Regression Methods for Population Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>An intermediate statistics/research methods course. Possible course selections include:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POP HLTH/B M I 552</td>
<td>Regression Methods for Population Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC/C&amp;E SOC 360</td>
<td>Statistics for Sociologists I</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced statistics or analytical methods courses. Students are encouraged to consult the program administrator about their options, such as:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SOC/C&amp;E SOC 360</td>
<td>Statistics for Sociologists I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC/C&amp;E SOC 361</td>
<td>Statistics for Sociologists II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STAT/F&W ECOL/ HORT 572

One lecture course in the Responsible (Ethical) Conduct of Research selected from the following list or an equivalent course approved by the Executive Committee:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ONCOLOGY 715</td>
<td>Ethics in Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOCHEM 729</td>
<td>Advanced Topics (Topic: Responsible (Ethical) Conduct of Research)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHARMACY 800</td>
<td>Research Ethics: Scientific Integrity and the Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SURG SCI 812</td>
<td>Research Ethics and Career Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBS&amp;GYN 955</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research for Biomedical Graduate Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURSING 802</td>
<td>Ethics and the Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A noncredit regulatory experience activity. Students attend PHARMACY 800, sign a confidentiality agreement, review a protocol submitted to an Institutional Review Board, and attend an IRB meeting (supervised). This activity is also known as the RCR Laboratory.

Research credits (and possible electives)

Total Credits 51

1 The 1-credit B M I 699 is for students with instructor consent who have prior statistics (no biostatistics coursework). Students who take this option must also complete 2 credits of FAM MED 701 or POP HLTH/MEDICINE/NURSING 705.

2 Students who complete this 6-credit sequence are required to take fewer research credits to compensate.

Policies

Graduate School Policies
The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

Major-Specific Policies

Prior Coursework
Graduate Work from Other Institutions
With program approval, a Ph.D. student’s graduate coursework from other institutions no longer than ten years ago may count toward the degree.

UW–Madison Undergraduate
No credits from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to count toward the degree.

UW–Madison University Special
With program approval, Ph.D. students may be allowed to count graduate level courses that they took as a Special student. Because the program provides flexibility to clinical professionals who frequently begin their graduate careers part time as Special students, the program may allow up to 15 such credits for M.S. and Ph.D. students. Courses taken as a Special Student numbered under the 700 level do not count toward the 50% graduate coursework requirement.

Probation
A semester GPA below 3.0 will result in the student being placed on academic probation. If a semester GPA of 3.0 is not attained during the subsequent semester of full time enrollment (or 12 credits of enrollment if enrolled part-time) the student may be dismissed from the program or allowed to continue for 1 additional semester based on advisor appeal to the Graduate School.

Advisor / Committee
Ph.D. students select their faculty advising (degree) committees by the end of the first year in the program. Students and the advisors who sign the Proposed Degree Committee form are asked to meet annually or more; dissertators (post–preliminary exam) twice a year or more.

Credits Per Term Allowed
12 credits

Time Constraints
Doctoral students are expected to pass the final oral examination and deposit the dissertation no later than five years from the date of passing the preliminary examination. The oral examination is the oral defense of the completed dissertation. Full-time students generally complete the dissertation within two years of the preliminary examination. Part-time students may take longer.

Doctoral degree students who have been absent for ten or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

Grievances and Appeals
These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/)
  - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/)
- Dean of Students Office (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Employee Assistance (http://www.eao.wisc.edu/) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
- Employee Disability Resource Office (https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School (https://grad.wisc.edu/) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)
• Office of Compliance (https://compliance.wisc.edu/) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
• Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/) (for conflicts involving students)
• Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
• Title IX (https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/) (for concerns about discrimination)

Grievance Procedures (from Graduate Program in Clinical Investigation Student Handbook 2019-2020)

Procedures for proper accounting of student grievances:

1. The student is encouraged to speak first with the person toward whom the grievance is directed to see if a situation can be resolved at this level.
2. Should a satisfactory resolution not be achieved, the student should contact the program’s Grievance Advisor or Director of Graduate Studies to discuss the grievance. The Grievance Advisor or Director of Graduate Studies will facilitate problem resolution through informal channels and facilitate any complaints or issues of students. The first attempt is to help students informally address the grievance prior to any formal complaint. Students are also encouraged to talk with their faculty advisors regarding concerns or difficulties if necessary. University resources for sexual harassment, discrimination, disability accommodations, and other related concerns can be found above.
3. If the issue is not resolved to the student’s satisfaction the student can submit the grievance to the Grievance Advisor in writing, within 60 calendar days of the alleged unfair treatment.
4. On receipt of a written complaint, a faculty committee will be convened by the Grievance Advisor to manage the grievance. The program faculty committee will obtain a written response from the person toward whom the complaint is directed. This response will be shared with the person filing the grievance.
5. The faculty committee will determine a decision regarding the grievance. The Grievance Advisor will report on the action taken by the committee in writing to both the student and the party toward whom the complaint was directed within 15 working days from the date the complaint was received.
6. At this point, if either party (the student or the person toward whom the grievance is directed) is unsatisfied with the decision of the faculty committee, the party may file a written appeal. Either party has 10 working days to file a written appeal to the School/College.
7. Documentation of the grievance will be stored for at least 7 years. Significant grievances that set a precedent will be stored indefinitely.

The Graduate School has procedures for students wishing to appeal a grievance decision made at the school/college level: https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/grievances-and-appeals/

OTHER

Full-time Ph.D. students and dual degree students are eligible for NIH funding. Students must obtain a faculty adviser, and write a detailed personal statement that demonstrates working knowledge of clinical and/or translational research. No rotations are offered.