

MD/PhD Combined Degree Program

Our Philosophy

The MD, PhD Combined Degree Program at Boston University School of Medicine is structured to train physician-scientists for productive careers in the twenty-first century. Our philosophy views the clinical encounter as central in the generation of relevant questions that can be best explored by scientific methodology. Therefore, we place premiums on balancing both the clinical training and scientific training. This produces a physician-scientist with the capacity to derive a clinically-relevant question, explore it in the laboratory or clinical research center, and translate the new knowledge gained into pragmatic clinical practice.

Personnel

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MD-PhD Workgroup

Benjamin Wolozin
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David Seldin
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Student Governors (rotating)

Kevin Anderson
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Chad Farris
Amelia Haas

Jesse MaComber
Paul O'Bryan (ad hoc)
Linda Hyman (ad hoc)

Timeline

	Application Year	BUSM I	BUSM II	Grad I	Grad - Middle	Grad – Last	BUSM III	BUSM IV
August		-Orientation						
September	Apply	-Fall Retreat	-Fall Retreat - BUSM courses	- Graduate courses	-Fall Retreat - Graduate courses	-Fall Retreat	-Fall Retreat - BUSM courses	-Fall Retreat - BUSM courses
October	Interviews	IP/ICM for MD/PhD groups				Begin Graduate-Phase Clinical Clerkship		
November								
December								
January			-Identify Labs -Register for Boards					-Submit PhD diploma to Admin
February		-Identify Labs for summer rotations	-Identify Labs			-Orientation and lottery for Clinical Rotations		
March					-Register: Clinical Clerkship: 12, 20 or 40 sessions	-EOSYA Assessment Exam -Fill out Clerkship Transition Forms		-Match
April						-Distribute thesis for defense -Sign up for FAFSA		Translationa Research Clerkship (Optional)
May			-Register for graduate school courses	-Qualifying Exams		-Defend Thesis -Request Clerkship Credit for Research		
June	-Optional Research Rotations	-Summer Lab Rotations	-Take Boards					
July	-Optional Research Rotations	-Summer Lab Rotations						

Educational Structure

BUSM I: Med School Classes.

IP for MD, PhD students

Monday evening seminars: Social, Student Presentations,
Student Gov, Faculty Presentations

Clinical lunches (ad hoc)

Rotations

BUSM II: Similar

Requirement: Students must take and pass Step I

Grad I: Classes, Qualifying Exams

Grad II - : Research

Grad IV: Graduate Phase Clinical Clerkship

Graduate Phase Clinical refresher

BUSM III: Clerkships

BUSM IV: Clerkships

Key Issues

1. Major Changes
2. Transitions
3. Training the Physician Scientist
4. Tracking
5. Timing
6. Finances
7. Director

Key Issues: Major Changes

1. Leadership Transition
2. Downsizing (12 to 8)
3. Establishing a M.D., Ph.D. Administrator
4. Finances
5. Graduate Phase Clinical Training
6. Making transitions seamless (MD to grad and back)

Key Issues: Transitions

Matriculation: What about the summer before?

Med to Grad: Step I boards

Grad to Med: Linking students to OSA
Clinical transition form
Listserve
Registering for clerkships
Preparing for the doctor patient relationship
Preparing to interact with attendings and staff
Graduate phase clinical clerkship
Graduate phase clinical refresher

Med to Residency: Optimizing advice for the research directed applicant

Graduate phase clinical clerkship

Clinician-Scientist Clerkship – Elective clinical clerkship for MD/PhD students to be completed during PhD training. Duration: cumulative clinical time of 4 weeks.

1. It will have the following goal:

The clerkship will help the students develop some clinical skills as well as provide them with real-life exposure to the world of the clinician-scientist.

2. It will be supervised by a physician-scientist who holds a faculty appointment at BUMC.

3. It will be open to all MD/PhD students who:

a. have completed Med Years 1 and 2, and USLME part 1,

b. are in the post qualifier years of their PhDs.

4. We recommend this be an elective for its first two years, and then consideration be given to its continuation and/or making it a requirement for entering students.

5. It will be an ambulatory clinical experience, working alongside a physician on a regular basis (weekly or every other week) for up to 40 half-day sessions that would be equivalent to up to 4 weeks full-time rotation.

6. The clerkship will be run by a physician-scientist faculty (to be determined) working in conjunction with an experienced clinical clerkship director (to be determined). These faculty will work to develop a set of criteria for evaluation of both the students and faculty.

7. It will be graded and count towards the completion of clinical clerkships required for graduation.

Graduate phase clinical refresher

SUBJECT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	INSTRUCTOR
GYN*	Monday 5/12	12:30 – 2:30 PM	YACC-4B-10	Dr S. Kaplan: history Dr Gittinger :pelvic exam on a trainer Dr. Zumwalt**: pelvic anatomy 5/21 at 3-5 PM
Cardiology	Tuesday 5/13	1-3 PM	CSSC	Dr. Ravin Davidoff
Neurology	Monday 5/19	1-4 PM	First floor Spivack Center conference room at EBRC(650 Albany St),doors to left after entering the building	Dr. Peter Bergethon
Pulmonary	Thursday 5/29	1-5 PM	CSSC	Dr. Ross Summer
Pediatrics	Monday, 6/2	1:30-5 PM	Adol and School Age Peds Ward, 4 th floor HAC	Dr. Ben Siegel
Boot Camp	Monday, 6/9	1-5 PM	CSSC	Dr. Steph Lee
Clerkship orientation	6/11-6/15			
Clerkships start	6/16			

Key Issues: Training the Physician Scientist

Issues: Maintaining clinical training
Exposure to research training
BUSM I, II - Good
Grad Good
BUSM III, IV - Need for improvement:
Training in Clinical Research
Transition to residencies

BUSM I: IP for MD, PhD students

Monday evening seminars: Social, Student Presentations,
Student Gov, Faculty Presentations

Clinical lunches (ad hoc)

Rotations

BUSM II: Similar

Requirement: Students must take and pass Step I

Grad I: Classes, Qualifying Exams

Grad II - : Research

Grad IV: Graduate Phase Clinical Clerkship
Graduate Phase Clinical refresher

BUSM III: Clerkships

BUSM IV: Clerkships

Key Issues: Tracking

M.D., Ph.D. Information Sheet

Ed Phase	Information/Milestone	Done?	Relevant Names
Student Name:			
Emergency Contact Person:			
Pre-matriculation	Summer Rotation		
	Non-BU email Address		
	Mobile Phone		
	Other contact information		
BUSMI	Promotion to BUSM II		
BUSMII	Choose Dept.		
	Choose Summer Rotation		
	Boards Step I - Taken		
	Boards Step I - Passed		
	Summer Stipend Funded		
Grad I	Courses Completed		
	Stipend Funded		
	PI of Research Lab		
	1° Research Inst. if not BU		
Grad I/II	Qualifying Exam Passed		
	DAC Committee – 1 st Mtg.		
	DAC - Faculty Composition		
Grad Upper	Stipend Provided?		
	NRSA/Fellowship Applied: Title		
	NRSA/Fellowship Awarded: Institute		
	Presentations/Abstracts		
	Papers		
	Clinical Transition Form Turned in?		
	Graduate Phase Clinical Clerkship/Mentor		
	Graduate Phase Clinical Refresher Completed		
	Dissertation Defense Date		
	Dissertation Title		
BUSM III	Rotations all completed		
BUSM IV	Match Results: Residency: Residency/Institution		

Key Issues: Timing

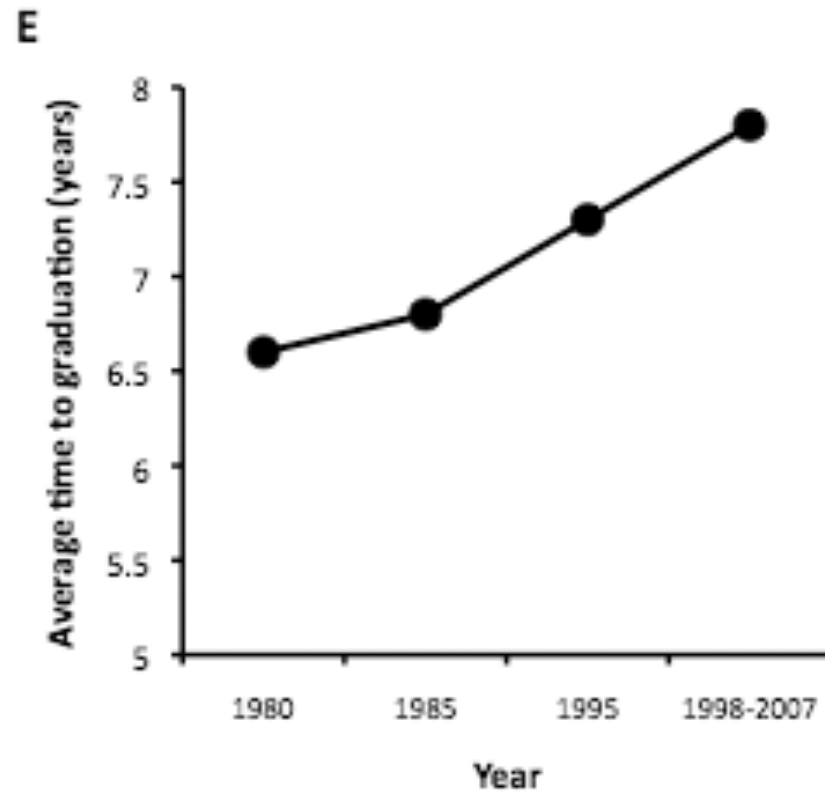


Figure 3E
Brass, et al.
Academic Medicine, in press

Key Issues: Finances

1. Transition in progress to a tuition free program
2. MSTP programs require tuition plus stipend
 - a. MSTP covers about 1/3 of total costs
 - b. Cost for MSTP would be about equal to current cost

Key Issues: Directorship

1. New Director to be appointed this semester
2. Faculty advisor positions will be modified