There are a number of excellent reasons for pursuing a Medical Doctor/Doctor of Philosophy (MD/PhD) program, with the most common reason likely being a significant interest in both clinical care and basic research but total uncertainty as to which path one wishes to pursue as a career. Pursuing the MD/PhD allows one to explore and further develop interests in both areas, as well as provide many other options. Likewise, there are a number of really bad reasons for pursuing the MD/PhD, the most common reason likely being the chance to have your education funded. Students who are interested in pursuing an MD/PhD should consider investigating what it requires, meet current MD/PhD students to learn more about their experiences and goals, and spend time discussing options with mentors.

When beginning an investigation of MD/PhD programs, start by reviewing “Considerations for Pursuing a Professional Degree” and “Considerations for Pursuing a Graduate Degree.” Then develop a list of schools that offers the MD/PhD in your area of research.

**Application Process**

- Take the MCAT and the GRE
- Complete the AMCAS, which requires 2 additional essays for MD/PhD applicants
  - Why you want to pursue an MD/PhD (max 3000 characters)
  - Research experience essay (max. 10,000 characters)
- On the AMCAS, note which schools you wish to be considered as an MD/PhD applicant, and if applicable, for which schools you only wish to be considered as an MD applicant
- Complete Graduate School applications and supporting materials (if applicable)

**Questions to consider asking schools to which you plan to apply:**

- Do I need to take the GRE?
- How many students are in each entering class?
- Are state residents given special consideration for admission?
- Do I need to submit a separate application for the graduate program?
- What is the process for being considered for the medical school if I’m not accepted into the MD/PhD program?

**Notes for the MD/PhD at The Ohio State University:**

- The GRE is not required to pursue the IBGP or Neuroscience graduate programs. It is required for Biomedical Engineering.
- A separate graduate application is not required.
- [http://www.ibgp.org/](http://www.ibgp.org/)
- Application process for denials:
  1) Some are a quick denial, and their files are sent to Medical Admissions after the initial review.
  2) More qualified candidates will not be referred to Medical Admissions until the MSP (Medical Sciences program) Admissions committee has made final admission decisions, which is typically in late winter/early spring. The applicants will be very late in the process for Medical Admissions and run the risk of the medical class already being full.

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