M.D.-M.S. (DUAL DEGREE) IN CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

The MD-MS in Clinical and Translational Science (CTS) offered by the Center for Clinical & Translational Science is a comprehensive 5-year program designed to train future clinical and translational investigators from diverse scientific backgrounds and disciplines during their medical school education. The specific goal is to prepare the scholars of this program to identify important clinical questions, develop research protocols, conduct clinical and translational investigations in highly interdisciplinary and collaborative team settings, generate pilot data, analyze and record the results in a publishable form, and develop and submit grant proposals. Scholars will be required to compose and successfully defend a Master's thesis. CTS scholars will be mentored and supported in writing independent research grant applications and will be enrolled as full-time MD-MS (CTS) students. A structured course curriculum, research environment and resources will be provided. Upon completion of the program, scholars will earn both MD and Master of Science in CTS degrees. Graduates will have gained the ability to conduct clinical and translational research as independent investigators during the course of residency in their chosen specialty.

For complete details, contact Dr. D.K. Agrawal, Office of Clinical and Translational Science, 402.280.2938.

Year One
In addition to completing the M1 year, MD-MS (CTS) students will identify the area of their research interest, identify a potential advisor at Creighton, and submit an application for the summer research program. They will also take the M1 requirement IDC 135 Ethical and Legal Topics in Clinical Medicine, which also qualifies as 3 credit hours towards the MS in CTS.

Year Two
In addition to completing the M2 year, students will participate in a summer research program by enrolling in CTS 797 Directed Independent Research, learning clinical and translational science research techniques, carrying out the proposed research, and finalizing their research topic and the major advisor for Master's thesis. Students will take two additional CTS courses: CTS 702 Federal Policies in Clinical and Translational Research and CTS 712 Bioinformatics and Information Technology in Clinical Medicine.

Year Three
Students will postpone the M3 year and work full-time as Master of Science students by enrolling in CTS courses, including CTS 709 Clinical Research Design and Methods and CTS 713 The Discipline of Scientific Writing and Preparation of Competitive Grant Applications in the Fall Semester and CTS 601 Biostatistics and Analysis of Clinical Data Evidence-based Practice in the Spring Semester. Students will be required to take at least 12 credit hour courses per semester. These courses could include: CTS 795 Directed Independent Study, CTS 797 Directed Independent Research, and CTS 799 Master’s Thesis. Students will conduct research under the direct supervision of the major advisor. Students will write and submit a Master of Science Thesis by June 10 and successfully defend it by June 30 in order to fulfill the requirements for the Master of Science component of the MD-MS (ITM) program. If necessary, the defense of the thesis can be arranged during the 4th year of the curriculum.

Years Four & Five
Students will complete the M3 and M4 years to satisfy the MD component of the dual-degree program. Both degrees will be awarded at the May convocation.