

THE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES PROGRAM HANDBOOK

PROGRAM HANDBOOK

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<https://www.cuanschutz.edu/graduate-programs/biomedical-sciences-program/training-faculty>

Table of Contents

Program Guidelines Disclaimer	2
Program Overview	3
Academic Program	4
Office of Research Education Contacts	4
BSP Requirements	5
Requirements for Admission of Graduate Students	5
Curriculum Overview	5
Registration Process	5
Areas of Concentration	8
Policies and Procedures	9
Biomedical Sciences Program	9
➤ Academic Honor Code	9
➤ Academic Probation	9
➤ Email Access	10
➤ Financial Aid	10
➤ GPA and Grades.....	10
➤ Health Insurance.....	11
➤ Health Services	12
➤ Leave of Absence.....	12
➤ Mental Health Services.....	1
Office of Research Education	1
Program Events and Activities	1
Resources and Support	2

Program Guidelines Disclaimer

As a member of the Biomedical Sciences Program, you are expected to adhere to all established policies and procedures of the University, the Office of Research Education, the Graduate School and this PhD Program.

CU Anschutz – University Policies <https://catalog.ucdenver.edu/cu-anschutz/university-policies/>

Office of Research Education <https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/ore/forms-and-resources>

Graduate School <https://graduateschool.cuanschutz.edu/forms-resources/resources>

For any policies, please make sure to review the [Graduate School Policies and Procedures](#).

Program Overview

Statement of Purpose

The goal of the Biomedical Sciences Program is to train world-class biomedical scientists who will apply a multidisciplinary approach to their research. This interdepartmental program will provide a broad view of biology and the disease process to students early in their career, creating a wider exposure to scientific disciplines outside of their specific research interests. We believe that an integrated approach to biomedical research is critical to the development of a successful career and is one of the characteristics possessed by the most successful scientists of our day.

Goal of the Biomedical Sciences Program

Our goal is to train high-caliber students by providing an academic environment with a minimal number of boundaries. Program students will be able to choose mentors without regards to the departmental affiliations of the faculty members. This will provide the opportunity for the students to choose the graduate programs that best meets their academic goals and their needs as future research scientists. Our research community is characterized by a high degree of interaction between investigators present at the Anschutz Medical Campus and its neighboring institutions – CU Denver Auraria Campus, National Jewish Hospital, and CU Boulder. By making this diversity of research opportunities more accessible to students, we hope to foster a greater degree of interaction between investigators, stimulate high-quality research at our institutions, and recruit graduate students capable of competing in any environment. Our goal is to provide graduate training at the level of the top graduate programs nationwide.

➤ Program Administration

Director, Steering Committee, Admission Committee, Graduate Advisory Committee, Program Administrator

The **Director(s)** of the Biomedical Sciences Program oversees the operations of the program. The Director is selected by the Steering Committee and appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School. The Co-Director is recommended by the Director, approved by the Steering Committee and Dean of the Graduate School.

Current Director – Dr. Aaron Johnson

The **Steering Committee** consists of the Program Directors from each of the participating Office of Research Education Programs:

Basic Science ORE Programs (11): Cancer Biology; Cell Biology, Stem Cells, & Development; Computational Bioscience; Human Medical Genetics & Genomics; Immunology; Integrated Physiology, Microbiology; Molecular Biology; Neuroscience; Pharmacology, Structural Biology & Biochemistry

The **Admissions Committee** consists of the Director of the program and up to twenty faculty members from different programs that are appointed by the Director of BSP and/or their primary program. The Admissions Committee reviews all applications, ranks completed applications, and determines those individuals who will be invited for interviews. All decisions regarding admissions of applicants are made by this committee. The BSP participates in the common recruiting weekends currently used by other programs at the Anschutz Medical Campus. At least one faculty member on the BSP admissions Committee represents each PhD-granting program, chosen as a dedicated representative of that program's admissions priorities.

The **Graduate Advisory Committee (GAC)** is made up of BSP training faculty who serve in an advisory role for current BSP students. GAC mentors are paired with students, conducting one-on-one meetings throughout the year to advise on research rotations, coursework, PhD-granting Program choice at the end of Year 1, and other student issues arising. GAC mentors, including the BSP Director, discuss issues that arise and support each other to better support BSP students. GAC mentors serve additional roles, as they arise, such as evaluation of internal awards and nominations.

Current GAC mentors – Dr. Aaron Johnson, Dr. Cecilia Caino, Dr. Emily Bates, and Dr. Jordan Jacobelli

The Admissions Committee also evaluates the effectiveness of the marketing of the program, with special emphasis upon what changes should be made to increase our effectiveness in recruiting the best applicants to our graduate program.

The **Program Administrator**, provided by the Office of Research Education, aids in correspondence throughout the year with current, prospective, and previous program students, processing applications, and coordination of student interviews and recruitment efforts.

Current Administrator- Jessica Gamez

Academic Program

Students admitted to the Biomedical Sciences Program (BSP) do not belong to a specific department or program in Year 1. Students may choose their rotation mentors from the long list of approved faculty members of the BSP, which covers 11 PhD-granting biomedical science programs on our campus. Mentors for a student's rotations are chosen by the student after recommended consultation with the Program Director(s) and GAC mentor.

Current information about all mentors is available to the student(s) through the program's web page (<https://www.cuanschutz.edu/graduate-programs/biomedical-sciences-program/training-faculty>).

BSP students complete a curriculum during the Fall and Spring semesters that balances standardized training with specific tailoring to each student's goals. Special topics courses offered in the winter and spring terms offer opportunities to explore areas of interest to the student to prepare them for their preliminary exams and beyond. All first-year students are required to participate in a BSP journal club, directed by members of the program faculty.

At the end of their first-year, all BSP students take a preliminary exam offered by one specific PhD-granting program of their interest, after taking the appropriate courses of that program. Successful completion of the preliminary exam allows a student to enter a research laboratory and choose a program under whose guidance they will complete their thesis research. Upon completion of the exam, students become members of that program and are subject to the regulations of that program. There is opportunity for reciprocity for students who take a preliminary exam in one program but decide to join a different program, determined by directors of the relevant PhD-granting program. In this scenario, the program the student will join will honor the results of the exam from the other program. Students who do not pass the exam in two attempts will be terminated from the program. Appeals will be handled by the individual programs along with the BSP Director.

Office of Research Education Contacts

Program Director: Aaron Johnson, PhD

- Email: aaron.m.johnson@cuanschutz.edu

ORE Program Administrator: Jessica Gamez

- Email: Jessica.gamez@cuanschutz.edu

Office of Research Education (located in the Fitzsimons Building)

Angie Ribera: Associate Dean of Research Education, angie.ribera@cuanschutz.edu

- Point of contact for faculty, program, and organizational concerns and planning

Jodi Cropper: Business Services Program Director, jodi.cropper@cuanschutz.edu

- Point of contact for financial and organizational planning concerns and coordination

Morgan Texeira: Program Manager, morgan.teixeira@cuanschutz.edu

- Point of contact for program specific concerns and additional point of contact for Program Administrators

Miriam Venzor: Academic Services Coordinator, miriam.venzor@cuanschutz.edu

- Point of contact for ORE administrative concerns, organizational planning and ORE leadership availability

BSP Requirements

Requirements for Admission of Graduate Students

The Biomedical Sciences Program's for each fall term is to admit a minimum of 10 students each year.

The following are the requirements for admission to the Biomedical Sciences Program:

- A baccalaureate degree with a minimum GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). Applicants with a GPA below 3.0 may be admitted on a probationary basis and must demonstrate they can maintain a 3.0 GPA during their first year in the program.
- Strong background in a combination of biology, chemistry, physical science, and/or mathematics
- Completed coursework in two or more of the following subjects: cell and molecular biology, biochemistry, developmental biology, genetics, immunology, microbiology, bioinformatics, neurobiology, physical chemistry, physiology, and virology
- Undergraduate and/or post-baccalaureate independent research experience – 1-2 years minimum

Students transferring to specific PhD-granting programs from the Biomedical Sciences (BSP) or Medical Scientist Training (MSTP) programs may have different credit/course requirements (see appendix 3). Applications for transfer will be evaluated based on thesis lab availability, transcripts, and performance on the preliminary exam and in rotation labs. It is important to understand that transfer from either program into the a PhD-granting program depends on a faculty member from that program agreeing to accept the student into their lab for thesis work. While this matching is the goal and happens smoothly for most students, mentor and program matches are not guaranteed by BSP or ORE, but must be cultivated by the student.

Curriculum Overview

Registration Process

- [Academic Calendars](#) (see The Graduate School calendar)
- [Register for Classes](#) (see The Graduate School)
 - All basic science PhD students must register in a minimum of 5 credits (fall and spring semesters), 1 credit of 8990 (summer semester), and anything above the minimum credit level will need approval from faculty mentor.
 - First year students, BSP and MSTP students should work with their program directors, program administrators, and faculty mentors as there will be additional credit requirements associated with their progress in the program.
 - The paying of tuition, fees and student health insurance by ORE occurs the week following the deadline for semester add/drop period, which can be found on the [academic calendar](#) . The Program Administrator will complete the process of submitting the appropriate form to the Bursar's Office. For those students receiving financial aid, please work with the Program Administrator to avoid any disruption in aid awarding.

- In some cases, Core Topics courses can be substituted with Fall coursework from a PhD-granting program, at the discretion of the BSP Director.

First Year Fall Semester		
Course Title	Registration Information	Credits
Foundations in Biomedical Science	BMSC 7806	6
Core Topics in Biomedical Sciences – A (student may select topic)	BMSC 7810	2
Core Topics in Biomedical Sciences – B (student may select topic)	BMSC 7810	2
Rotation 1	BMSC 7650 (001)	1
Rotation 2	BMSC 7650 (002)	1
Spring Semester		
Course Title	Registration Information	Credits
Program Course requirement #1	Depends on program interest of student	
Program Course requirement #2 or elective	Depends on program interest of student	
Rotation 3	BSMC 7650 (001)	1
Summer Semester		
Course Title	Registration Information	Credits
Doctoral Thesis	(Program) 8990	1
Research (Pre-Comps) if instructed to register	(Program) 7650	3

➤ Rotations

Directed laboratory research in an area selected by the faculty. Students are required take three rotations lasting one academic “quarter” each, starting in the fall semester of their first year. Research rotations are designed to introduce students to research methodologies, to teach approaches to scientific problem solving, and to provide the opportunity to explore various laboratories as potential homes for thesis research. Students should approach the research rotations with the primary goal of identifying their future thesis advisors. Research rotations also provide students with the opportunity to accumulate a variety of different research experiences.

There are several considerations which a student should keep in mind when choosing a rotation advisor. Rotations must be performed with a member of the Program Training Faculty. It is the student’s responsibility to take the initiative to contact a rotation advisor and arrive at an agreement with the advisor in a timely manner.

ORE Milestone Rotation Request form to be used when first year students have identified their rotation mentor. Please follow Program specific guidelines, including the submission deadline. For BSP, this form is submitted when the rotation proposal is due, usually two weeks after the start of the rotation. Three forms will be submitted throughout the academic year. The possibility of a fourth rotation during the summer quarter between first and second year will be considered for students unable to find a thesis advisor due to funding or other unique situations after three rotations. If you need a **Fourth Rotation (with PD approval)**, you must request approval from your Program Director. The Program Administrator and Program Director will work with the Office of Research Education accordingly.

➤ Rotation Talks

At the completion of each required rotation, students must present a post-rotation seminar. This seminar will be presented on a predetermined day during the regular semester. The actual dates of the post-rotation seminar series for any given year are available from the Program Administrator. In the rotation talk, the student presents the rationale, methods, and results obtained from the rotation project, as well as an interpretation and a discussion of the rotation project results. The post-rotation presentation usually lasts ten to fifteen minutes, with the last two or three minutes customarily devoted to questions from the audience.

➤ Rotation Grades

Each rotation is assigned a letter grade. The rotation advisor assigns the initial grade following the post-rotational seminar. Each student must complete at least three research rotations by the end of the first program year. Failure to do so may result in dismissal from the program.

➤ Electives

The second semester is used to complete electives for the first year. Electives should be selected to fulfill the requirements of the PhD granting program in which the student might be continuing their study in the following years. Most electives are geared to prepare students for the preliminary exam for the program that is offering the course. Many electives may cover requirements for multiple programs. Please contact the programs you are interested in for the information regarding their elective requirements.

Journal Club – no registration required

Our BSP Journal Club format allows students to meet faculty from each program under the Biomedical Science Program umbrella, and also allows for students to learn about research going on in fields they may be unfamiliar with. The way our Journal Club is conducted is with one faculty facilitator from each program being chosen to represent their program, and selecting the paper that will be discussed. BSP students then choose a date, according to their programs of interest and/or areas of interest they want to be the paper coordinator.

Depending on how many students are in the class, some may present twice. At the beginning of each class, the student coordinator will present a brief (~10 minutes) introduction to the paper, while the faculty mentor may interject to help with the “big picture”. After the introduction, other students can volunteer or the faculty moderator(s) will select a member of the class to present Figure 1; each student should be prepared to present every figure in every class. The selected student will briefly outline the experimental question being asked in the figure, the approaches used, what the experiments were intended to show, and what the experiments actually showed. *It is OK to ask for help in interpreting the figure.* After the figure is presented, the floor is open for questions and discussion from any student in the class. The questions should draw out the understanding of the figure(s) with respect to the validity of the data, its interpretation, and significance for the conclusions drawn in the paper. The faculty moderator(s) should try to allow the students to run most of the discussion, but can of course help direct, clear up a discussion that is going astray or bring to light overlooked issues after the students have made their contributions to the discussion. The class continues like this until all relevant figures are presented. The pace of the discussion should allow 10 minutes at the end of each class to discuss the overall implications of the paper, the status of the field, and what future experiments might be, to give some ideas concerning potential research within the discussed area as an introduction to the type of research performed in that program.

➤ **Preliminary Exam** (program specific)

Every first-year student takes the Preliminary Qualifying Exam at the end of the first year of graduate school. For BSP students, their exam will be administered by the specific program that the student chooses to join. The primary goal of the Preliminary Qualifying Examination is to ensure that you have achieved a high standard of scientific scholarship and skills that are critical for successful completion of your Ph.D. thesis and beyond. In addition to assessing your foundation in genetics, molecular biology, cell biology and biochemistry, the Preliminary exam format in most programs will also test abilities such as:

- Develop a set of original, testable hypotheses
- Prepare a compelling research plan to test these hypotheses
- Orally explain and defend these hypotheses and your research plan
- Critically analyze and interpret data

Throughout the year, the director(s) of BSP will provide the students guidance as to how to choose the graduate program in which they will perform their thesis work, and which courses to take to prepare for their program specific preliminary examination.

➤ **Transfer to Thesis Lab**

- [Predoc Financial Support Agreement](#) for those faculty mentors who choose to take on a new predoctoral mentee.

➤ **Residency**

- Per University policy, it is required that students begin the process of establishing their residency as soon as they accept their offer to join the PhD program. This process must be started promptly to ensure you meet the necessary deadlines by the end of your first year. For more information, please visit the University website – [Residency](#)

Areas of Concentration

The Biomedical Sciences Program training faculty focus on numerous fields of scientific endeavor. Please see below the list of PhD-granting programs, their directors and program administrators:

- **Cancer Biology** – Director(s): Dr. Rebecca Schweppe; PA: Evelin Zumba
- **Cell Biology, Stem Cells, & Development** – Director(s): Dr. Santos Franco; PA: Zach Hersh
- **Computational Bioscience** – Director(s): Dr. Arjun Krishnan; PA: Abby Redwine
- **Human Medical Genetics & Genomics** – Director(s): Dr. Arjun Krishnan & Dr. Kelly Sullivan; PA: Abby Redwine
- **Integrated Physiology** – Director(s): Dr. Mary Weiser-Evans; PA: TBA
- **Immunology** – Director(s): Dr. Ross Kedl; PA: Sabrena Heilman
- **Microbiology** – Director(s): Dr. Breck Duerkop; PA: TBA
- **Molecular Biology** – Director(s): Dr. Neelanjan Mukherjee; PA: Carley Surina
- **Neuroscience** – Director(s): Dr. Nidia Quillinan and Dr. Gidon Felsen; PA: Anna Valles
- **Pharmacology** – Director(s): Dr. Jim Costello and Dr. Jason Aoto; PA: Jessica Gamez
- **Structural Biology & Biophysics** – Director(s): Dr. Catherine Musselman; PA: Zach Hersh

Policies and Procedures

Biomedical Sciences Program

➤ Academic Honor Code

Education at the CU Denver | Anschutz is conducted under the honor system. All students who have entered graduate and health professional programs should have developed the qualities of honesty and integrity, and each student should apply these principles to his or her academic and subsequent professional career. Expectations, definitions, and procedures regarding graduate student academic honesty and professional conduct are outlined in the Honor Code. Matriculation into a Graduate School program at CU Denver | Anschutz indicates the student's willingness to abide by both of these Codes. Questions and concerns may be directed to the Graduate School.

➤ Academic Probation

If, at any time, a student's cumulative graduate grade point average (GPA) after matriculation falls below 3.00 (some graduate programs may require that a higher GPA be maintained) the student will be placed on academic probation. Probationary full-time students have 2 semesters, probationary part-time students have 4 semesters, in which to raise their cumulative GPA to a 3.00 (or greater if required by the program) for removal from academic probation (calculated using all graduate-level courses since matriculation, including graduate courses that a student enrolled in outside his/her main program). In addition, a minimum GPA of 3.00 (or greater if required by the program) must be maintained in each probationary term. Students who fail to meet the conditions of probation are subject to dismissal from the Graduate School. Any student who is dismissed from the Graduate School following unsuccessful academic probation or failure to meet his/her program's guidelines for satisfactory academic progress may reapply for admission to the same or a different graduate program only after 1 year. The student should consult with the Program Director before applying.

Probation also may be imposed by the Graduate School and its programs for other reasons related to unsatisfactory academic progress and for unprofessional behavior, including honor code violations and conduct that violates the integrity of training and research. In such instances, the length and specific conditions of the probationary period will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Removal from Probation

Once the student's GPA has been recalculated and shown to be 3.00 or above, and/or other specified conditions of the probationary status have been met, the student will be notified by email, with a copy of the notification sent to the student's program.

Probation and Graduation

A student cannot take a milestone exam (Masters final exam or thesis defense, PhD comprehensive exam or dissertation defense) or obtain a degree from CU Denver | Anschutz while on academic probation.

➤ Email Access

All graduate students will receive a University e-mail account. All students are expected to check this account on a regular basis, as this is the official means of communication for all university-related information. Graduate students will be provided with instructions on how to obtain and access their email accounts during their new-student orientation with the Graduate School. Once the student has his/her username and password, the student will have access to campus email, the student portal, computers on campus, student printing and other University domain resources.

➤ Financial Aid

The Financial Aid Office is responsible for administering federal, state, and institutional aid, such as grants, student loans, and work-study. All forms should be filled out early, as financial aid processing can take 6-8 weeks. Short-term emergency loans are available through their office.

- Financial Aid Office: *CU Anschutz location:* Ed 2 North, 3rd Floor; *Phone:* 303-724-8039

➤ GPA and Grades

The grade point average (GPA) is calculated by multiplying the credit hours for the course by the points for the letter grade, totaling all the credit points and dividing them by the number of credit hours included. Grades received in courses transferred from another institution and/or from non-degree student coursework are not included in the calculation of the grade point average. The GPA for graduate students includes all courses taken while the student is enrolled in one or more graduate programs.

- *Pass/Fail Courses:* Graduate courses or any courses used toward a graduate degree may **not** be taken on a pass/fail basis.

Minimum GPA and Grades

As a graduate student, students are required to maintain at least a “B” (3.00) average in **all** work attempted while enrolled in the Graduate School. Courses in which grades below a “B-” (2.70) are received will not be applied toward the degree. **This is a minimum requirement; individual graduate programs may have more stringent requirements.** While a course with a grade of C+ or below will not count towards the degree, **all** coursework taken while a student was enrolled as a graduate student will be included in the GPA calculation. If a student’s cumulative GPA falls below a 3.00, he/she will be placed on academic probation (please see Academic Probation).

Repeating Coursework

A graduate student who receives an unsatisfactory grade in a course (as determined by the Graduate School or an individual program) may repeat that course once. The 2 grades received will be averaged in calculating the grade point average, and all grades received will appear on the student's transcript. The course may be counted only once toward satisfying the credit hour requirement for the degree.

Grade Changes

At the end of a course, the course instructor will assign a letter grade, or an Incomplete (I), or In Progress (IP). IP grades are changed to final letter grades when the required work is completed. An “I” grade is automatically changed to an “F” after one year unless a grade change is initiated by the course director. In addition, letter grades may be changed due to clerical or administrative error; however, no other grade changes are permitted by the Graduate School; (i.e., students are not allowed to perform additional work for a course already completed in order to improve their grade). If a student enters military service before completing a course and an Incomplete grade, “I”, is reported, this grade may be carried on the record for the duration of the student’s service, provided arrangements have been made with the graduate program and the Graduate School Dean.

➤ Health Insurance

For the most up to date student health insurance information regarding eligibility, dates, deadlines, and the process to waive insurance, please visit: <https://www.cuanschutz.edu/student/health-wellness/student-health-insurance>

Health Insurance Plan, the student must contact the Student Health Insurance Office at the beginning of the term for information on health plan enrollment. There is an additional charge for each dependent.

Waiver: The waiver outlines criteria for comparable insurance that is emailed to each student in the fall and also available online or at the Student Insurance Office. If students wish to waive the student insurance, they must complete the waiver. Detailed instructions and the form are available online at the [Student Insurance website](#). The deadline for waiving or enrolling in the insurance will be included on the selection/waiver form and listed [online](#). **After the deadline, the student will be responsible for the insurance fee, which is automatically charged on their tuition bill.** Additional information will also be provided during orientation or by calling the Student Insurance Office.

The Student Insurance Office – *Location:* Ed 2 North, room 3213; *Phone:* 303-724-7674;

Email: amcstudentinsurance@cuanschutz.edu

➤ Health Services

As noted above, all students registered for 5 or more hours are automatically enrolled in the Anschutz Medical Campus student insurance (see Student Insurance). Students seeking medical care should see their primary care provider per the plan. Questions regarding benefits should be addressed to: Student Insurance Office – *Phone:*

303-724-7674; *Email:* amcstudentinsurance@cuanschutz.edu.

- **Immunization Requirements:** All new students accepted to degree programs at CU Anschutz are required to submit proof of current immunizations to the Graduate School. The specific requirements and necessary forms are provided by the Graduate School as part of the admission materials.*

*Medical, religious and personal exemptions are allowed by law. Students who request exemptions are subject to the prevailing regulations governing quarantines in case of outbreaks and university policies related to forfeiture of tuition and fees.

➤ Leave of Absence

A student who needs to leave a CU Denver graduate program for a period of time should determine, together with his/her Program Director, whether a petition for a leave of absence is required. The form to request the leave of absence is available on the Graduate School website. A leave of absence is granted for up to 1 year during a student's graduate study. Approved leaves of absence do not automatically extend the time limits for earning a degree. Requests for leaves of absence that exceed 1 year will not be approved. Students who are absent for longer than 1 year, considered to have withdrawn from the program and will be required to reapply for admission and be considered together with all other applicants.

➤ Vacation and Leave Policy

Students who receive full-support stipends from CU Denver | Anschutz PhD programs are required to pursue their training on a full-time basis, devoting each day of the normal work week, plus any additional time required by their research project and academic courses. Additionally, for a student to maintain full-time status, the following guidelines for vacation and leave time have been established by the Graduate School.

These leave times represent leave to which a graduate student is entitled; however, research demands and commitment to graduate studies often result in students using less than the allotted leave. **Graduate students shall receive all University holidays and no more than 14 calendar days (counting all days Monday through Sunday) of vacation per annum, with no year-to-year accrual. Students may take up to 15 calendar days (counting all days Monday through Sunday) of sick leave per annum, with no year-to-year accrual.** All holiday, vacation, and sick days that fall within these guidelines will be continue to be covered by the stipend. Please consult the policy for additional information.

➤ **Application Process for Faculty Membership**

Each faculty member (applicant) who is interested in joining the Biomedical Sciences Program should first be accepted in one of the 11 PhD-granting programs that BSP students can join. If this has occurred in the past three years, BSP will automatically welcome the faculty member onto our roster. After this three year period, faculty must submit to BSP Director and PA: A brief paragraph stating why they would like to join BSP, emphasizing mentoring and projects that are well-suited to PhD students. Applicant must indicate which PhD-granting programs they are a member of.

A current CV with research description, current and pending funding, mentoring and teaching experiences. Applicant must indicate which PhD-granting programs they are a member of

If the PI is new and does not yet have current external funding, then a letter of support from the Department/ Division Chair stating that the department/division supports the PI taking thesis students and would be willing to support the student in the event of a lapse in internal/external funding for the student.

The “applications” will be approved or disapproved by the members of the current Steering Committee, which consists of one representative from each PhD-granting program.

Individual faculty members who wish to become members of the Biomedical Sciences Program training faculty for the purpose of becoming mentors for students in the program are expected to meet the following requirements:

The faculty member must have the rank of Assistant Professor or above, with a primary or joint appointment in one of the 11 basic sciences PhD programs, as well as have a graduate faculty appointment with the Graduate School.

The PI must offer a training/laboratory environment involved in hypothesis- driven research that provides a suitable training experience for the student such that they will be prepared to undertake a career in scientific research. It is recognized that the vast majority of contemporary biomedical research is hypothesis-driven. It is critical to proper graduate training that students understand how to construct and test a hypothesis if they are to be successful in their future endeavors.

The faculty member must be engaged in independent research with a history of external funding – recognized types of grants include R01, R29, SCORE/SPORE, P01 (program project grant) from NIH; DOD, NSF, ACS, AHA or other recognized national agencies.

It is also appreciated that some investigators may derive a substantial portion of their funding from corporate or venture capital sources, and that this mode of funding may increase in the future. We believe that this is a suitable source of funding provided that students not be subjected to confidentially agreements concerning their thesis projects.

The applicant must provide evidence of past or present commitment to graduate-level education. This may take the form of teaching, serving on exam committees, or directly mentoring graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. In the case of new junior faculty, it is understood that this requirement will be met primarily by a future commitment.

➤ Mental Health Services

The Student Mental Health Center **does not** accept students for walk-in counseling. Call to schedule an appointment with a counselor. After hours, identify yourself as an Anschutz Medical Campus student and ask for the on-call psychiatrist. If appropriate, students are referred to additional on-campus and/or community resources.

- *Phone:* 303-724-4716, Monday through Friday from 8 - 5 schedule appointment
- *After hour contact:* 720-848-0000
- Communication
- Milestone updates and changes
- Code of Conduct Policy ORE specific

Office of Research Education

- [Office of Research Education](#)
- Conflict of Interest (reference to Comps and Thesis committees)
 - Honor Code and Committee Procedures
- [Anschutz Email address communication](#)
- Student Badge Requirement
- [Financial Aid for Graduate Students](#)
- Residency
- Tuition, fees and stipend
 - All incoming Graduate Students are offered a financial aid package from the Graduate School that includes an annual stipend of **\$43,000** (approved for **Academic year 2026-2027**), tuition costs, and payment of individual student health insurance and activity fees. The Stipend is evaluated on an annual basis for the cost of living. Please note that this support covers the period July 1, through June 30 for continuing PhD students, and August 15, through June 30 for first year PhD students. Payment of annual stipend, along with tuition costs, fees and individual health insurance is dependent upon satisfactory academic progress as defined in the Graduate School and Program policies.

Program Events and Activities

➤ Retreats

Each student in the Biomedical Science Program is encouraged to attend one, but no more than two, program retreats in the Fall and/or Spring semester of their first year. Students should attend the retreat(s) of the PhD-granting program(s) they are interested in possibly joining to be able to meet students and faculty of that program, and also learn about the current research taking place. Retreats are held in many different locations, ranging from one day on-campus to staying in cabins for a weekend. Students should contact the Program Administrator for more detailed information on a specific retreat.

Retreats Offered:

- Immunology & Microbiology (Department Conf.) –Sabrena Heilman
- Human Medical Genetics & Genomics –Abby Redwine
- Cancer Biology –Evelin Zumba
- Pharmacology (Student Symposium)– Jessica Gamez
- Cell Biology, Stem Cells, & Development– Zach Hersh
- Molecular Biology –Carley Surina
- Immunology & Microbiology (Student Retreat) –Sabrena Heilman
- Neuroscience– Anna Valles
- Computational Bioscience (Rocky Conference) –Abby Redwine
- Pharmacology (Department Retreat)- Jessica Gamez
- Structural Biology & Biophysics – Zach Hersh
 - Please reach out to the PA listed if interested in attending any of the listed retreats

Resources and Support

Students can access a variety of campus services through the links provided below. The Office of Student Affairs is committed to supporting CU Anschutz students by offering guidance and assistance in navigating campus resources. For detailed information about available services or to schedule an appointment, please visit the Office of Student Affairs webpages. For additional questions or support, you may contact the office via email at StudentAffairs@cuanschutz.edu.

- [Office of Student Affairs](#)
 - [Campus Life](#)
 - [Student Support](#)
 - [Health & Wellness](#)
 - [Student Resources](#)
 - [Student Services](#)
- [Students Resource Directory](#)
 - Includes all campus resources
- [Academic Calendar](#)
- [Residency](#)
- [Badging Office](#)
- [Student Parking & Transportation](#)
 - Eco Pass
 - Campus Circulator (Transportation service)
 - Medical Campus Rail Shuttle
- [Office of Information Technology](#)
- [Student Health Insurance](#)
- [Office of Research Education – Concern Reporting Form \(Maxient\)](#)
- [CU Anschutz Student Outreach and Support Referral](#)

- [CU Anschutz Student Request for Medical Leave of Absence](#)
- [Graduation Deadlines Thesis, Anschutz](#)
- [Thesis & Dissertation/ProQuest Format & Guidelines](#)