

Dear Incoming Students of P&S Class of 2021,

I would like to take this opportunity to give you some information about the new dual degree MD/Masters in Biomedical Science (MD/MS) program at P&S. This 30-credit MD/MS program is available to all entering students and reflects P&S's commitment to develop clinicians who will be leaders in advancing medical research, practice, policy and education. By integrating research training with medical education, this program will enhance your research skills and provide opportunities for you to pursue your research interests.

The MD/MS program is open both to students who were engaged in research before attending medical school and also to those who are new to medical research. Areas of research focus may include basic/translational science, clinical research, precision medicine, global health, medical education, narrative and social medicine, population health and biomedical informatics. Students take graduate level courses that deepen their understanding of research methods and content. The precise choice of coursework can vary according to the student's chosen field of interest. Students also participate in seminar courses, and attend and help organize lectures given by top researchers at Columbia. The centerpiece of the MD/MS program is that students perform a year of original mentored research under the supervision of a mentor or team of mentors in a medical field of interest to them that culminates in a Master's thesis. The MD/MS dual degree can be completed in 5 years and, for select students, in 4 years. In the majority of cases, the requirements for the MD/MS can be completed without additional tuition costs.

Detailed information about the program structure and requirements will be presented during orientation. If you have any questions in advance of Orientation, please feel free to contact me to learn more.

I look forward to seeing you on campus in August.

Regards,
Elizabeth Shane, MD
Associate Dean for Student Research

MD/MS Program Information:

<http://ps.columbia.edu/education/academic-career-planning/dual-degree-programs-academic-tracks/mdms>