

Objectives

Postdoctoral trainees are recognized as crucial participants in keeping UT Southwestern at the forefront of biomedical research. The objectives of the Postdoctoral Training Program are to extend the traditional best practices of postdoctoral training in basic sciences at UT Southwestern and to make available new initiatives to improve training. The ultimate goal is to provide a structured program to aid the transition of each trainee to career independence through the development of professional and research skills.

Qualifications for Postdoctoral Training

A Postdoctoral Trainee is an individual who has earned a Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent doctoral degree and performs research in a specialty area under the supervision of a faculty member (Postdoctoral Mentor). The term Postdoctoral Trainee shall include an individual who holds the position of "Postdoctoral Fellow" or "Postdoctoral Researcher" such positions being equivalent in terms of rights and responsibilities and differing only in regards to the source of financial support for stipend or salary and fringe benefits. Postdoctoral training presupposes that the Postdoctoral Trainee is capable of independently executing original research under the guidance of the Postdoctoral Mentor. Appointment as a Postdoctoral Trainee is limited to six years including postdoctoral training received at other institutions, either inside or outside the U.S.

Organization of the Program

All Postdoctoral Trainees are enrolled in a certificate program that is comprised of multiple tracks, each of which is intended to be completed in two year's time. Postdoctoral Trainees register for three hours of coursework in the Fall and Spring semesters and two hours of coursework in the Summer semester. The program is organized along the lines of continuing professional training and is graded on a pass/fail system. Certificates are offered in a variety of tracks, each of which includes required coursework. Electives are also offered as selected advanced graduate courses from the class offerings of the Division of Biological Sciences. Courses in English as a second language are provided for selected trainees. A certificate shall be awarded upon completion of 15 credit hours of training. Beginning Postdoctoral Trainees are enrolled in the Research track, which has requirements for coursework in Ethics, Special Topics in Career Advancement, Supervised Research, and Works-in-Progress or Journal Club series. Additional certificate offerings, from which Postdoctoral Trainees choose, may include Teaching, Advanced Technology, Advanced Research, and Chemistry.

Benefits of the Program

In addition to providing Postdoctoral Trainees with unique experiences in specialized research and advanced coursework activities, the program affords access to services including health, mental health, fitness and recreation participation opportunities at the Bryan Williams, M.D. Student Center, lowest campus parking rates, and individualized assistance with career development.