

## **Petitioning the Graduate College to Receive Graduate Credit for Medical School Classes**

January 26, 2016

The Medical Scholars Program is formally a joint-degree program. This structure **allows graduate programs to formally accept up to 12 credit hours of medical school courses**. The accepted medical school course(s) will not be reflected on the UIUC graduate transcript; rather, the credit hour requirements for the PhD are decreased by an equivalent number of hours. Please note that accepting a given course is **entirely at the discretion of the individual graduate program**.

The M1 classes will usually be used to replace graduate course work. In some cases, a graduate program might also want to accept an M2 course, such as Epidemiology, or an M3 or M4 rotation, such as the capstone course, Medicine and Society. The PhD would not be awarded until after the medical school courses of interest are completed.

The MSP has encouraged every program to consider giving some credit for medical school classes. For many, there will be obvious overlap between curricula. **Programs might have defined courses for which all MSP students get credit, or they might want to allocate credit on a more individual basis**, based on the needs and background of the student.

Administrative mechanism: **MSP students will petition the Graduate College to receive graduate credit for medical school classes using a standard form (Medical Scholars Program Student Petition.pdf)**. Upon satisfactorily completing the medical school course(s), students will complete the petition and have it signed by the Director of Graduate Studies of their PhD program, their thesis advisor, and the Associate Dean for Student Affairs in the College of Medicine. Upon receiving the completed form, the Graduate College will decrease the number of credit hours required to receive the PhD equivalent to the number of credit hours of the completed and approved medical school course(s). Note that these courses will not be reflected on the UIUC transcript. This prevents any student who drops out of the PhD from subsequently using these credits to receive a degree from UIUC or another institution. **Students currently in the program are eligible to take advantage of this course reduction and it is retroactive, i.e., credit can be given for courses completed prior to the formal change in the program.**