IMMUNOLOGY (PHD)

Overview

The doctoral program in Immunology at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus trains students in diverse areas of immunology that includes innate and adaptive immunity, host-pathogen interactions, tumor immunity, autoimmunity, immune deficiencies, and vaccine development.

The Immunology Graduate Program at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus is amongst the most prominent basic Immunology graduate research training Programs in the country. Since its founding in 1989, our Program has conferred over 150 PhD degrees to students from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Our curriculum combines formal coursework with mentoring by an engaged faculty in a collaborative environment. The Program draws from the academic strengths of three institutions that contribute significant resources and house our training faculty and students — The CU Denver | Anschutz, National Jewish Health, and the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes.

Students in the program receive comprehensive training in diverse areas of immunology and gain the intellectual foundation and technical expertise necessary for performing cutting-edge basic and translational research. Trainees also gain skills in data analysis, technical writing, and oral presentation to further prepare them for making impactful contributions throughout their careers — whether they pursue careers within or outside of academia.

Admissions Requirements

Applicants with proven scientific ability, indicated through performance in a college level science program and/or in a research laboratory. Prior research laboratory experience ensures that students have basic skills and are familiar with the laboratory research environment. We strongly encourage applications from qualified underrepresented minorities. The Program and members of our training faculty have a strong commitment to inclusivity and a solid history of success in training minority and other under-represented student populations.

Applications will open September 1.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS DECEMBER 1st.

There are 3 ways to enter the Immunology Program:

- Apply directly to the Immunology Graduate Program.
- Apply to the Biomedical Sciences Umbrella Program and join the Immunology Graduate Program after your 1st year.
- Those interested in pursuing an MD/PhD with research interests in Immunology may apply to the Medical Scientist Training Program and complete their PhD portion through Immunology. Note: the MSTP follows a separate application process with different deadlines. Please visit the MSTP website for more information.

Applications will open September 1, and all application and supplemental materials are due no later than December 1. Applications received after December 1 may not be considered.

To apply for admission applicants must submit the following:

- Online Graduate School application
- A $50.00 domestic and $75.00 international non-refundable application fee.
- One (1) official transcript of all academic work completed to date. To be considered "official", the transcripts must come directly from the issuing institution.

Electronic Transcripts should be sent to graduateadmissions@ucdenver.edu

OR

Mail a physical copy to:
University of Colorado Denver
Graduate School
Campus Box 163
PO Box 173364
1380 Lawrence Street Suite 1250
Denver, CO 80205-3364

- Three to five (3-5) letters of recommendation. Letters should be from individuals such as college professors or faculty mentors who are familiar with your academic and/or laboratory achievements. Such letters should be submitted electronically through the on-line application.
- GRE scores are no longer required for admission.
- International Applicants only: Students whose native language is not English or who have completed their studies at an institution where English was not the language of instruction, must demonstrate English language proficiency by submitting scores of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or its equivalent. Visit International Admissions for more information.

Degree Requirements

First Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BMSC 7806</td>
<td>Core I: Foundations in Biomedical Sciences</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>BMSC 7810</td>
<td>Core Topics in Biomedical Science</td>
<td>Topics A</td>
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<td>BMSC 7810</td>
<td>Core Topics in Biomedical Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMMU 7650</td>
<td>Research in Immunology</td>
<td>Section 001</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMMU 7650</td>
<td>Research in Immunology</td>
<td>Section 002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 6606</td>
<td>Statistics for the Basic Sciences</td>
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Spring

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<tr>
<td>IMMU 7650</td>
<td>Research in Immunology</td>
<td>Section 001</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMMU 7662</td>
<td>Immunology</td>
<td>MSTP Students take in 2nd Year</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Hours</td>
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Summer

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<tr>
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<td>IMMU 8990</td>
<td>Doctoral Thesis</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Total Hours</td>
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</table>
The immune system has evolved to defend host organisms against the vast number of foreign agents that may be encountered throughout life and that are capable of compromising health and leading to possible death. A doctoral education in Immunology specifically trains individuals to not only define the mechanisms by which the immune system accomplishes this task but also to establish possible interventions that preclude, attenuate or neutralize these threats.

The PhD program in immunology trains graduate students to become proficient and successful investigators who are able to:

- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of central concepts in the biomedical sciences.
- Understand the current concepts in immunology.
- Read and critically evaluate the scientific literature.
- Formulate hypotheses based on current concepts in the field and design, conduct, and interpret their own research projects.
- Present research results in peer-reviewed publications and in a dissertation.
- Communicate research results effectively through oral presentations at scientific seminars, conferences, and other venues.
- Write a competitive application for research funding.
- Develop ancillary skills, where necessary, to obtain positions outside of scientific research.

### Second Year

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<tr>
<td>IMMU 7607</td>
<td>Science as a Profession</td>
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<td>IMMU 7650</td>
<td>Research in Immunology Section 0V3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choose 2 of 4 elective courses over Year 2 and Year 3:</td>
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<td>IMMU 7602</td>
<td>Special Topics in Cancer Immunology</td>
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<td>IMMU 7604</td>
<td>Special Topics in Signal Transduction in</td>
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<td></td>
<td>the Immune System</td>
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<td>IMMU 7608</td>
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<td>IMMU 7605</td>
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<td>IMMU 7603</td>
<td>Special Topics-Immunologic Basis of Human</td>
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<td>Disease MSTP Students not required to take</td>
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### Courses

- **BIOS 6606 - Statistics for the Basic Sciences (3 Credits)**
  
  This course is designed for those wishing to obtain a basic understanding of statistics and its application in biological research. Students will develop statistical literacy and an ability to perform basic statistical analyses, basic graphical statistics, data summarizations, and estimation and inference using statistical software. Restrictions: Enrollment in UCD-AMC graduate program or permission of the instructor. Grading Basis: Letter Grade.

- **BMSC 7806 - Core I: Foundations in Biomedical Sciences (6 Credits)**
  
  Course will focus on the fundamental principles of biomedical sciences. Lectures and recitations/discussions will primarily address the basics of molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, cell biology and energetic principles. Course is typically limited to biomedical science PhD and BS/MS students. Previously offered as IDPT 7806. Grading Basis: Letter Grade. Repeatable. Max Credits: 6. Typically Offered: Fall.

- **BMSC 7810 - Core Topics in Biomedical Science (1-6 Credits)**
  
  Sections focus on different core topics in biomedical science, and will address subject areas such as protein structure and function, neurobiology, embryology, stem cell research, and cancer biology. Students can enroll in multiple Core Topic Courses topics in one semester. Previously offered as IDPT 7810. Grading Basis: Letter Grade. Repeatable. Max Credits: 20. AMC-PHD PhD Students only. Typically Offered: Fall.

- **IMMU 7602 - Special Topics in Cancer Immunology (1 Credit)**
  
  This interactive course aims to introduce important concepts, models and approaches in cancer immunology. The focuses are mechanisms relevant to the immune response in the context of cancer development and immunotherapy. Students are assessed via presentations, participation, and a paper. Grading Basis: Letter Grade. A-GRAD Restricted to graduate students only. Typically Offered: Spring.

- **IMMU 7603 - Special Topics-Immunologic Basis of Human Disease (1 Credit)**
  
  Perform translational studies, as they either test hypotheses established in mouse models or lead to new testable hypotheses that will advance understanding of pathogenesis of human disease. Greater understanding of disease pathogenesis will allow for development of new treatment options. Prereq: IMMU 7662. Grading Basis: Letter Grade. A-GRAD Restricted to graduate students only. Typically Offered: Spring.
**IMMU 7604 - Special Topics in Signal Transduction in the Immune System (1 Credit)**
In-depth course, designed primarily for immunology graduate students in their second year, who have completed IMMU 7602. The course covers selected topics (8 in all) encompassing a wide range of topics in signal transduction through receptors important in the immune system. Prereq: IMMU 7662.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
A-GRAD Restricted to graduate students only.
Typically Offered: Spring.

**IMMU 7605 - Workshop in Scientific Writing (1 Credit)**
This workshop will consist of one session weekly for students to be critiqued on writing assignments designed to provide basic training in writing grant proposals and manuscripts.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Typically Offered: Spring.

**IMMU 7607 - Science as a Profession (1 Credit)**
This course discusses ethical issues, conflicts of interest, and regulations for working with humans or animals. It also includes instruction on writing papers and grants, giving effective presentations and advice on finding jobs in academia and industry.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
A-GRAD Restricted to graduate students only.
Typically Offered: Fall.

**IMMU 7608 - Immunology of Infection (1 Credit)**
Students will discuss and present selections from the current literature on topics related to the interaction of the immune system with microbial causes of infectious diseases.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
Typically Offered: Spring.

**IMMU 7630 - Overview of Immunology (2 Credits)**
An overview course in immunology for non-immunology-program graduate students. The focus is human relevance and the practical use of immunology in a variety of fields. Students gain experience applying immunological knowledge to their own area of interest.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade
A-GRAD Restricted to graduate students only.
Typically Offered: Spring.

**IMMU 7650 - Research in Immunology (1-5 Credits)**
Research work in immunology. Prereq: Consent of Instructor.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade with IP
Repeatable. Max Credits: 99.
A-GRAD Restricted to graduate students only.
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

**IMMU 8990 - Doctoral Thesis (1-10 Credits)**
Doctoral thesis work in immunology. Prereq: Consent of Instructor.
Grading Basis: Letter Grade with IP
Repeatable. Max Credits: 10.
A-GRAD Restricted to graduate students only.
Additional Information: Report as Full Time.
Typically Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

**Contact Us**
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