

MEDICAL SCHOLAR RESEARCH PATHWAY PROGRAM

MSRPP Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

What is the Medical Scholar Research Pathway Program (MSRPP)?

Texas A&M School of Medicine's [MSRPP](https://medicine.tamu.edu/omsre/index.html) is a personalized research program for traditional track medical students giving them the opportunity to engage in scholarly research under the expert guidance of faculty or physician mentors. Multiple educational resources and events sponsored and organized by *Office of Medical Student Research Education (OMSRE)* support our students scholarly research learning experience. For more details, we invite you to go to our website: <https://medicine.tamu.edu/omsre/index.html>

How do I join MSRPP?

Your first step is to contact our Office program coordinator, Dr. Selina Nigli by email (nigli@tamu.edu) to let your interest in scholarly research be known. Next, fill out the entry form and send it with your updated CV and she will be happy to arrange a coaching meeting with the Director.

Who can participate in MSRPP?

Traditional track TAMU medical students not pursuing an MD/PhD degree are eligible to apply to the MSRPP program and receive coaching throughout their undergraduate medical education. MD plus students must have completed the Master's portion of their degree before applying to MSRPP.

How do I choose a pathway?

Students choose their pathway based on their research experience and their long-term goals. Our Office highly recommends an initial consultation with the Director to aid the student in choosing the pathway that best meets his/her long-term residency goals.

1. Medical Scholar Explorer (MSE) is a non-credit scholarly research enrichment opportunity. You can participate in any year. You dictate the timeline in consultation with your faculty mentor. For the class 2025 and beyond, there is a possibility of extending the experience during the M1/M2 summer opportunity time.
2. Medical Scholar Researcher (MSR) – is a credit research didactic pathway. Only available for clerkship years through elective credit. Usually students take 3-8 credit hours either as longitudinal or block electives.

3. Distinguished Medical Scholar Researcher (DMSR) – is a non-credit gap year between M3 & M4 used for students interested in Academic Medicine. This pathway is funded by competitive external research fellowships. Students desiring to apply for this pathway must contact the Director during their pre-clerkship to ensure that the proper research dossier is prepared.

What is the time commitment of participating in MSRPP?

The time commitment depends on the student’s long-term career goals. Students wanting to incorporate research as an integral part of their practice are recommended to use all the opportunities available to them.

Here are some guidelines to consider to select your MSRPP pathway:

1. **MSE:** 1-2 semesters for the MSE longitudinal pathway or 4 weeks. There is a 10 week summer session starting with the Class of 2025. You may elect to register for the non-credit elective MEID 999 (M1/M2 summer session - zero credit elective).
2. **MSR:** Available either as a longitudinal format, usually 2 semesters or month blocks (4-8 weeks). Register for credit elective with OASIS (with your campus navigator). For example, research electives include:
 - a. MEID 820 (longitudinal)
 - b. MEID 585
 - c. MEID 985-RE (student-initiated elective)
 - d. MHUM 823 (longitudinal)
 - e. Other, if approved by OMSRE

To check for additional options, we invite you to visit our [website](#).

3. **DMSR:** a full year, gap year between M3 & M4. For funding opportunities, visit our [website](#).

Do I need a research mentor to become an MSRPP medical student?

Yes. After coaching sessions with the OMSRE Director, MSRPP students are paired with a faculty/physician research mentor and apply to be accepted in a MSRPP pathway. Preparatory meetings with the Director ensure that the goals and expectations of the research experience are discussed prior to the start of your pathway.

The MSRPP mentors are TAMU faculty or affiliated physicians who have scholarly research projects and content expertise in an academic discipline. Physicians that share the student

research interests and have agreed to have you as a mentee are welcome to join MSRPP after meeting with the Director.

Peer mentors and/or other research group team members guide and support you along with the PI to move forward with your project in a research topic of your interest. Faculty members and physician-investigators are a required component of our program because they will become part of your collaborative network that will benefit your participation in scholarly research during medical school and beyond.

How do I find a research mentor?

Our Office will guide you in personalized coaching sessions with the Director. You will select a mentor that supports your research goals and career aspirations from the MSRPP mentors, or alternatively you may choose one from the faculty or physicians that work in the area you are interested in pursuing if they are a better fit to meet your educational goals.

Who funds the student research?

It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator (PI) or the corresponding author of a study to secure research grant funding or institutional support. The Office of Medical Student Research Education is not responsible for funding or finding funds for the student's research. We have information on available grants for students wanting to pursue DMSR pathway [here](#).

Who pays for the student's poster presentation or journal article fees?

Posters and articles fees are paid for by authors of the journal article. Fees are not the responsibility of the Office of Medical Student Research Education.

However, for all TAMU students and mentors that have accepted abstracts to medical conferences, our Office offers competitive bi-annual [Medical Research Travel Award \(MRTA\)](#). For more information, visit our [website](#).

Are there resources available about how to review scholarly literature?

Our Office provides many educational resources that will be extremely helpful for students interested in engaging in research journeys on our website [resources page](#). For resources on strategies on how to find the best peer-reviewed research journal articles for your project's literature review, we recommend you contact Health Sciences librarian Sheila Green for a consultation, sgreen@library.tamu.edu

Who approves the student's schedules in Oasis?

The Office of Medical Student Research Education has no approval privileges regarding students' schedules. Work with your respective Campus navigators in Student Affairs to identify the elective time frame for you to meaningfully engage in scholarly research. Make sure you

notify Dr. Nigli (nigli@tamu.edu), about your interest in formalizing your research as a MSR, she will help you along the way to answer your questions.

Who submits the Institutional Review Board (IRB) Human research subjects proposal to the TAMU IRB?

The preparation of research compliance consent forms, and the IRB submission are the sole responsibility of the Principal Investigator (PI) of the research project. The medical students may help prepare sections of the IRB document, but they do not submit the IRB proposal. Our Office provides resources for students to help them understand the process and gives step-by-step on how to set up your CITI training account. For more information, read our handout on the resource page [here](#).