

Frequently Ask Questions (FAQ)

1. Where do I find the Masters of Science in Clinical Investigation (MSCI) Handbook?

The current and previous versions of the MSCI Handbook can be found at:

(http://iims.uthscsa.edu/ed_msci_handbook.html)

2. Who can apply?

Applicants should have a sufficient educational background in the biological or biomedical sciences. It is expected that most applicants will have a health professional degree (e.g., MD, DDS, DMD, PhD, or BS or MS in nursing and/or allied health) or a BS/BA or MS degree with emphasis in a health-related discipline.

3. Can I apply if I have a J-1 Visa or if I want to obtain an F-1 Visa?

Yes. However, individuals obtaining an F-1 visa must attend full-time as required by the F-1 visa rules and there are enrollment principles for individuals with J-1 Visa status. Enrollment principles for students with J-1 visa are as follows:

- Enrollment in classes must be incidental to their primary activities for which they came to the UTHSCSA.
- Enrollment must be part-time with no more than 3.0 semester credit hours (sch) of didactic course work. The 3.0 sch will be in formal lecture and seminar courses which are “incident to” the purpose of the visa. To request an extension to take more than the allowed 3.0 sch an individual will need to contact the Office of International Services at (210) 567-6241 and speak to your case supervisor.
- Enrollment in the research course must be done under the supervision of your research mentor. The research course must directly relevant to and obtained from the work you are conducting in the United States. The number of research credits allowed per semester will be determined on a case-by-case basis, based on the individual circumstances of the student.
- At no time will participation in the MSCI program interfere with the timely completion of the duties and responsibilities for which the visa status was granted for admission to the United States. These principles assure that the Federal Rules and Regulations for the visa process are upheld while creating a pathway by which foreign nationals may participate in clinical research education at the UTHSCSA.

4. How long will it take to earn the MSCI Degree?

Students enrolling full-time should complete their MSCI degree in two years. Students enrolling part-time can expect to complete their MSCI degree in three to four years.

5. How many credit hours are needed to earn the MSCI degree?

A total of 30 semester credit hours (sch) are required to obtain the MSCI degree. There are 18 sch of required didactic courses, 1.0 sch of thesis, and typically the remaining 11.0 sch are obtained by taking the research course; however, the MSCI elective course sch can also be counted towards the 11.0 sch.

6. How much does the program cost?

Tuition and fees can be found on the Student Services(<http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/>) website in the "Tuition and Fees" (http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/CS_TuitionFees.aspx#topofpage) section under the "Prospective Students" (<http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/prospects.aspx>) section.

7. How do I apply to the MSCI Program?

To apply to the MSCI Program you must complete and submit the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences on-line application (<http://apply.embarc.com/grad/UTHSCSA/>) and all required documentation as listed in the MSCI Handbook ((http://iims.uthscsa.edu/ed_msci_handbook.html) and on the MSCI Applicant Checklist (http://iims.uthscsa.edu/Files/MSCI_checklist.pdf).

8. Do I have to have my foreign transcripts translated?

Yes, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences requires that all foreign transcripts be translated by providing a listing of all courses taken and the cumulative grade point average. Approved credentialing agencies can be found on the Student Services (<http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/>) website in the "International Students" (http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/CS_International.aspx) section under the "Prospective Students" (<http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/prospects.aspx>) section.

9. What is the GRE and I am required to take it?

The GRE is the Graduate Record Exam. More information can be found at <http://www.gre.org/>.

The GRE is required by the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. However, the MSCI Program will waive the GRE for applicants who have completed a graduate degree in a health related discipline (e.g. MD, DDS, RN, or PhD).

10. Where do I send my application materials?

- Official Transcripts, Official Translation of Foreign School Transcripts, GRE scores, and TOEFL scores:

Graduate Admissions
Registrar's Office – MC 7702
UTHSCSA
7703 Floyd Curl Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78229-3900

- All other MSCI required application documents should be uploaded to the on-line application as a PDF (no larger than 200 dpi, grey scale) with the exception of:
 - the letters of reference
 - which should be uploaded to the Recommendation Form sent to the applicant's references via email and
 - the research project packet required of F-1 visa students and any other students who wish to enroll full-time in the MSCI Program which should be sent to:

MSCI Program Academic Coordinator
Clinical-Translational Research Education Office – MC 7757
Institute for Integration of Medicine and Science
UTHSCSA
7703 Floyd Curl Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78229-3900

11. What is the deadline for submitting my application and require documentation to the MSCI Program?

Fall semester (F-1 visa applicants only): March 1st

Fall semester: March 1st

Spring semester: October 1st

Summer semester: March 1st

Acceptance into the MSCI Program does not guarantee approval of an applicant's F-1 Visa. The F-1 Visa must be obtained and the student must be able to begin class within the first two weeks of class or the student will be required to re-apply to the MSCI Program.

12. Who are the contacts for the MSCI Program?

- Program Director:
Michael J. Lichtenstein, MD, MSc
210-567-4631
lichtenstei@uthscsa.edu
- Associate Program Director:
Linda M. McManus, PhD, MS
210-567-4071
mcm Manus@uthscsa.edu
- Academic Coordinator:
Lora Tumlinson
210-567-4631
tumlinson@uthscsa.edu

13. Where can I find the current semester schedule?

The current MSCI Program course schedule can be found on the Student Services website (<http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/>) and is listed as “Class Times and Locations” (http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/GI_schedules.aspx) under the “General Information” (http://studentservices.uthscsa.edu/gen_info.aspx) section.

14. Are all classes going to be scheduled during the normal workweek?

All MSCI classes are scheduled during the week, Monday through Friday. Class times are subject to change. Typically, classes are held from 3:00-5:00 p.m. as not to break up the work day.

15. Do I need a laptop?

The MSCI program does require each student to have an Intel-based laptop computer with the capacity to connect to the internet via a wireless connection. Microsoft Office Suite, which can be purchased at the UTHSCSA Bookstore with a student ID, and Stata/IC 10 (<http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/gp-campus.html>).

16. Can I enroll in individual MSCI courses without applying to the MSCI Program?

Yes, but you will have to apply as a non-degree seeking student through the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. MSCI courses taken as a non-degree seeking student will count towards the MSCI degree; however, the MSCI Program cannot be completed as a non-degree seeking student.

17. How do I apply as a non-degree seeking student through the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS)?

To apply as a non-degree seeking student through the GSBS an applicant must follow the GSBS non-degree seeking student process (<http://gradschool.toolbox.net/students/academic/nondegreestudent>) and complete and submit the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences on-line application (<http://apply.embark.com/grad/UTHSCSA/>) along with any required documentation.

18. Can I audit classes?

The MSCI Program actively discourages auditing for three reasons:

- Persons who audit take up space that may be used by enrolled students.
- Our experience with auditors is that they show up for 1-2 seminars and don't return for the remainder of the semester. If you are really serious about wanting to take a course, enroll!
- Formula funding for the UTHSCSA from the Texas State Legislature depends on how many officially registered students are enrolled. Therefore, it is to the advantage of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences to have all students attending courses officially registered and enrolled.