

School of Medical Diagnostic and Translational Sciences

Overview

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The School of Medical Diagnostic and Translational Sciences offers graduate programs which lead to careers in a wide array of health and medicine-related areas including hospital and commercial clinical labs, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, governmental agencies, and academic teaching and research settings.

The post-baccalaureate **Molecular Diagnostics Certificate** program (<http://www.odu.edu/mdts/molecular-diagnostics> (<http://www.odu.edu/mdts/molecular-diagnostics/>)) is designed to provide fundamental principles, advanced applications and laboratory skills needed for molecular diagnostic and molecular biology procedures conducted in clinical and research environments.

Medical Diagnostic and Translational Sciences faculty and research labs participate in the interdisciplinary **Biomedical Sciences with a Concentration in Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine (PhD) program**, which is hosted by the ODU Graduate School. The rigorous PhD training in this program prepares graduates capable of serving in an industrial, governmental, or academic teaching or research setting, either independently or as a member of a team.

Programs

Certificate Programs

- Modeling and Simulation - Health Sciences Certificate (<http://catalog.odu.edu/graduate/health-sciences/medical-diagnostic-translational-sciences/modeling-simulation-health-sciences-certificate/>)
- Molecular Diagnostics Certificate (<http://catalog.odu.edu/graduate/health-sciences/medical-diagnostic-translational-sciences/molecular-diagnostics-certificate/>)

Doctor of Philosophy - Biomedical Sciences

Barbara Hargrave, PhD, Graduate Program Director

In this interdisciplinary program all students are required to master a broad knowledge of the basic biomedical sciences. Refer to the Graduate School (<http://catalog.odu.edu/graduate/graduateschool/>) page of this catalog for details.

Courses

Medical Diagnostic and Translational Science (MDTS)

MDTS 500 Principles of Molecular Pathology and Clinical Diagnostics (3 Credit Hours)

Basic concepts of molecular pathology and clinical diagnostics including nucleic acids, DNA replication, transcription, proteins, mutations and chromosome changes that underlie inherited and acquired/infectious disease, inheritance patterns and genetics as applied to oncology, cardiac disease and organ transplants. Covers emerging molecular/ cytologic/histologic methods (amplification, hybridization and microarrays) to detect disease markers, monitor therapy and assess identity; pharmacogenomics and legal/ethical issues of genetic testing.

Prerequisites: permission of instructor

MDTS 501 Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory (3 Credit Hours)

Course includes hands-on experience with or discussion of diagnostics instrumentation and assays using nucleic acid and protein extraction, gel electrophoresis, hybridization techniques, standard and real time polymerase chain reaction (PCR), reverse transcription, DNA sequencing, autoradiography, flow cytometry, microarrays and proteomics-based methods.

Pre- or corequisite: MDTS 500 or permission of instructor

MDTS 600 Advanced Clinical Applications of Molecular Diagnostics (3 Credit Hours)

Course will cover 1) new applications of standard molecular diagnostic techniques and 2) cutting edge technologies, instrumentation and technical advances, both as applied to clinical case studies. Emphasis will be on pharmacogenomics and disease processes including inherited conditions, cancer, hematopathology, infectious diseases, mental retardation and developmental delay. Innovative technologies covered include comparative genomic hybridization, pyrosequencing and bead based assays

Prerequisites: MLRS 500, MLRS 501 or permission of instructor

MDTS 601 Advanced Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory (3 Credit Hours)

Emphasis of this course will be on primer design for PCR, advanced real time PCR, cycle sequencing, capillary electrophoresis (CE) as applied to DNA sequencing, analysis of SNPS (single nucleotide polymorphisms), microsatellite instability, microarray technology and detection of methicillin-resistant bacteria. Pre- or

Prerequisites: MDTS 500, MDTS 501 or permission of instructor

Corequisites: MDTS 600

MDTS 668 Clinical Laboratory Internship (3 Credit Hours)

An optional three-week supervised rotation in a hospital-based molecular diagnostic laboratory or a molecular research laboratory.

Prerequisites: MDTS 500, MDTS 501, MDTS 600, and MDTS 601 or permission of instructor

MDTS 714 Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory (2-3 Credit Hours)

Laboratory rotation with a pre-designated faculty member in which the student obtains hands-on experience. Designed for graduate students to sample different types of research models, techniques, and subject matter without the commitment of dissertation level involvement.

Prerequisites: Graduate Program Director approval required

MDTS 720 Genomic Databases: Content, Curation, and Application to Biomedical Research (3 Credit Hours)

This course combines a didactic survey of topics important for understanding the origin, curation, advantages, and limitations of a variety of key genomic resources with hands-on training in the proper use of widely accessed public genome resources and common bioinformatic tools.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing

MDTS 730 Chromosome Biology and Human Disease (3 Credit Hours)

Course goals are a comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms involved in chromosome function and how aberrations in these processes contribute to human disease. Topics include DNA repair and recombination; centromere and telomere dynamics, maintenance, and function; chromosome replication and segregation; control of cell division; dynamics of chromatin structure and function; epigenetics and gene expression; and long-range chromatin interactions and genome function.

Prerequisites: MDTS 610, MDTS 611, or approval of instructor

MDTS 740 Stem Cells: Biology and Therapy (3 Credit Hours)

Topics to be covered include history of stem cell biology, molecular definitions for stem cell identification, methods for stem cell isolations including: adult and embryonic, current technologies for induced pluripotent stem cell reprogramming, stem cells in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine, and current and future stem cell applications.

Prerequisites: MDTS 600 and MDTS 601 or equivalent

MDTS 742 Tissue Engineering (3 Credit Hours)

Topics to be covered include history of tissue engineering, development and morphogenesis, tissue structure, cells, scaffolds, regulators, and creating and evaluating a tissue engineering construct. Focus is on biomedical tissue engineering concepts as applied to creating human tissues in the laboratory for surgical repair of injured and diseased tissues and organs.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing

MDTS 750 Molecular Genetics, Gene Function and Genomics (3 Credit Hours)

The goals of this course are a comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms involved in molecular genetics and gene function and in-depth exploration of modern experimental analyses of these processes. Topics include DNA replication, repair, and recombination; transcription; epigenetic regulation of transcription; chromatin structure, histone modifications, transcription factors, and regulatory RNAs; long-range chromatin interactions and gene regulation; post-transcriptional gene regulation and translation; molecular biology based experimental analysis of gene function; and experimental genomic approaches to gene regulation and gene function.

Prerequisites: MDTS 600 and MDTS 601 or instructor approval

MDTS 805 Fundamentals of Cancer Biology (3 Credit Hours)

Course will cover molecular aspects of cancer including DNA damage, tumor viruses, cell cycle regulation, oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes and their respective roles in cancer prevention/development, genes involved in promoting or inhibiting metastasis, angiogenesis, telomeres and telomerase, regulation of both apoptosis and autophagy in normal and cancer cells, cancer stem cells, and diagnostic screening assays for therapeutic responses or resistance in cancer patients.

Prerequisites: MDTS 600 and MDTS 601 or equivalents; instructor approval also required

MDTS 810 Molecular Basis of Health and Disease (3 Credit Hours)

Emphasis is on human genetic syndromes and disorders associated with dysregulation of key signal transduction pathways that control gene expression, cell growth and protein synthesis including the Ras/MAPK pathway, tuberous sclerosis complex-mammalian target of rapamycin, PI3-kinase and others. Diagnosis, screening and treatment will be covered.

Prerequisites: MDTS 600 and MDTS 601

MDTS 814 Molecular Laboratory Rotation (2-3 Credit Hours)

Laboratory rotation with a pre-designated faculty member in which the student obtains hands-on experience. Designed for graduate students to sample different types of research models, techniques, and subject matter without the commitment of dissertation level involvement.

Prerequisites: Graduate Program Director approval required

MDTS 820 Genomic Databases: Content, Curation, and Application to Biomedical Research (3 Credit Hours)

This course combines a didactic survey of topics important for understanding the origin, curation, advantages, and limitations of a variety of key genomic resources with hands-on training in the proper use of widely accessed public genome resources and common bioinformatic tools.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing

MDTS 830 Chromosome Biology and Human Disease (3 Credit Hours)

Course goals are a comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms involved in chromosome function and how aberrations in these processes contribute to human disease. Topics include DNA repair and recombination; centromere and telomere dynamics, maintenance, and function; chromosome replication and segregation; control of cell division; dynamics of chromatin structure and function; epigenetics and gene expression; and long-range chromatin interactions and genome function.

Prerequisites: MDTS 610, MDTS 611, or approval of instructor

MDTS 840 Stem Cells: Biology and Therapy (3 Credit Hours)

Topics to be covered include history of stem cell biology, molecular definitions for stem cell identification, methods for stem cell isolations including: adult and embryonic, current technologies for induced pluripotent stem cell reprogramming, stem cells in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine, and current and future stem cell applications.

Prerequisites: MDTS 600 and MDTS 601 or equivalent

MDTS 842 Tissue Engineering (3 Credit Hours)

Topics to be covered include history of tissue engineering, development and morphogenesis, tissue structure, cells, scaffolds, regulators, and creating and evaluating a tissue engineering construct. Focus is on biomedical tissue engineering concepts as applied to creating human tissues in the laboratory for surgical repair of injured and diseased tissues and organs.

Prerequisites: Graduate standing

MDTS 850 Molecular Genetics, Gene Function and Genomics (3 Credit Hours)

The goals of this course are a comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms involved in molecular genetics and gene function and in-depth exploration of modern experimental analyses of these processes. Topics include DNA replication, repair, and recombination; transcription; epigenetic regulation of transcription; chromatin structure, histone modifications, transcription factors, and regulatory RNAs; long-range chromatin interactions and gene regulation; post-transcriptional gene regulation and translation; molecular biology based experimental analysis of gene function; and experimental genomic approaches to gene regulation and gene function.

MDTS 891 Doctoral Seminar (1-2 Credit Hours)

Students attend seminars, attend a class on giving seminars, and present a seminar on their own research.

MDTS 895 Topics in Molecular Medicine (1 Credit Hour)

Student led presentations of current topics related to molecular medicine.

Prerequisites: Instructor approval required

MDTS 898 Molecular Biology Research (1-9 Credit Hours)

Supervised doctoral research in molecular diagnostics or biomedical studies.

Prerequisites: instructor approval required