

“Additional Educational Information” Text Required for F31 (predoctoral) and F32 (postdoctoral) NRSA Applications

College of Graduate Health Sciences, The University of Tennessee Health Science Center

For Predoctoral Applications (adjust red marked an blank areas - two total areas)

The student is enrolled in the (Biomedical Engineering, Biomedical Sciences, Health Outcomes and Policy Research, Nursing Science, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Speech and Hearing Science) Ph.D. program in the College of Graduate Health Sciences at The University of Tennessee Health Science Center. All Ph.D. programs in the College have adopted a relatively common structure of core coursework in the first year(s), followed by a comprehensive examination, with subsequent development and defense of a degree-candidacy proposal, based upon initial research, at the end of the third year. Courses specific to the degree program are located at <http://www.uthsc.edu/registrar/students.php#catalogs>. The student must have completed the course “IP801: Integrity in the Conduct of Scientific Research”, have a GPA of at least 3.0, and will have accumulated at least 54 credit hours at the time of degree-candidacy. Teaching opportunities are provided to students either as GTAs, tutorships, or directed exercises to develop and deliver instructional materials. The average time-to-completion over the past ten years has been 5.3 years. Presently, the student has completed ___ years in the program and is progressing at an expected or accelerated pace.

Following the first year in the program, the student is required to submit no less than an annual progress report, with the majority of students submitting at least a bi-annual report. Following the second year of the program, the student forms a faculty committee consisting of five faculty members (inclusive of the mentor), with at least one member credentialed by the College as outside the program (which can include faculty members from other institutions). Upon College approval of the student’s faculty committee during their third year, all subsequent progress reports (including the candidacy exam report) are conveyed by the committee.

The information above is provided by the College of Graduate Health Sciences (Isaac O. Donkor, Ph.D., Assoc. Dean; Donald B. Thomason, Ph.D., Dean).

For Postdoctoral Applications

The University of Tennessee Health Science Center Postdoctoral Office (PDO) was established in 2007 to provide appropriate infrastructure support for postdocs and their mentors to enhance the postdoctoral training experience. Based in the College of Graduate Health Sciences, the PDO is directed by the Associate Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs with guidance from the Postdoctoral Advisory Committee (comprising mentor, faculty senate, HR, and postdoctoral representatives) and the Postdoctoral Association (PhDA). Postdoctoral trainees complete an initial individual development plan (IDP) that is updated annually by a progress report. The PDO provides development activities in the form of seminars, workshops, and trainee presentations to build skills in oral and written

communication, grantsmanship, analysis, ethics, networking, CV/resume development and critique, and career evaluation. Postdoctoral trainees are also provided active assistance with writing and editing, academic and career support, and personal and behavioral support. The PDO has initiated a formal program to expand thoughtful career choices for postdoctoral trainees through a series of exposure, networking, and experiential events. These activities are provided in collaboration with industry and regional workforce development partners.

The information above is provided by the PDO (Monica M. Jablonski, Ph.D., Associate Dean) and College of Graduate Health Sciences (Donald B. Thomason, Ph.D., Dean).

Individual Development Plan

Trainees in the College of Graduate Health Sciences, both students and postdoctoral fellows, are required to submit a mentor-reviewed (and, in the case of students, faculty committee-reviewed) development plans. Students develop this plan following their first year of classwork, with presentation to their faculty committee toward the end of their second year; postdoctoral fellows develop this plan within the first three months of their training. The development plan details specific aims, planned professional development activities, planned skill development activities, ethics and safety training plans. The development plan is maintained in the trainee's file in the College for later reference with their progress reports. Trainees are required to submit progress reports at least annually. The annual progress report addresses the items discussed in the development plan, as well as communication activities (presentations, publications), collaborations, satisfaction, improvement plans, and plans for the next year. These progress reports are reviewed and approved by the trainee, the mentor, and faculty committee in the case of students, before being submitted to the College for review. Following submission to the College, either the Associate Dean for Student Affairs or the Associate Dean for Postdoctoral Affairs reviews the trainee's progress report. This review is to ensure completeness and identify significant deviation from the development plan.