

# Master of Science in



## Table of Contents

	Page
Preface	2
Table of Contents	3
I. <a href="#">ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE MS PROGRAM IN IMMUNOLOGY &amp; INFECTION (MSI&amp;I)</a>	5
A. <a href="#">Program Director</a>	5
< Responsibilities	5
B. <a href="#">Committee on Graduate Studies (COGS)</a>	5
< Membership	5
< Responsibilities	5
< COGS Meetings	6
C. <a href="#">MSI&amp;I Graduate Faculty</a>	6
< Membership and Appointment	6
< Rights and Responsibilities	7
D. <a href="#">Student Recruitment Committee</a>	7
< Membership	7
< Responsibilities	7
E. <a href="#">Student Admissions Committee</a>	8
< Membership	8
< Responsibilities	8
F. <a href="#">Curriculum Committee</a>	8
< Membership	8
< Responsibilities	8
II. <a href="#">STUDENT PROGRESSION/SEQUENTIAL PROCEDURES OF THE MSI&amp;I PROGRAM</a>	9
A. <a href="#">Email Policy</a>	9
B. <a href="#">New Student Orientation</a>	9
C. <a href="#">Milestone and Compact Agreements Between graduate student and Research Advisor</a>	9
D. <a href="#">Plan of Study and MSI&amp;I Coursework – Overview</a>	10
< <a href="#">Year 1 Fall Semester</a>	10
o Course Requirements	10
o Selection of Research Advisor	10
< <a href="#">Year 1 Spring Semester</a>	10
o Course Requirements	10
o Milestone and Compact Agreement	11
o Selection of Research Supervising Committee	11
o Guided Readings with Research Advisor	11
o Research Preview	12
o Writing of the Thesis Proposal	12

< <a href="#">Year 2 Fall Semester</a>	12
o Course Requirements	12
o Thesis Research	12
o Meetings with Research Supervising Committee	13
o	

## I. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE MS PROGRAM IN IMMUNOLOGY & INFECTION

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appropriate for the training of an MSI&I graduate student, as well as some mentoring experience. Under certain circumstances, a new Graduate Faculty member may be assigned a senior co-mentor to enhance graduate student training.

#### Rights and Responsibilities

##### Rights and Responsibilities of Graduate Faculty:

- Graduate Faculty members may mentor MSI&I students.
- Graduate Faculty members may serve on student Thesis Supervising Committees of MSI&I students.
- Only Graduate Faculty members can act as directors of courses in the Plan of Study of the MSI&I Program. Non-Graduate Faculty can serve as instructors but cannot take on primary responsibilities in directing or organizing such courses.
- Only MSI&I Graduate Faculty members can serve on MSI&I committees (*e.g.*, COGS, admissions, recruitment, curriculum committees).
- Only a MSI&I Graduate Faculty member can serve as the MSI&I Program Director.
- Graduate Faculty members are expected to demonstrate collegial interactions with other members of the graduate faculty including, but not limited to, research and/or teaching collaborations, service on student Thesis Supervising Committees and other joint scholarly ventures.

#### D. Student Recruitment Committee

##### < Membership

The MSI&I Student Recruitment Committee is to be composed of the Program Director and Assistant Program Director, two additional MSI&I Graduate Faculty members selected by the Program Director, with administrative support from the Academic Program Coordinator.

##### Responsibilities

The Student Recruitment Committee has the authority to make decisions regarding student recruitment, including the development and implementation of recruitment strategies. The Recruitment Committee is responsible for organizing and coordinating all recruitment activities. This includes, but is not limited to, recruitment activities undertaken at relevant scientific conferences or at undergraduate campuses, departmental tours, and advertisements.

The Recruitment Committee will meet throughout the year as often as deemed necessary, most frequently prior to the start of the upcoming application season. The committee may request additional individuals to attend specific meetings who have special knowledge and expertise that may be deemed useful.

#### E. Student Admissions Committee

##### < Membership





## II. STUDENT PROGRESSION/SEQUENTIAL PROCEDURE OF THE MSI&I PROGRAM

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*It is the responsibility of every MSI&I student to adhere to the timeline established by the MSI&I Plan of Study and to submit all documents required to verify appropriate academic progress through the MSI&I Program. A delay in the progression described below could result in a student receiving a grade of unsatisfactory ("U") for research/academic progress and possibly*



Milestone and Compact Agreement Between Graduate student and Research Advisor. Certain documents must be completed and submitted in order to comply with UT System and GSBS mandates designed to ensure productivity and accountability, and to provide evidence to the Southern Association of Colleges and School (SACS) that the requirements and expectations of the MSI&I Program are being met. Students must complete both the *Milestone Agreement* and the *Student-Mentor Compact*.

A positive mentoring relationship between a student and his/her Research Advisor is fundamental to a student's success in graduate school. Therefore, within 4 weeks into the *Year 1 Spring Semester*, a formal meeting and discussion between a student and his/her Research Advisor is mandatory in order to ensure the integrity of the guiding principles and milestones of the MSI&I Program and to encourage a good mentoring relationship. This meeting is to be documented by submission of the Student-Mentor Compact found online via the IMPACT website. With their signatures, both student and mentor confirm that all topics listed in the compact have been discussed and that they are committed to upholding the principles agreed upon. The signed form is to be filed in the o



discuss the research project. The members of the committee will evaluate the student and report on research progress using the appropriate evaluation form provided by the student at the time of each meeting.

Meetings with the Research Supervising Committee - Students are required to meet with their Research Supervising committees a minimum of 2 times in the Fall semester Year 2 (advice for preparing for committee meetings can be found in Supplement IV of This Handbook).

The first meeting must occur within the first 30 days of the Fall semester; specific meeting dates will be assigned to each student by the Academic Program Coordinator in consultation with the MSI&I COGS. Each student will present a Thesis Proposal for approval by the Committee at this first meeting. Modifications of the proposal may be necessary that are responsive to the advice given by the committee. The finalized Thesis Proposal, having been approved by the Research Supervising Committee, should be submitted to the MSI&I COGS for final approval along with the report of research progress from the Research Supervising Committee.

The second meeting must occur within the month of October of Year 2; specific meeting dates will be assigned to each student by the Academic Program Coordinator in consultation with MSI&I COGS. Each student will provide a report of research progress to the Research Supervising Committee. Additional meetings may be scheduled if needed. *Failure to meet on the assigned dates will result in the student receiving an official grade of Unsatisfactory (U) for Research (MICR 6097). Rescheduling of assigned meeting dates is allowed only for exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the MSI&I COGS.*

Petitioning for Admission to Candidacy for the MS degree - Once the student's Thesis Proposal and Research Supervising Committee membership is approved by the



*The thesis seminar and defense may be postponed beyond the expected date only upon*







student will be informed by the MSI&I COGS chair. The COGS chair will solicit from the student being considered for dismissal any relevant information the student would like the COGS to consider in its deliberations. The student will be notified in writing of the COGS decision, along with the reasons for the decision. The student will be allowed two weeks to make a written appeal of the decision to the COGS. Further appeal is allowed to the Dean of the GSBS using procedures described in the GSBS catalog.

F. Financial Considerations for the MSI&I Program Students

*Student Stipends* - Students in MS programs are not financially supported by Department stipends.

*Tuition and Fees* - Students are responsible for paying all tuition and fees required by the University and the Master of Science in Immunology & Infection Program. NOTE: During the second year of the MSI&I Program, an additional Laboratory Use Fee of \$2000 per semester will be imposed.

*Financial Aid* - Opportunities for receiving financial aid are available, and are outlined by the Office of Financial Aid.

*Outside Employment* - It is understood that for some students it may be necessary to have outside employment in order to afford the costs of the MSI&I Program. However, no special exemptions from the requirements or expectations of the Program will be given due to the time spent at the outside job. That is, it is expected

5. Once this process is complete the student must pick up and complete a withdrawal form from the Registrar's Office. The form must be filled out with all required signatures.
6. The student will receive a letter from the GSBS Dean's Office (copied to the MSI&I COGS Chair and MSI&I Program Director) indicating approval of the request for LOA or withdrawal.

#### H. Student Vacation & Personal Leave Policy

Consistent with official University policy, students of the UT Health SA, including those enrolled in the Master of Science in Immunology & Infection Program, do not accrue vacation or sick leave, but are allowed to take official UT Health SA student holidays. However,

J. Change of Research Advisor

If at any time during a MSI&I student's course of study, a student wishes to change from an approved Research Advisor to another approved Research Advisor the following process must be followed:

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## SUPPLEMENT II: COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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### Required Courses

#### MICR 5031, Pathogenic Microbiology (3.0 credit hours)

This lecture-only course integrates different disciplines (immunology, cell biology, genetics, biochemistry, molecular biology, physiology, and medical microbiology) with a central theme focused on molecular mechanisms of microbial pathogenesis in humans. Required during the fall semester of Year 1.

#### MICR 5051, Introduction to Immunology (2.0 credit hours)

This course is a study of immune responsiveness with emphasis on integrating fundamentals and problem solving so as to elucidate cellular and molecular mechanisms. Three approaches are taken: (1) Consider structures and molecular biology of antibodies, lymphocyte receptors, and products of the major histocompatibility complex; (2) Consider cell interactions, and immune activation and regulation; and (3) Consider immunopathologies (hypersensitivity, autoimmunity, immunodeficiency, and transplantation rejection). Required during the Fall semester of Year 1.

#### MICR 5025 - Eukaryotic Pathogens (1.0 credit hour)

This course will provide students with the opportunity to gain a basic comprehensive understanding of parasitology and mycology. The first part of this course will focus on virulence mechanisms and the host



students and faculty members. Finally, each student will give an oral defense of his or her written proposal to the class followed by questions from fellow students and faculty members. This course provides an excellent opportunity for students to practice skills necessary for the writing and defending of their thesis.

MICR 5030 - Journal Club (0.5 credit hour)

Students are required to attend Journal Club meetings to participate in discussions regarding publications from the current journal literature. The student is not required to present a paper during the semester.

MICR 5090









