

Master's Degree in Clinical Research

PHOTO: STEVE BABULJAK

The Master's Degree Program in Clinical Research is a two-year course of study leading to a Master of Advanced Study (MAS) degree. It is intended for scholars who wish to master clinical research methods and pursue clinical research careers. Program graduates become leaders of research efforts and teams in universities, public health departments, foundations, and private industry. Many use the program as a springboard for advanced degree programs such as an MD or PhD.

The UCSF program in the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics offers the opportunity to train at UCSF's renowned health sciences campus alongside clinician-investigators to learn the methods of clinical research. Clinical research is defined broadly as any health-related research where individuals or groups of people are the unit of observation. Small groups of students meet with faculty weekly for in-depth discussions during which faculty provide both theoretical and practical expertise.

As with a Master's in Public Health, the Clinical Research program provides graduates essential tools for understanding causes of disease and for identifying effective and efficient approaches to prevention and treatment. In addition, it requires an original clinical research project, conducted under the mentorship of a UCSF faculty member.

Recent research projects include:

- Role of breastfeeding in preventing childhood obesity among Latina women
- Impact of under-prescription of medications in the management of refractory high blood pressure
- Influence of HIV disease severity on the occurrence of heart disease

Program Requirements

- Seven quarters of coursework, primarily in the first year
- Comprehensive literature review in the scholar's field
- Original independent research project
- Presentation of original research at a national or international scientific meeting
- Publication of a peer-reviewed scientific report in a biomedical journal

Admission Requirements

- A Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with a GPA of 3.0 or better
- Three letters of recommendation
- An essay that reflects your personal experiences, career goals, and reasons for applying

- Preference will be given to scholars who have demonstrated knowledge or experience in some aspect of a health-related field (e.g., clinical practice, public health, health promotion)
- Research interest's fit with a UCSF faculty mentor

Application Process

- Complete the UCSF Graduate Division application available online (gradapplication.ucsf.edu/security/login.aspx) and pay the nonrefundable \$90 application fee
- Complete the Master's in Clinical Research application, available to download at ticr.ucsf.edu/courses/masters.html
- The application deadline is March 21, 2016

Program Start Date

July 25, 2016

Cost

Fees for the 2016–17 academic year are anticipated to be \$27,545. Information about financial support is available at graduate.ucsf.edu/financial-support