2026-27

CLINICAL & TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE

Degree Offered: Master of Science

Program Description

This program is operated by the Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) of Southeast Wisconsin. The mission of the CTSI is to develop an integrated, shared home for clinical and translational research and to establish a borderless, collaborative, and investigator/ community/patient- friendly, research environment. The CTS Master's and Certificate degree programs fit with the CTSI's strategic goals of providing quality education and training to cultivate the next generation of clinical and translational researchers.

The goal of the Master's in Clinical and Translational Science (MSCTS) degree is to train the next generation of health care professionals, clinical investigators, research scientists, and other individuals working in translational research sciences. The curriculum incorporates the full spectrum of the translational continuum (T0 through T5) and provides training and skills to position candidates to be successful in the growing field of Clinical and Translational Science. Topics covered include foundations of translational research, clinical statistics, epidemiology, ethics and safety, and study designs across the continuum. Candidates seeking a Master's degree will select from one of four emphasis tracks and complete a thesis.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the general Graduate School admission requirements, this program has an additional specific requirement.

Potential students must apply by July 1st for Fall term enrollment.

Fields of Study

Candidates seeking a Master's degree will select from one of three emphasis tracks and complete a thesis. The emphasis tracks include Translational Science, Population Science, Health Systems Science, and Community Based Science.

Translational Science

This track is focused on the foundational principles of the translational process. This "bench-to-bedside" process involves moving discoveries from their basic foundation to clinical settings. Discoveries of focus include diagnostics, therapeutics, medical procedures, and other interventions. Suggested electives for this program include Translational Genomics and Survey of Biomedical Engineering.

Population Science

There are a variety of factors that can influence health outcomes at a population level, and this track will focus on the relationship between these factors, health, and research. This program will focus on factors such as socioeconomic status, health disparities, social determinants of health, healthcare systems, environment, and policies. Suggested electives

include Health Economics, Introduction to Statistics using Stata, Regression using Stata, and Health and Medical Geography.

Health System Science
The focus of this track is on principles and processes within the healthcare system. The topics of focus will include delivery of healthcare, how healthcare professionals work together, and improvements that can be made within the system to improve healthcare delivery. Suggested electives for this program include Health Economics, Health and Medical Geography, Dissemination and Implementation Science, and Qualitative and Mixed Methods.

Credits Required to Graduate
36 credits

Required Core Courses
20101 Introduction to Clinical and Translational Science. *3 credits.*
The goal of this course is to help students understand the foundations of translational science, develop an understanding of the benefits and difficulties associated with translational research, and to understand and evaluate the role of interdisciplinary and team science in translational research. Coursework will include weekly reading of peer-reviewed manuscripts, assignments, and a final project. Weekly classes will include discussion of reading and assignments are designed to allow practice of critically reading and planning translational science projects. The course will meet once per week for a total of 18weeks.

20220 Clinical Statistics I. *3 credits.*
This is an introductory course in evidence discovery that demonstrates the concepts and application of statistical techniques/tools, given the role of statistics as an information science. The course is intended to inform and provide quantitative skills for graduate students interested in undertaking research in clinical medicine, epidemiology, public health, translational and biomedical sciences. This course emphasizes the basic dogma of statistics namely the central tendency theorem as well as sampling as the core of statistics. With the characterization of statistics as descriptive and inferential, the descriptive arm of statistics is stressed in this course namely summary statistics. Basic probability concepts are covered to stress the importance of sampling prior to reliable inference from the sample data. Sample estimation of the population and the precision (confidence interval) are described as well as the hypothesis testing notion in inferential statistics. The parametric and non-parametric methods are introduced with the intent to describe the methods as applicable to continuous (ratio, interval, cardinal) and discrete (categorical binary, dichotomous) data.

20151 Introduction to Epidemiology. *3 credits.*
This course provides an introduction to the concepts, principles, and research methods specific to epidemiology. Students will learn about population health, how to select appropriate study designs for collecting evidence for medical practice, how to summarize evidence for medical practice and how to translate evidence into medical practice. By the end of the course, students should be able to apply the skills learned to assess the health of a population, describe determinants of health, and select an appropriate study design to evaluate population health. The course will meet once per week for a total of 18 weeks.

20160 Foundations in Health Services Research. *3 credits.*
The course will provide the student with a broad understanding of health services research design and methodology, as well as provide the student with the opportunity to engage in a

mentored, individualized, in-depth study experience. By the end of the course the student will be able to understand key theories that serve as the foundation of health services research and understand the process of developing a research idea and translating it into an R-series level NIH proposal. Coursework will include weekly reading of peer-reviewed manuscripts, one introductory textbook on health services research, and one introductory textbook on designing clinical research. Weekly classes will include discussion of reading and assignments are designed to allow practice of critically reading and planning health services research projects.

10226 Regulatory Issues in Human Subject Research Protections. *3 credits.*
There is no question that the fruits of research have fueled medical progress. Yet, the history of research involving human subjects is not unblemished. Federal regulations, based on ethical principles set forth in the Belmont Report, now govern much of the research undertaken in the United States. In this course, we will explore the history and substance of research regulations in the United States, the application of the regulations to specific research issues, and situations where the regulations do not provide clear guidance.

20302 Research Seminar. *3 credits.*
The goal of this course is to provide Master's students protected time to develop their thesis questions and to provide students with an opportunity to receive feedback on their thesis project at regular intervals in a structured format. By the end of the course students will be able to develop a research question, conduct a comprehensive literature review, select appropriate methods to answer the research question, and present their findings in written and oral formats. This course will also teach students how to provide constructive criticism and to effectively evaluate the work of their peers. Coursework will include developing a systematic review, providing constructive critiques of the work of other students in the seminar, developing a PowerPoint presentation, and developing a scientific poster presentation. All students will be expected to provide feedback to their classmates and will receive feedback from their peers and the course director.

Thesis Courses

20299 Master's Thesis. *6-9 credits.*
6-9 Master's Thesis credits are required for program completion. All students will complete a Master's thesis describing a translational or clinical research project in which he or she participated in both the design and execution. The Committee will be comprised of a thesis mentor and two additional faculty members (one of whom is a biostatistician). The Committee will approve the project in advance, will provide guidance and supervision of the project, and will critique and, if appropriate, approve the thesis.

20002 Master's Thesis Continuation. *0 credits.*
This is a form of registration available to students who have completed all of the required coursework, including thesis credits but have not yet completed the writing of the Thesis. Continuation status is limited to three consecutive terms following the completion of Thesis credits.

Elective Courses

20253 Methods in Grant Preparation
Emphasis Track(s) suggested for: Population Science, Health Systems Science, Translational Science
The purpose and goal of this course is to present advanced principles of National Institutes of Health (NIH) Grant preparation. Topics to covered will include: Writing with a

purpose and intent; writing statements of innovation and significance; research design; and translational research. The course will also address how to succinctly state overall and specific hypotheses and specific aims with affirmation and relevance. The course will suggest specific writing styles with the intent of clearly stating the importance of the specific aims, and bringing them to fruition and purpose. Special attention will be placed on how to write in a manner which presents proposal aims in an important and timely manner. The course will stress writing styles which relate distinct importance and purpose in a manner which relates novelty in the experimental design. Most of the course will cover the 12 page RO1 application. However, some time will also be devoted to other specific types of awards (i.e., mentored K awards, training grants, and programmatic initiatives). This course is recommended for individuals who have already located funding resources and are currently working on one or more grant proposals.

20241 Translational Genomics. *3 credits.*
Emphasis Track(s) suggested for: Translational Science
The primary goal of this course is to teach students how to develop a research program to ask relevant genetic questions in the clinical setting utilizing the molecular genetics toolbox. To this end, students will be provided with background in molecular genetics strategies and study designs as well as an understanding of common genetics questions emanating from the clinic so that they will be better able to make connections between bench and bedside. In addition, they will be challenged to think creatively and through a translational focus during course-long case studies and group projects.

20120 Introduction to Health Disparities Research. *3 credits.*
Emphasis Track(s) suggested for: Population Science, Health Systems Science
The course is an introduction to health disparities. By the end of the course, the student will be able to understand the relationship between inequities in social determinants of health and health outcomes in various populations. Coursework will include weekly readings from one textbook on multicultural medicine and health disparities as well as peer-reviewed articles to demonstrate the concepts in real- world experiences. Weekly classes will include discussion of the readings. Course projects will be assigned and are designed to allow practice of critically reading and appraising the literature related to applied health disparities research and also to understand the theoretical bases for health equity research.

20260 Introduction to Dissemination and Implementation Science. *3 credits.*
Emphasis Track(s) suggested for: Health Systems Science, Population Science
The course is an introduction to dissemination and implementation and science research methods both theoretical and applied. By the end of the course the student will be able to understand the science of dissemination and implementation and applied methods for dissemination and implementation. Coursework will include weekly reading of peer-reviewed manuscripts and one introductory textbook on dissemination and implementation science. Weekly classes will include discussion of reading and course projects are designed to allow practice of critically reading and planning implementation research.