



Certificate in Clinical and Translational Science



2026-2027

Last Revised: August 2022
June 2023
March 2026



Clinical and Translational Science Institute

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.

About the CTSI

Our site is one of over 60 hubs nationwide part of the larger CTSA consortium funded by the NIH through the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). The Southeastern Wisconsin site is a collaboration between 8 partners, including Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Froedtert Hospital, and the Zablocki VA Medical Center, Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin, Marquette University, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee School of Engineering, and the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Program Personnel

Program Director: Dr. Margaret Samyn, MD MBA msamyn@childrenswi.org

Dr. Margaret Samyn serves as Assistant Dean for Scholarly Activities and Program Director for the Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Science (MSCTS) degree program. She holds both an MD and an MBA and is a Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Cardiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr Samyn's research focuses on cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging assessment of pediatric heart transplant recipients; she also participates in multi-center research for pediatric patients with congenital heart disease.

Dr. Samyn provides academic and strategic leadership for the MSCTS program, overseeing curriculum development, faculty engagement, and student mentorship. She is deeply committed to graduate education and scholarly development, guiding students through research training, thesis completion, and professional growth in clinical and translational science.

Project Manager: Angie Holtz aholtz@mcw.edu

Angie Holtz joined the Medical College of Wisconsin in June 2015 and currently serves as Project Manager within the Clinical and Translational Science Institute, CTSI. In this role, she oversees the coordination and day to day operations of the program, ensuring alignment with Graduate School policies and CTSI priorities.

Angie serves as the primary point of contact for students and supports them throughout the lifecycle of the program, from admissions and onboarding to course registration, required documentation, thesis milestones, and graduation requirements. She works closely with program leadership, faculty to facilitate course planning, instructor coordination, compliance processes, and overall program administration, helping ensure a seamless and supportive experience for students.



Certificate Program

The CTSI offers three (3) Graduate Certificates in addition to the Master’s in Clinical and Translational Science. The certificate program is designed for individuals who want additional training but may not want to pursue a full master’s degree and for those who have already completed professional clinical training but would like additional training in clinical and translational research.

Certificate students are required to select from one of three emphasis tracks. Typically, students will take 2 courses in the Fall and 2 courses in the Spring. The certificate is designed to be completed within one (1) academic year, and students have up to two (2) calendar years to complete all requirements. The courses identified for each emphasis track are below.

Students completing the Certificate will also be able to transfer their 12 credits into the Master’s in CTS degree. Students wishing to take this route will need to apply to the Master’s program prior to the application deadline and would be able to begin in the fall of the following academic year.

Emphasis Tracks

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.

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.

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.

Certificate Curriculum

Translational Science	Population Science	Health System Science
Introduction to Clinical and Translational Science (Fall)	Introduction to Clinical and Translational Science (Fall)	Introduction to Clinical and Translational Science (Fall)
Clinical Statistics I (Fall)	Clinical Statistics I (Fall)	Clinical Statistics I (Fall)
Foundations in Health Services Research (Spring)	Foundations in Health Services Research (Spring)	Foundations in Health Services Research (Spring)
Spring Elective	Spring Elective	Spring Elective



Degree Completion

Certificate

1. Successfully completed or anticipated completion of all required coursework as outlined by program before degree conferral.
2. Students must remain in good academic standing of a 3.0 or better and an “S” or better performance in other components of the academic program to be eligible for degree award
3. Apply for Graduation. Reference the academic bulletin in the Graduate School Handbook. Certificate Request section to determine your application timeframe
 1. Log into MCWconnect: <https://sis.mcw.edu>
 2. On the right side of your home page, click on Student Records. Then click on
 3. Apply for Graduation.
 4. Answer the few questions and submit.
 5. After submitting, your account will be charged a \$25 graduation fee. To view and pay on the right side of your home page, click on Tuition and Financial Aid then My Tuition Account.

Academic Advising

After acceptance into the program, the Program Director serves as the official academic advisor for each student. The Program Director collaborates with the student to develop a customized plan of study based upon program requirements and the student’s interests and career goals. Students are encouraged to consult with the Program Director and Project Manager as needed. The Program Director is also responsible for monitoring the student’s academic progress.

Students are expected to review the program requirements as outlined in this handbook and be proactive in completing all required tasks by the deadlines. Questions or concerns can be directed to the Project Manager or Program Director.

Academic Standing

A detailed description of the academic standing requirements can be found in the [Graduate School Handbook](#).

Graduate School Forms

Many forms such as those required to graduate, request a leave of absence (withdrawal form), request transfer of credits, etc. are available through the Graduate School Office or [webpage](#).

Disclaimer

The CTS Handbook is updated as needed and is posted on the CTSI website. The right to alter content at any time is reserved by MCW.

Resources and Services

System Requirements for Web-Based Learning

Students should have access to Brightspace, a PC running Windows OS or a Mac running OSX. Firefox, Safari or Chrome are recommended. Internet 11 and Edge are supported, but Internet Explorer 10 and earlier are not



supported and may cause content to load incorrectly. Microsoft Office 2007 or newer and Adobe Acrobat Reader may be required. In addition, Adobe Flash Player may be required to view some content within Brightspace.

[Brightspace](#) is a web-based learning management system where all course materials can be found. With Brightspace, students can take surveys, quizzes and tests, send and receive course mail, post to threaded discussions and chat rooms, upload assignments using drop-boxes, and more. Students can check their progress and grades at any time during the course and create groups and teams for project or committee work.

An office suite such as Microsoft Office and Adobe Reader or other compatible PDF readers are also required. In addition, a current version of the Adobe Flash player for the web browser is required to play some of the lectures. If students have problems accessing courses in Brightspace, please contact lmshelp@mcw.edu

Statistical Software Requirements

The use of a statistical software package may be required for some courses. Information will be found in the course syllabus.

[OASIS](#) is the online evaluation platform for all Graduate School courses. Near the end of each semester students will be required to complete a course and instructor evaluation for all courses in which they were enrolled. Students who fail to complete the evaluations for will no longer be in good standing.

Library

MCW Libraries consist of the central Todd Wehr Library located in the MCW Administrative Building and two branch libraries located at Froedtert Hospital and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

[Library](#) resources are available to all registered students. Enrolled students are provided remote access to the libraries. This access includes the multitude of library resources, particularly the electronic journals and books.

Textbooks

A list of required textbooks will be emailed to all students. Students may acquire textbooks from any convenient source. Students are advised not to purchase books far in advance of enrollment as texts are frequently published in new editions or courses are revised to newer, more current texts.

Student Financial Services

The [Student Financial Services](#) office is available to assist students with securing financial aid.

Career Advising and Employment Opportunities

Students are encouraged to utilize career advisement resources provided by the Graduate School such as the Graduate School [Career Services](#) office. Students may also seek guidance from the Program Director.



Contact Information

Topic	Contact Name and Email
Academic Affairs, International Student Services, Data, Registration, Commencement	Graduate School: gradschool@mcw.edu Angela Backus, Director of Enrollment: abackus@mcw.edu Allison Schneider, Education Program Coordinator II: allischneider@mcw.edu
Student Affairs, International Student Services, Orientation, Admissions	Skylar Eisman, Education Program Coordinator II: seisman@mcw.edu
Admissions, Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Data Analytics, International Student Services, Orientation	Angie Backus, director of Enrollment & Student Services: abackus@mcw.edu
Academic Affairs, Registration, Degree completion, International Student Services	Sarah Ashworth, Education Program Coordinator III: sashworth@mcw.edu
Office of the Registrar (OTR): Transcript Requests (Request through MCWconnect), Enrollment Verification, BME registration assistance, Loan deferments	Office of the Registrar: acadreg@mcw.edu Brenda Parsons, Associate Registrar: bparsons@mcw.edu
Tuition and Billing	Office of Student Accounts, mcwtuition@mcw.edu
Financial Aid	Student Financial Services, finaid@mcw.edu
Brightspace	LMS Help Desk: lmshelp@mcw.edu
MCW Email and Password Issues	IS Help Desk: help@mcw.edu
MCWConnect Credentials	Information Services: MCWconnect_support@mcw.edu MCW Graduate School: gradschool@mcw.edu
CTS Program Director	Dr. Margaret Samyn, MD, MPH msamyn@childrenswi.org
CTS Project Manager	Angie Holtz, aholtz@mcw.edu
Student Governance and Involvement, Graduate Student Association	Graduate School-Graduate Student Association
Course and Instructor evaluations	OASIS, https://oasis.acad.mcw.edu/index.html