**MD/PhD PREREQUISITES FOR CHOOSING A THESIS ADVISOR AND
PREPARATION FOR THE GRADUATE PHASE TRANSITION**

MD/PhD students (Y2) are expected to begin the graduate phase of their training no later than the start of Medical School period 3. This is the first Monday after the completion of two required Medical School rotations in period one and period two.

Y2 students must also take the USMLE Boards Step 1 before beginning clinic rotations. Sitting for the Step 1 exam is a requirement before beginning clinical rotations. Additional requirements for this transition will also be explained by the Assistant Director and the Medical School in the spring of your second year.

MD/PhD Student Research Commitment Statement

Second-year MD/PhD students must select their graduate training preceptor and the graduate program they will matriculate in no later than **January 1** of their second year, preferably earlier. As part of this process, each student must submit a request for approval to the Director. Advisor and laboratory selections are not officially approved without the Director's permission. Your request for approval should outline the following:

1. Describe each laboratory rotation, including the nature of the project worked on, the methodologies employed and the outcome. The dates and approximate amount of time you were able to work in the laboratory should be included. It would also be helpful to comment on the pros and cons of an individual laboratory as a choice for graduate training.

2. Indicate your mentor choice and the graduate program you have selected. Also list the required coursework in your graduate program and electives you may take. Indicate whether you will have teaching responsibilities.

3. Describe the nature of the research project you will pursue during the graduate training phase.

4. Describe your preceptor's current and projected grant support that will provide the financial support for your research. Comment on plans for submitting individual fellowship applications to support your stipend.

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