Deepen your understanding of the complex biology of microbes, the immune system and human health.

The Microbiology & Immunology (PhD) program at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) is devoted to training the next generation of researchers across the basic and clinical research spectrum. Our faculty focus on highly translational research topics using cutting-edge techniques in areas such as:

- Bacterial and Viral Pathogenesis
- Immunology and Inflammation
- Microbiome
- Parasitology
- Cancer Biology
- Antimicrobial Resistance & Host/Pathogen Interactions

Graduates of our program find rewarding careers in academic medicine, biotech/pharma, healthcare, public health, science policy, publishing and communications, and government agencies.

Our exciting, rigorous, and innovate research program is scholarly and challenging yet student-centered and flexible, with the goal of providing our students with the knowledge and skills necessary to be effective and successful educators, scholars, and investigators.
Program Overview

Our Microbiology & Immunology (PhD) program admits students who are interested in pursuing research training within subspecialties of microbiology and immunology. During the first year of enrollment, students spend their mornings attending fundamental courses. In the afternoons, they participate in 4 six-week long rotations in micro- or immuno-related laboratories of their choosing before choosing one to perform their thesis research in. Over the next couple of years, students take advanced courses that are tailored to their research interests and thesis goals while also preparing for and taking a qualifying exam that includes an NIH-style research proposal. Throughout the course of enrollment, students will have the opportunity to attend and present at various conferences/meetings and can gain informal teaching experiences. On average, students successfully defend their dissertation within 5 1/2 years time.

Admissions

While we operate on a rolling admissions basis, applications are generally accepted and reviewed late summer into early winter, with a priority application date of December 15 for Fall enrollment. This is the date by which applicants will have ideally submitted their online application as well as all of their required materials (e.g. letters of recommendation, transcripts, etc.). The submission of a test score is not required but will be considered if it is submitted. Competitive applicants will be invited to interview within the first few months of the calendar year, with admission offers being issued thereafter on a rolling basis. Preference for admission will be given to those with at least a 3.0 grade point average from a S.T.E.M.-related major who have previous basic science and/or translational research experience.