Each graduate program establishes policies for thesis committees, but complete their thesis work and have written an approved dissertation. Students to take their qualifying exams at the end of the third year or coursework during the first two years of medical school, this positions taking any remaining graduate courses. Since many have completed after completing the USMLE Step 1 examination. The students have during their second year of medical school and enters graduate school. The Graduate Programs.

1 exams in the second year. A minimum of two are required and up to four faculty mentors. Lab Rotations: Summer prior to first year of medical school; and MSTP seminar Series introduces students to potential research topics and introduces original research papers and promotes informal discussion about laboratory research between MSTP students and their medical school classmates in the first two years of medical school; and MSTP seminar Series introduces students to potential research topics and faculty mentors. Lab Rotations: Summer prior to first year of medical school (optional), after first year and again after completing USMLE Step 1 exams in the second year. A minimum of two are required and up to four are acceptable.

The Graduate Programs. Each student chooses their graduate program during their second year of medical school and enters graduate school after completing the USMLE Step 1 examination. The students have already completed two laboratory rotations and begin thesis work while taking any remaining graduate courses. Since many have completed coursework during the first two years of medical school, this positions students to take their qualifying exams at the end of the third year or early in the fourth year. They remain full-time graduate students until they complete their thesis work and have written an approved dissertation. Each graduate program establishes policies for thesis committees, but MSTP students are required to have at least one MSTP Council member on her/his committee, providing programmatic oversight and ensuring optimal progress towards completing PhD thesis work. Students are required to meet with their thesis committee every six months. During graduate school, students can take a Clinical Preceptorship, an elective designed specifically to allow MSTP students to maintain their clinical skills and interests during graduate school. Clinical Case Reviews is a vehicle for PhD-phase MSTPs to practice generating differential diagnoses, presenting orally, and discussing next steps for treatment and prognosis. Into the Clinic is an intensive re-introduction to clinical medicine for MSTP students completing graduate studies and planning to return to medical school.

Time to Degree. MSTP has implemented policies to reduce the time to degree, which include:

1. Optional early summer lab rotations and early choice of a thesis lab;
2. The temporal integration of graduate program course opportunities with the medical school curriculum;
3. Reciprocal acceptance of BMS and PIBS program courses during the first two years of medical school;
4. Reducing required graduate program electives;
5. Decreasing required lab rotations from three to two;
6. Requiring earlier qualifying exams; and
7. Timely reviews by thesis committees (every six months).

These policies and programs have contributed to a continued reduction in time to degree to 8.6 years within the past ten years.

Mentoring and Evaluation of Students
Throughout the training program, students receive mentoring, evaluation and guidance from both their Medical MSTP and PhD advisers.

Graduate Training. Students are assigned academic advisers and meet quarterly during the first year of the PhD. After advancing to candidacy and forming their thesis committee, they meet every six months. The MSTP administration tracks these milestones and works with the PhD administration to assist students who may be experiencing difficulties.

Medical School. Students are assigned a College Advisory Mentor who also holds an MD/PhD who advises and guides the students through clinical training.

Clinical Faculty Advisers for Students Reentering Medical School. Students returning to medical school are assigned a physician-scientist faculty adviser to advise them in the selection of clinical specialties for residency application.

Additional Information
Contact for questions and additional info:

Geri Ehle, Program Manager (geri.ehle@ucsf.edu)