



**BROWN**  
School of Public Health

# Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Research

## Student Handbook

2019/20

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## Brown University

### **Brown University Overview**

Located in historic Providence, Rhode Island and founded in 1764, Brown University is the seventh-oldest college in the United States. Brown is an independent, coeducational Ivy League institution comprising undergraduate and graduate programs, plus the Alpert Medical School, School of Public Health, School of Engineering, and the School of Professional Studies.

With its talented and motivated student body and accomplished faculty, Brown is a leading research university that maintains a particular commitment to exceptional undergraduate instruction.

Brown's vibrant, diverse community consists of about 6,580 undergraduates, 2,255 graduate students, 545 medical school students, more than 6,000 summer, visiting, and online students, and more than 700 faculty members. Brown students come from all 50 states and more than 115 countries.

Undergraduates pursue bachelor's degrees in [81 concentrations](#), ranging from Egyptology to cognitive neuroscience. Anything is possible at Brown—the university's commitment to undergraduate freedom means students must take responsibility as architects of their courses of study.

Brown University has 51 doctoral programs and 32 master's programs. The broad scope of options vary from interdisciplinary opportunities in molecular pharmacology and physiology to a master's program in acting and directing through the [Brown/Trinity Repertory Consortium](#).

Additional programs include the Undergraduate Summer Session and Pre-College Programs for high school students — on campus, online, and abroad.

Brown is frequently recognized for its global reach, many cultural events, numerous campus groups and activities, active community service programs, highly competitive athletics, and beautiful facilities located in a richly historic urban setting.

### **Brown's Mission**

The mission of Brown University is to serve the community, the nation, and the world by discovering, communicating, and preserving knowledge and understanding in a spirit of free inquiry, and by educating and preparing students to discharge the offices of life with usefulness and reputation. We do this through a partnership of students and teachers in a unified community known as a university-college.

## School of Public Health

### School of Public Health Overview

Brown's Public Health Program became the [Brown University School of Public Health](#) in July of 2013 and was accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health in 2016. The School is the natural evolution of several years of growth in education and in research, with more than 200 faculty and 275 undergraduate and graduate students, and over \$50 million in annual external research funding.

The Brown University School of Public Health takes a “lifelong health” approach to improving people’s lives. It begins before conception, through research on environmental exposures that affect fertility and cause birth defects. It continues through the prime of life: public health at Brown targets the behavioral choices that threaten well-being—tobacco and substance abuse, obesity, risky sexual behaviors—and encourage wellness and healthy aging—physical activity, nutrition, injury prevention. And at the end of life, Brown researchers advocate for a patient-centered, research-based approach to terminal illness that considers a person’s values and beliefs. This work has an impact on people around the world thanks to partnerships forged locally and globally, from Providence’s South Side to South Africa.

The School of Public Health’s [12 nationally renowned research centers](#) and institutes focus training and research on key areas including evidence based medicine, HIV/AIDS, statistical sciences, global health, primary care, preventive medicine, and community health. The centers’ interdisciplinary nature gives them a broad, influential voice in the national dialogue, and offers students meaningful opportunities to conduct research and effect change. Although the Brown University School of Public Health is new, it is among the top 10 schools of public health for [NIH funding in 2016](#).

- [Alcohol and Addiction Studies](#)
- [Behavioral and Preventive Medicine](#)
- [Brown University AIDS Program](#)
- [Health Equity Research](#)
- [Environmental Health and Technology](#)
- [Evidence Synthesis in Health](#)
- [Gerontology and Healthcare Research](#)
- [Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Institute](#)
- [International Health](#)
- [Population Health and Clinical Epidemiology](#)
- [Primary Care and Prevention](#)
- [Statistical Sciences](#)

Through research, education, and public service, the [four public health departments](#), strive to improve the health of individuals as well as populations. With close ties to [Alpert Medical School](#), the [Rhode Island Department of Health](#), the University, and the wider community, students benefit from substantial opportunities to gain and apply knowledge, while faculty put their findings into practice to impact local, state, and national policy.

- [Behavioral and Social Sciences](#)
- [Biostatistics](#)
- [Epidemiology \(with Environmental Health\)](#)
- [Health Services, Policy and Practice](#)

### School of Public Health Mission

Our mission is to serve the community, the nation, and the world by training future public health leaders and discovering and communicating innovative approaches to address public health challenges and to enhance population health and well-being. The School of Public Health pursues this mission by working with the broader Public Health community to:

- advance knowledge on population health through understanding risk and protective factors throughout the lifespan,
- develop evidence about effective medical and public health interventions,

- evaluate and disseminate strategies to encourage healthy behaviors, and,
- improve healthcare by identifying effective policies and practices.

**School of Public Health values are:**

- Advance health as a right for all, with a special emphasis on vulnerable and marginalized population groups.
- Encourage innovation, creativity, self-reflection, and ethical conduct activities related to our mission and values.
- Foster collaboration among our School's disciplines and partners across the university to benefit the creation and application of knowledge.
- Promote and derive benefit from diversity among people in the School, and respect different perspectives on the health of populations.
- Engage with community partners in activities that meet their needs and objectives.
- Consider and evaluate our activities and objectives as they have global reach and impact.
- Foster a School environment that builds upon and advances the strengths and skills of our students, staff, and faculty.
- Act as responsible stewards of the human and material resources that constitute the fabric of public health, including educating future generations of public health professionals
- Improve the health of populations through development of new knowledge and translation of research into improved policy and practice.

## The Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Research (CTR) Program

### **The Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Research Mission**

The Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Research employs an interdisciplinary approach to create connections between disciplines, and encourage creative, innovative approaches to tackle complex medical questions. The goal of clinical and translational research is to extend basic scientific research in the physical, biologic and behavioral sciences into the clinical arena, including studies that will develop and evaluate clinical interventions and will ultimately improve individual and population health. By translating basic research into improved clinical outcomes, clinical and translational research enables researchers to provide new treatments to patients more efficiently and quickly.

### **The Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Research Curriculum**

The goal of this program is to train clinicians and basic scientists to extend basic scientific research into the clinical arena, ultimately leading to improvements in individual and population health. By translating basic research into improved clinical outcomes, researchers and clinicians are able to provide new treatments to patients more efficiently and quickly.

Students in the program will complete nine courses, including courses in introduction to research methods, advanced research methods, scientific writing, biostatistics and applied data analysis, and topics in clinical and translational research. Students will also choose two electives and participate in a series of seminars, workshops, and mentoring sessions. In addition, students will be required to complete the online, not for credit course, PHP1001, Foundations in Public Health. Students will do all modules of PHP1001, except the Epidemiology module.

### **CTR Core Course Requirements**

#### **Introduction to Research Methods**

*Students must take one of the following two courses:*

Introduction to Methods in Epidemiologic Research (PHP2120)

**OR**

Foundations in Epidemiologic Research Methods (PHP2150)

#### **Biostatistics and Applied Data Analysis**

*Students must complete one of the following two course sequences:*

Sequence 1:

Biostatistics and Applied Data Analysis I (PHP2507) and Biostatistics and Applied Data Analysis II (PHP2508)

**OR**

Sequence 2:

Principles of Biostatistics and Data Analysis (PHP2510) and Applied Regression Analysis (PHP2511)

#### **Scientific Writing**

*Students must take the following course:*

Research Grant Writing for Public Health (PHP2090)

#### **Advanced Research Methods**

*Students must take two of the following advanced methods courses:*

Statistical Programming R (PHP1560/2560)

Clinical Trials Methodology (PHP2030)

Survey Research Methods (PHP2040)

Qualitative Methods in Health Research (PHP2060)  
Interpretation and Application of Epidemiology (PHP2180)  
Medicare: A Data Based Policy Examination (PHP2410E)  
Introduction to Evidence-Based Medicine and Meta-Analysis (PHP2415)  
Analysis of Population Based Datasets (PHP2430)  
Intro to Health Decision Analysis (PHP2465A)

### **Topics in Clinical, Translational and Health Services Research**

*Students must enroll in this half credit course two times to fulfill the one credit requirement. The half credit course meets approximately every other week for the full year. Students participate in the course in years 1 and 2, but register for the course in the spring of year 1 and in the spring of year 2.*

Topics in Clinical, Translational and Health Services Research (PHP2470) (half credit)

### **CTR Electives**

The complete list of approved CTR electives can be found on the CTR Program [website](#). Additional courses at Brown University may count toward the CTR degree with approval from the CTR Program Director. With permission of the CTR Program Director, a student may register for one credit of PHP2980, Graduate Independent Study/Thesis Research, for their thesis work and have it count as a CTR elective. Requests to register for PHP2980 should be sent to the CTR Program Director and should include the thesis proposal. If approved, the student also needs permission from the faculty member. Typically, students register for PHP2980 in the section of their thesis advisor. If the advisor does not have a section of PHP2980, the student should contact [elizabeth\\_jackvony@brown.edu](mailto:elizabeth_jackvony@brown.edu).

### **CTR Advising**

The CTR Program Director, Patrick M. Vivier, MD, PhD, is the academic advisor for all CTR students. In addition, Dr. Ira Wilson and Dr. Amal Trivedi provide structured advising on research planning in the required seminars that are a component of PHP2470, Topics in Clinical and Translational Research. During this course, students are advised on the process of selecting a thesis advisor and reader for their thesis project. Students should be formulating the thesis topic during the **first year of study**. In order to facilitate this process, students are required to present their work in PHP2470 at least once during the course of the academic year, addressing the questions below:

- What is your research question?
- Why is this important?
- Briefly describe potential methods for your study.
- What help would you like from the group?
- What are the next steps?

The CTR Program Director is available to assist students with selecting an appropriate thesis topic, thesis advisor and thesis reader based on their current work and career goals.

### **CTR Thesis**

Given the applied nature of the CTR Program, students will develop a portfolio to meet the following thesis requirements. These requirements are developmental in nature and should be completed throughout the student's studies. Students will be encouraged to engage in interdisciplinary work. The thesis requirements will help to move students forward in their career in clinical and translational research. Each student should work with his/her advisor and reader to determine the best timing for completion of the following requirements. All thesis plans must be approved prior to beginning the project.

All CTR students are required to complete a thesis, which will be composed of the following parts:

- First author submitted abstract to regional, national or international meeting
- First author publishable quality paper
- Submittable grant proposal

OR

- First author submitted abstract to regional, national or international meeting
- Two First author publishable quality papers

**The thesis proposal form can be found in Appendix A.** Students must submit this proposal form, signed by the thesis advisor and reader, accompanied by a one-page description of the thesis work, by **April 17th of the year prior to their expected graduation year**. The thesis project description should include a brief description of the abstract and the conference/meeting to which it will be submitted, a clear description of paper(s), and a description of the grant proposal, if applicable, as well as a timeline for completing the various thesis components. Be sure to clearly define and justify the thesis project, including a statement of the proposed final product and its contribution to your educational and career goals. Students should complete this proposal form, including appropriate signatures, and submit it to the Clinical and Translational Research Program Director, Patrick M. Vivier, MD, PhD for approval. Students will receive an e-mail confirmation when the thesis proposal has been approved.

The CTR Thesis must be complete, with signatures of the advisor, reader and program director, and submitted through Brown's [electronic theses and dissertation \(ETD\) system](#) **no later than May 1 of the year they plan to graduate**. Graduate students must follow the [Master's Thesis Guidelines](#) found on the Graduate School website.

With permission, students may register for one section of PHP2980, Graduate Independent Study/Thesis Research, for their thesis work and have it count as an elective. See details under the CTR Electives section.

### **CTR Good Academic Standing Policy – Fall 2019**

#### **Grading**

Students receive full letter grades of A, B, C (no plusses or minuses) or No Credit. There is no grade of D, and failing grades are not recorded on the permanent external record (transcript). However, grades of "No Credit" and late withdrawals from courses are recorded on the Internal Academic Record and this information is used in assessing a student's academic standing, as well as other purposes (counseling, Committee on Academic Standing considerations, etc.). For the purposes of assessing academic performance within the CTR Program, late withdrawals are defined as withdrawing from a course within five weeks of the scheduled final exam date.

Brown offers the option of registering for courses Satisfactory/No Credit (S/NC). However, CTR students are required to take all core courses for a letter grade, with the exception of PHP2470 Topics in CTR, which students take for S/NC (Satisfactory/No Credit) and courses that are set up by the instructor as mandatory S/NC.

#### **Good Academic Standing**

To be in good academic standing, students in the CTR Program must achieve a "B" average. All courses taken at Brown while enrolled in the CTR Program are included in the assessment of academic standing. Only courses

taken at Brown while enrolled in the CTR Program are included in the assessment of academic standing. As Brown does not calculate a numeric GPA, students are considered to have at least a “B” average if one of the following two conditions exist:

- The student has received a grade of “B” or above for all courses included in the assessment of academic performance
- Any courses in which the student withdrew late or received a “C” or “NC” are balanced by an equivalent number of courses for which the student received an “A”. Full courses must be balanced with full courses, and half courses may be balanced by either half courses or full courses.

Students must be in good academic standing to be eligible to graduate.

### **Progress Requirements**

At the end of each semester, when grades become available, the CTR Program Director reviews the progress of each CTR student. Students who fall out of good academic standing will be issued a warning in writing. This letter will include the areas where the student has not met expectations and instructions on how to regain good academic standing and remain in the CTR Program. Students who receive a warning letter will be re-evaluated at the end of the next semester. If it is determined that satisfactory progress has not been made toward achieving good academic standing, students will be notified that they are being dismissed from the CTR Program.

### **Repeating Courses**

Students who receive an “NC” or have a late withdrawal from a core requirement will be offered no more than one additional opportunity to meet the core requirement. If the student again receives an “NC” or has a late withdrawal, the student will be dismissed from the CTR Program.

### **Graduation Requirements**

Students must be in good academic standing to be eligible to graduate. In order to graduate, students must maintain a “B” average across the nine (9) courses (see Academic Standing above), and complete the thesis project. CTR students are also required to follow all guidelines established by the Graduate School and the Registrar.

### **Deadline for Completing the CTR**

Full-time students generally take two years to complete the CTR. Students may request part-time status but need to complete all degree requirements within five years. In unusual situations, where a student needs to extend beyond the five-year timeline, the student can request an extension. Extensions will only be granted if there is an acceptable explanation for the delay in meeting the degree requirements and if there is an approved plan for meeting the degree requirements in a timely manner. The request must include a detailed timeline and plan for finishing all CTR degree requirements. Requests will be reviewed by the CTR Program Director and also by the Dean of the Graduate School.

## **Graduate School**

The Graduate School Handbook defines the most important policies, procedures and practices that guide graduate education at Brown University. It includes information on the Graduate School rules, grading standards, graduate credit, conference travel funds, student loans, leaves of absence, codes of conduct, and grievance procedures. Graduate students must abide by the rules of the Graduate School, as well as the rules of the MPH Program. The Graduate School handbook can be found [here](#).

## Leaves of Absence

### Leave of Absence Request

Any student needing to request a leave of absence (with the exception of a medical leave) should submit a Leave of Absence Request form (found on Graduate School website), at least four weeks before the start of the semester in which the leave is to be taken. Failure to inform the Graduate School means that the student will still be considered active and will be billed for tuition. The CTR Program Director must approve all leave of absence application for students enrolled in the CTR Program.

### Medical Leave

A student experiencing a serious physical or psychological problem that affects his/her academic performance may be granted a leave for treatment and recovery. A student experiencing difficulty in this realm should consult with the Graduate Associate Dean in the [Office of Student Life](#), as well as [University Health Services](#) and/or [Counseling and Psychological Services](#). Unlike other leaves, a medical leave or psychological leave of absence can be made at any time; the request must be made through the office or the Graduate Associate Dean in the Office of Student Life (located in Graduate Center, 42 Charlesfield St., 4<sup>th</sup> floor; 401-863-3145).

## Codes of Student Conduct

**The Graduate School requires all graduate students to complete required online courses on Codes of Academic & Student Conduct and Title IX Training. Complete the online course on Academic Code & Code of Student Conduct as soon as you receive the links in your Brown email over the summer. An online Title IX course will be sent early in the fall semester.**

### Academic and Student Conduct Codes

All students are expected to be aware of, and to conduct themselves in accordance with, the principles of the Brown community as set forth in the [Academic Code: Graduate Student Edition](#) and the University's [Student Conduct Code](#). Ignorance of these Codes is not accepted as a defense for violation of any of the rules and regulations specified in the Codes.

### Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment

All students in their roles as students, research assistants, teaching assistants, and teaching fellows are expected to refrain from behaviors that constitute sexual harassment as specified by Brown University's Policy Statement on sexual or gender-based harassment, sexual violence, relationship and inter-personal violence and stalking. The policy can be found [here](#).

## Grievances

It is expected that students enrolled in the CTR Program will have the best possible relationship with colleagues and faculty during the course of their graduate work at Brown. However, it is possible that a student may not agree with faculty or committee actions related to evaluation of academic progress and standing. The intent of the faculty is to address disagreements directly and constructively. Therefore, we encourage students initially to discuss their concerns and explore possible solutions with the CTR Program Director, and/or the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the School of Public Health. The Graduate School has a detailed description of grievance procedures, and students are referred to that document [here](#).

Procedures exist for the resolution of non-academic grievances, such as complaints of harassment involving sexually or racially offensive behavior, and discrimination as cited in the University's Non-Discrimination Policy. There are also established procedures for reviewing the cases of students whose actions may require disciplinary measures. Inquiries about these procedures should be directed to the CTR Program Director, the Dean of the School of Public Health, and/or the Deans of the Graduate School.

## Wellness and Support Resources

Student and Employee Accessibility Services ([SEAS](#)) coordinates and facilitates services for students with physical, psychological, and learning disabilities, and temporary injuries (office located at 20 Benevolent St., 1<sup>st</sup> floor).

Counseling and Psychological Services ([CAPS](#)) provides free confidential counseling (located at J. Walter Wilson, Room 516; 401-863-3476). CAPS offers Saturday appointment for graduate students from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. during the academic year at Health services, 13 Brown St.

Diversity Initiatives provides assistance with recording a lived or chosen name change into University systems to support T\* students (Graduate Center, 42 Charlesfield St., 4<sup>th</sup> floor).

International SOS registration is strongly encouraged for all students studying abroad. Students studying abroad during the academic year or summer should register the trip with the Brown University Global Assistance Program. This program provides 24-hour worldwide medical, security, and travel assistance, including emergency evacuation. More information can be found on Brown's [International SOS portal](#).

## Brown ID Card

In order to access University libraries, copy machines, etc., students will need a Brown ID card. New students should obtain a Brown ID card at the [Brown Card Office](#), which is located on the 5th floor of the J. Walter Wilson building at 69 Brown Street. Access to the School of Public Health building at 121 South Main Street requires an additional approval. Generally, SPH will request the approval in advance, so that students' cards work in the SPH building when they arrive. If your card does not work at 121 South Main Street, contact Elizabeth Jackvony, Interdisciplinary Education Programs Coordinator, as soon as possible ([elizabeth\\_jackvony@brown.edu](mailto:elizabeth_jackvony@brown.edu)).

## School of Public Health Mail Policy

(Revised 8/9/18)

The goal of the School of Public Health and University Mail Services is to provide students with the best service possible. To achieve our goal, it is necessary for students, as well as those sending mail to students, to understand and comply with the simple but vital Brown University and School of Public Health regulations listed below.

1. All actively enrolled graduate students are provided a mailbox at 121 S. Main Street. Mailbox information will be provided through the Department Coordinators.
2. The use of mailboxes is restricted to academic mail, whether it includes USPS mail, express and ground service shipments delivered by specified common carriers, and campus mail. The School of Public Health will accept incoming express and ground shipments for students from the following designated common carriers only: FedEx, UPS, DHL. Packages sent through any of these carriers should not require a signature for delivery.
3. Using your mailbox address to operate a business, receive mail for anyone other than the

assigned box holder, or receive non-academic related mail is prohibited. If you have any questions about what mail you can or cannot have delivered, please consult with your Department Coordinator.

4. Students are responsible for regularly checking their mailboxes and package drop-off areas (3rd Floor Student Suite, hallway adjacent to student kitchen) for the delivery of mail and express and ground service shipments. The School of Public Health is not responsible for tracking or the safety of mail or packages.

5. Students are responsible for providing the Departmental Coordinator with a forwarding mail address upon their departure from the School of Public Health. The School of Public Health will forward First Class USPS mail to students for thirty days following this notification. Thereafter, items will be returned to sender.

Brown University and the School of Public Health provide this service as a courtesy only and it is expressly acknowledged and understood by any students for whom packages are held that Brown University is not acting as an agent or bailee for the student. The University assumes no responsibility for liability for any loss or damages resulting directly or indirectly therefrom and such students further agree to release and discharge Brown University from any claims, loss, cost or damages therefrom. This service is used by students at their own risk.

- The School of Public Health reserves the right to reject and not to accept any package from any carrier at its discretion.

- University Mail Services reserves the right to provide this service on an intermittent basis depending on available resources and space for storage of packages.

- The University also reserves the right to terminate this service at any time and without notice.

To receive off-campus mail at Brown, the address on all material should conform to the following address format:

Student Name School of Public Health Brown University 121 S. Main Street, Box G-S121-3 Providence, RI 02912

Revised: 08/9/18

## Brown Email

Matriculated graduate students can set up their Brown electronic services and establish their Brown e-mail accounts before the start of the program by going to <https://myaccount.brown.edu/activate>.

Once the CTR Program begins, all e-mail communications will be sent to the students' Brown e-mail account.

**Appendix A: THESIS PROPOSAL  
MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH**

Students must submit this proposal form, signed by the thesis advisor and reader, accompanied by a one-page description of the thesis work, by April 17th of the year prior to their expected graduation year. The thesis project description should include a brief description of the abstract and the conference/meeting to which it will be submitted, a clear description of paper(s), and a description of the grant proposal, if applicable, as well as a timeline for completing the various thesis components. Be sure to clearly define and justify the thesis project, including a statement of the **proposed final product** and its contribution to your educational and career goals. Students should complete this proposal form, including appropriate signatures, and submit it to the Clinical and Translational Research Program Director, Patrick M. Vivier, MD, PhD for approval. Students will receive an e-mail confirmation when the thesis proposal has been approved.

**The ScM in Clinical and Translational Research (CTR) Thesis Proposal must be approved by the thesis advisor and reader, as well as the CTR Program Director, Patrick M. Vivier, MD, PhD.**

Student Name	
Thesis Title	
Signature	Date

**Please indicate the final thesis product:**

First author submitted abstract to regional, national or international meeting  
First author publishable quality paper  
Submittable grant proposal

OR

First author submitted abstract to regional, national or international meeting;  
Two First author publishable quality papers

**Thesis Advisor**

Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
Email address		
<input type="checkbox"/> I have read and approve this thesis proposal and I agree to serve as the thesis advisor for this project.		
Signature	Date	

**Thesis Reader**

Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
Email address		
<input type="checkbox"/> I have read and approve this thesis proposal and I agree to serve as the thesis advisor for this project.		
Signature	Date	

This Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Research Thesis Proposal has been approved.

<b>CTR Program Director, Patrick M. Vivier, MD, PhD</b>	Date
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