INNOVATING IN HEALTHCARE

Specialized Certificate in Translational Science

Frequently Asked Questions

extension.ucsd.edu/translational
What is Translational Science?

“The (discipline) turning observations in the laboratory, clinic, and community into interventions that improve the health of individuals and populations – from diagnostics and therapeutics, to medical procedures and observational behaviors” - National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, NIH

Translational science is introduced as a bridge between the scientific and the clinical fields; it gives evidence-based research a backbone by connecting the dots of clinical research. In the past years we have seen the incremental costs of pharmaceutical development, with very few successful new developments. It requires the coming together of disciplines such as biology, chemistry, informatics, computer science, engineering, medicine, dentistry and public health. This way they can come together to create a real life impact in the healthcare community.

Applications of Translational Science

Translational science plays a unique and critical role in fostering the flow of bidirectional information between basic and clinical scientists, optimizing new biotechnologies, improving clinical application of new therapeutic concepts, and ultimately improving the quality of life for patients. Significant intellectual and financial contributions have initiated a multitude of bench-to-bedside projects over the last decade. This Certificate program focuses on the application of Translational Science to the discovery/design & development of biomedical products encompassing everything from drugs, cell & gene therapy, to medical devices, including diagnostics, as well as health information technology (IT) and digital health products.
The Specialized Certificate in Translational Science provides the opportunity for the public to enroll in graduate-level Translational Science courses. As new biomedical product companies continue to emerge and mature in San Diego’s vibrant life science ecosystem, entrepreneurial research and development (R&D) professionals are in high demand. This hands-on Certificate program provides an integrated, comprehensive, and operational understanding of what it takes to innovate in biomedical R&D, from product idea to commercialization, in a rapidly changing environment. The program aims to develop well-rounded aspiring biomedical leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs and accelerate the translation of ideas into high-quality and highly differentiated biomedical products.

Program Overview

The Specialized Certificate in Translational Science provides the opportunity for the public to enroll in graduate-level Translational Science courses. As new biomedical product companies continue to emerge and mature in San Diego’s vibrant life science ecosystem, entrepreneurial research and development (R&D) professionals are in high demand. This hands-on Certificate program provides an integrated, comprehensive, and operational understanding of what it takes to innovate in biomedical R&D, from product idea to commercialization, in a rapidly changing environment. The program aims to develop well-rounded aspiring biomedical leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs and accelerate the translation of ideas into high-quality and highly differentiated biomedical products.

Maximal flexibility for the working professional:

- Classes on weekday evenings 6 to 8 pm
- Once a week, one course per quarter
- Four courses total, each offered twice a year
- Flexibility to complete the certificate within 1 to 5 years
- No need to commit to the whole certificate at once, only one course at a time

Ideal for individuals with the motivation and potential to become leaders, innovators, or entrepreneurs:

- Biomedical and healthcare professionals
- Postdoctoral scholars in a scientific, engineering, or business field
Program Benefits

- Online synchronous Zoom lessons scheduled during weekdays’ early evening hours for maximum flexibility
- Hands-on curriculum taught by experienced biomedical industry professionals
- Learn immediately applicable skills for the biomedical industry
- Gain practical training to develop as an integrative and entrepreneurial biomedical R&D professional
- Engage in San Diego’s biomedical community and UC SanDiego’s academic resources
- Flexible curriculum to earn the Certificate or matriculate into the Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in Clinical Research

Key Topics

- Biomarkers
- Omics
- Precision medicine
- Translational imaging
- Intellectual property
- Biotechnology
- Drugs
- Cell & gene therapy
- Diagnostics
- Medical devices
- Digital health
- Regenerative medicine

Intended Audience

The Certificate program is targeting biomedical and healthcare professionals that have the motivation and potential to become leaders, innovators, or entrepreneurs. The courses are designed for developing professionals currently working in a life science ecosystem who want to boost their current career in the biomedical industry or transition to a career in the biomedical industry.

The Certificate program is also ideal for postdoctoral scholars who want to prepare themselves for a career in biomedical industry while completing their full-time study program.

Prerequisites

You need at least one of the following degrees:

- Academic doctoral degree (e.g., PhD, DPhil, DSc)
- Professional doctoral degree (e.g., MD, DVM, DMD, DDS, PharmD)

Significant exposure to or work experience in medical and/or biomedical science will make the experience more meaningful and fulfilling.

The Certificate Program Admission Committee will judge these competencies on a case-by-case basis.
Requirements for completion

The 10-unit (10-credit) Specialized Certificate in Translational Science requires the sequential completion of:

- Two required courses
- At least one elective course
- A required capstone project

The matrix below shows when and in what format courses are offered:

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<td><strong>Required Courses (4 units required)</strong></td>
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<td>Translational Research Fundamentals (CLRE-236)</td>
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| **Electives (Pick at least one: 2 units required)** |
| **Title & Course Number**                         | **Units** | **Fall** | **Winter** | **Spring** | **Summer** |
| Applied Translational Research II (CLRE-239)     | 2.00       | Online   |            |            | Online     |
| Translational Regenerative Medicine (CLRE-237)   | 2.00       | Online   |            |            |            |

| **Required Capstone Project (4 units required)** |
| **Title & Course Number**                        | **Units** | **Fall** | **Winter** | **Spring** | **Summer** |
| Certificate Project (CLRE-40004)                 | 4.00       | Specified by student | | | |

All courses are offered online through Zoom in a synchronous live format.

Video recordings of the lessons are also uploaded to the Canvas shell of that course afterwards and can be listened to asynchronously.
Translational Science
Specialized Certificate

Program Length
Students can complete the program as rapidly as over one year by taking one course per quarter for four consecutive quarters. Alternately, a student can spread the course sequence over up to five years, keeping in mind every course is offered every six months.

Program Cost
Each 2-unit (2-credit) course costs $1,600 and the 4-unit (4-credit) capstone project is offered at only $500.

Scholarship opportunity aimed at passionate individuals:
• Biomedical and healthcare professionals from companies not offering educational programs
• Postdoctoral scholars without a fellowship to support the certificate course fees

We offer special pricing for postdoctoral scholars. Please send us an email at rhoughtaling@ucsd.edu for more information.

Additional Learning
After taking the three initial courses (the two required ones, CLRE-236 and CLRE-238, and one of the two electives, CLRE-239 or CLRE-237), students can forego the Certificate and instead pursue an application to the Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in Clinical Research. Provided admission to this Master program, students will be credited the three completed Certificate courses as a Concentration in Translational Science for this Master program and will only have to complete the remaining requirements for that program.
Frequently Asked Questions

How do I apply to the certificate?
Create a My Extension student account at https://myextension.ucsd.edu/, click “Create an account” on the right side of the page, and follow the instructions to create an account. Click on the “Apply Now” button on the Certificate page (https://extension.ucsd.edu/translational) to complete the required fields on the application. Once you have saved the application, the “Submit” button will appear allowing you to submit your application for review and consideration. Once submitted, your application cannot be changed and you may track the progress of your application at My Extension.

Is there an application fee for the Certificate program?
No.

Can I apply for the Certificate program at any time?
Yes, you may apply to the program at any time, but there are two entry points during the year to start the Certificate: Summer and Winter quarters (see Requirements section above).

Is this Certificate program open to non-California residents?
Yes, the program is open to non-California residents, including non-US residents. All classes are done through Zoom and then uploaded to the Canvas shell of that course. The concurrent enrollment process and tuition are the same for all students. If you have questions about how enrolling in courses may or may not affect your visa status, please contact our International Department at ipinfo@ucsd.edu or (858) 534-6784.

If I work full-time, will I still be able to complete this Certificate program?
Yes. The program is specifically designed for accommodating working professionals. Courses are offered in the weekday early evenings, one course per quarter consisting in one 2-hour evening class and approximately 4 hours of study and coursework per week. Each course is offered twice per year (see Requirements section above) allowing the working professional to complete the Certificate as rapidly as over one year or take up to five years to complete it.
Is this Certificate program accredited?
This Certificate Program and all its courses have been developed by the Altman Clinical and Translational Research Institute for the School of Medicine and are administered by UC San Diego Extension in accordance with Extension policy and the regulations of the Academic Senate of the University of California.

Will this Certificate program prepare me for a certification exam?
No. This Certificate program is designed to provide students with knowledge and skills that will help them reach their career goals.

Do you provide job or internship placement?
No, we do not currently offer job placement assistance or internship placement, but the Certificate Capstone Project does provide real-world work-relevant experience and a connection to the local biomedical industry, mentoring, and career assistance. The courses are taught by experienced biomedical industry leaders and subject matter experts who you will be in personal contact with through the lessons.

Is financial aid available?
Yes, there are various financial aid options available to students. Please contact our Student Services Department at unex-reg@ucsd.edu or (858) 534-3400 for more information.

- Student Loans: UC San Diego Extension offers continuing education loans through UC Approved Lenders. Each institution offers low competitive interest rates and flexible payment options. Links to UC Approved Lenders can be found on our website. You are also encouraged to contact your personal financial institution about lending solutions.
- Federal Employment Development Department: The EDD provides a comprehensive range of employment and training services in partnership with state and local agencies. More information is available on their website.
- San Diego Workforce Partnership: Career centers located throughout San Diego County offer comprehensive employment and training services. More information is available on their website.
- Veterans Education Benefits: You may be able use your Veterans Education Benefits to help pay for your education at UC San Diego Extension. You can find more information on our website.
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): Unfortunately, courses or Certificates at UC San Diego Extension (such as this program) are not eligible for FAFSA funds.
About the Courses

When does course enrollment open for each quarter?
Our classes post to our website and become open for enrollment approximately two months prior to the new quarter starting (see Requirements section for detailed schedule). If you would like to get an email reminder, you can sign up for our newsletter(s) in My Extension under the “Preferences” tab.

When should I enroll in a course?
We recommend enrolling as soon as possible, as occasionally classes will reach full capacity.

What are the grading options for courses?
If you are taking courses towards the Certificate, you must complete your courses for credit (i.e., Letter Grade) and receive a C-/Pass or higher grade. Grades below a C-, No Pass, and Not for Credit will not count towards Certificate requirements.

What kind of credit do I earn?
The courses in this Certificate program are graduate-level credit-bearing courses. Credits earned in these courses may lead to the award of the Specialized Certificate in Translational Science or may be applied towards the Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in Clinical Research provided that you get admitted to this program (see Additional Learning section above for details).

Are courses transferrable?
UC San Diego Extension is not a degree-granting institution. However, many UC San Diego Extension courses can be transferred to other colleges or universities. The transferability of credit is determined solely by the receiving institution. You should discuss how your individual courses will transfer with the Office of the Registrar at the receiving institution prior to enrolling.

Can I take a course without registering for the Certificate?
Yes, you may take any course in this program—except the Capstone Project—without registering for the Certificate, provided you have applied to the Certificate for review of credentials.
How long is each course?
The courses run for approximately 11 weeks. For exact course dates of upcoming sections, visit the web page of the course you are interested in taking on our website.

When is each course offered?
Please visit each course webpage on the Certificate website (https://extension.ucsd.edu/translational) by clicking on the course title in the full-program general schedule table under the Courses section to see specific offering dates. You can also see the full-program general schedule in the Requirements section above.

How many hours can I expect to spend studying outside of class time?
Each student has their own learning style so this can vary greatly. As a rule of thumb, expect to spend an average of two hours studying for every hour you spend in-class. Students should plan to spend approximately 4-5 hours per week reading and completing coursework.

What are the instructors’ credentials?
The Certificate program courses are taught by experienced biomedical industry professionals and academic subject matter experts, and overseen by an advisory board of leaders in the field. You can view the advisor list under the Advisors section on the Certificate program website (<give link>). You can find information about the instructors, including a biography and credentials, on each course webpage, which can be accessed by clicking on the course title in the full program general schedule table under the Courses section of the Certificate website (https://extension.ucsd.edu/translational).

How do I communicate with a course instructor if I have a question during the course?
Each instructor has his/her own preferred method of communication and response policy, which is detailed in the course syllabus. However, most instructors utilize email or the discussion board and will respond within 24 - 48 hours.

What if I am having trouble with Canvas.com?
Please contact Student Services at unex-reg@ucsd.edu or (858) 534-3400 if you experience any issues logging in to any of our systems.
Will I get any hands-on experience in the program?

This Certificate program is focused on hands-on training. All courses combine theory with hands-on exercises. For more information about practical experience in any course, visit the course webpage by clicking on the course title in the full-program general schedule table under the Courses section of the Certificate website (https://extension.ucsd.edu/translational).

How will I receive my final course grade?

Once the course is completed, the main instructor (Course Director) has 10 business days to submit your grades. Once grades have been posted, you can view and print them from your Canvas.com account.

For More Information:

For program specific questions, please visit the certificate page on our website or contact a program representative at rhoughtaling@ucsd.edu.

For administrative questions, please contact our Student Services Department at unex-reg@ucsd.edu or (858) 534-4041.