Introduction
The CDU UCLA Medical Education Program is committed to train excellent physicians by means of providing evidence-based clinical, research, and practical training for individuals interested in serving urban, medically disadvantaged populations.

Students enrolled in the College are required to engage in a longitudinal research activity called “Medical Student Research Thesis Program” (MSRTP) at CDU which culminates in submission of a thesis.

The overall goal of the MSRTP is to engage medical students in systematic acquisition, organization, analysis, and interpretation of information to develop new knowledge, attitudes, and skills essential for becoming excellent physicians, providing excellent medical care, and becoming leaders in their fields.

Graduation Requirements
• Attend Research Lecture series.
• Develop and implement a closely mentored, but independent Research Project.
• Submit a research abstract for Scholarship Day at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.
• Give a presentation (poster or oral) at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA Scholarship Day.
• Give a presentation at CDU Annual Medical Student Research Colloquium.
• Submit mentor-approved Research Thesis.

Publication
MSRTP encourages student participation in scholarly activities including publications and presentations in local and national scientific meetings. Authorship of any scholarly activities after submission of the Research Thesis should be determined on an individual basis between the student and mentor/s.

If you have a passion for research and enjoy enriching the educational experiences of our future physicians, Mentorship may be right for you!

Research Time
Medical students are encouraged to begin thesis-related research activities at any time after the first term of the freshman year.

UCLA Medical Students are invited to participate in the research thesis program, provided that the interested student achieves and sustains a satisfactory level of academic performance in his/her general studies, as judged by the UCLA Dean’s Office.

Resources Available
CDU, Learning Resource Center (LRC):
Contact: 323-563-4886

Faculty Development Office:
Contact: Edwin Cabatit 323-563-4989

Health Science Library:
Contact: Kathy Russell, PhD 323-563-9308

Institutional Review Board (IRB):
Contact: 323-563-5902

MSRTP Program Coordinator:
Contact: Maribeth Hernandez 323-563-4965

Research Center for Minority Institution (RCMI):
Contact: 323-563-5911

SharePoint:
Contact: 323-563-4965
Section 2. Mentoring Requirements
Content/Research mentor must:
* Have a faculty appointment.
* Have all required IRB certificates to conduct research.
* Sign a mentoring contract.
* Submit a recent copy of a biographical sketch.

Section 3. Mentoring Approval
The bio-sketch and research interest area of each potential mentor will be reviewed by the program Chair and will be discussed with the student for final approval.

Section 4. Mentoring Term
A full mentoring term starts on the day the faculty signs the "mentor contract" form and ends by the day the mentor signs off the "Research Thesis" for final submission. Any scholarly activities after submission of the Research Thesis such as theses publications should be determined on individual basis between student and his/her mentor/s.

Section 5. Mentoring Responsibilities
* Invest sufficient time with the student to discuss research-related activities and requirements, and provide continuous direction and supervision.
* Provide research training opportunity for students.
* Schedule a regular research meeting time with the student.
* Assist students in formulating a FINER research project (i.e. Feasible, Interesting, Novel, Ethical, and Relevant).
* Participate in MS Research Protocol defense.
* Review research abstracts.
* Review and make recommendations for student's research posters & PPT.
* Participate in student's mock presentation in preparation for CDU Annual Medical Student Research Colloquium.
* Review and sign off student's final research thesis.

Section 6. Mentor Evaluation
* Review of current CV
* Sign off MS Research Question Evaluation
* Participate in student’s Research Protocol Defense
* Participate in UCLA Scholarship Day
* Participate in CDU Annual Medical Student Research Colloquium.
* Sign off Final Thesis
* Submit MS Performance Evaluation

Section 7. Dissolution of Mentor Status
A mentor can be removed by the program Chair for any of the following:
* Lack of scientific quality of the project due to ineffective mentoring
* Unavailability of the mentor
* Disharmony with the student
* Student progress is not satisfactory because of issues with the mentor
* Inconsistency with the principles and practice of MSRTP

Section 8. Mentoring Incentives
* Maintain CDU full/part time faculty appointment
* Publications
* Mentoring Evaluation
* Recognition