

Section 1 Postdoctoral Administration Subject 1.1 Postdoctoral Titles Policy 1.1.1 Postdoctoral Titles	June 2020 - Originated March 2024 – Revised Reviewed w/changes - Reviewed w/o changes – GSBS - Author
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Postdoctoral Titles

Definitions: A postdoctoral appointee is a research trainee who received a terminal degree, i.e., PhD, MD/PhD, MD, DVM, DPhil, SciD, etc., fewer than seven (7) years before the appointment, and is engaged in a temporary and defined period of mentored, advanced training. Exceptions to the time restriction will be considered on a case-by-case basis when candidates have been away from research activity since earning their terminal degrees or if they have earned another degree within the past seven years.

Policy: Postdoctoral appointees will receive one of four titles:

Postdoctoral Fellow is an individual funded from research grants, contracts, or other UTMB sources. Initial appointments into this title shall be for up to one (1) year. Reappointments shall be for a minimum of one (1) year and maximum of three (3) years. Reappointments may be less than three years under the following circumstances: 1) Less than three (3) years of programmatic work available; 2) Less than three (3) years of funding available; 3) Exhausted eligibility as a postdoctoral appointee; 4) Work authorization limitations; 5) Change in mentor.

Postdoctoral Trainee is an individual who has been awarded an individual Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) (normally an F32) or has been appointed to an institutional Kirschstein NRSA grant (normally a T32). Appointments and reappointments into this title shall be for a minimum duration equal to the duration of the fellowship or external funding.

Postdoctoral Clinical Fellow (PCF) is an individual that holds a clinical license (or is eligible for a provisional clinical license) and is enrolled in a UTMB program for the purpose of obtaining additional clinical and/or research training before transitioning into an independent clinical career. PCFs may be appointed for full- or part-time service and may simultaneously hold appointments as officers of instruction in the rank of assistant in clinical (department). When the fellow receives a stipend, the appointment as a postdoctoral clinical fellow is full-time and the assistant in clinical (department) is part-time. The reverse is true when the individual is paid a salary. Postdoctoral Clinical Fellows are exempt from the Postdoctoral Certificate Program requirement (Postdoctoral Academic Policies 02.01.01).

Interim Postdoctoral Fellow is a UTMB graduate who recently obtained their PhD degree or equivalent and requires a short-term appointment to complete an existing project from their graduate educational programs before moving on to other employment. The duration of these appointments are restricted to less than six months. Interim Postdoctoral Fellows are exempt from the Postdoctoral Certificate Program requirement (Postdoctoral Academic Policies 02.01.01).

With the exception of Interim Postdoctoral Fellow, each title will be followed by a number indicating the postdoctoral year, e.g., “Postdoctoral Fellow 3.” In the first year of training after receipt of the doctorate, the postdoctoral fellow or trainee will have a zero (in other words, no number) following the title. Someone called Postdoctoral Fellow 4 normally would be in the final year of the appointment.

Postdoctoral appointees hired after 1 September 2023 will have only these titles.