

Section 1 Postdoctoral Administrative Policies Subject 1.1 Postdoctoral Titles Policy 1.1.2 Postdoctoral Training Period	04-16-2010 - Originated - Reviewed w/ changes – Reviewed w/o changes – GSBS - Author
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## Postdoctoral Training Period

**Policy:** UTMB recognizes the standard postdoctoral period as five (5) years after receipt of the terminal degree. Some exceptions may be granted, see below.

**Procedure:** A person appointed at UTMB as a postdoctoral fellow or trainee after a recently awarded PhD or equivalent may work a total of five (5) years after receipt of the terminal degree with that title. If the appointee has had three (3) years of postdoctoral employment at another institution, his/her postdoctoral appointment at UTMB normally will be restricted to the final two years of postdoctoral training. On the other hand, an appointee who has held a postdoctoral research appointment at something less than 100% effort may be extended until the term of the appointment equals five (5) years of full time employment; e.g., two (2) years at 50% effort equals one (1) year FTE.

Some scientists may pursue two totally different postdoctoral assignments. For example, if a physics or mathematics trained fellow accepts a bio-informatics assignment, then the postdoctoral training period may need to extend an additional one or two years. In these cases, a sixth- or a seventh-year postdoctoral appointment may be offered, after review by the mentor's departmental chair and upon approval of the Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and, in cases beyond six (6) years, the Provost. Care must be given to assure that these extensions are offered in the best interests of the fellow, rather than the mentor.

In cases of those with terminal clinical medical (veterinarian, dental) degrees or combined MD/PhD degrees, they may complete the 5-year research training program within eight (8) years (levels 0-7), with the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences for a sixth year and additional approval of the Provost for anything after that. In these cases, UTMB will typically follow the NIH approach to defining the postdoctoral training period.

After the training period, a postdoctoral fellow or trainee must 1) be transferred to a different laboratory position (e.g., Research Scientist, a non-faculty research position), 2) be appointed to a faculty position, either tenure or non-tenure track, with attendant faculty responsibilities, or 3) leave UTMB.