M.S. in Clinical Research

The Masters in Clinical Research program allows students in a professional degree program to complete an intensive, year-long master’s program in clinical research. The MSCR degree is awarded by Rackham Graduate School through the Department of Epidemiology in the U-M School of Public Health. The program is designed to fill a unique gap in the educational training for clinical and translational researchers by introducing students to clinical research early in their professional course of study. Those enrolled will complete a 38 credit degree program that includes an 8 credit mentored research project.

Core Didactic Curriculum
The Core Didactic Curriculum includes 24 academic credit hours over three semesters. The curriculum includes training from the School of Public Health in biostatistical methods and techniques, epidemiology, study design, and data quality, as well as coursework in ethics, regulation, and the responsible conduct of research. The required courses are well developed and have an established track record in their own right, but this Core Curriculum represents the first time they are brought together to meet the needs of the clinical researcher of today and the future.

Research Practicum
The Research Practicum consists of 6 academic credit hours. Students will craft a research experience that draws on their intensive specialized course electives. The research practicum provides increasing independence for trainees over time, but maintains the structure and oversight necessary to ensure that learning goals are met. The Practicum begins with combined classroom and field study. This closely-supervised experience allows trainees to work in small groups, conducting their field projects and complementary classroom work in the context of a structured course. This is followed by "hands-on" exercises designed to be concurrent with outside mentored research. These experiences include practical instruction on the logistics of study conduct, data collection, and scientific writing, taught in a hands-on environment with the participation of career professionals at all levels, this unit provides support to trainees as they move toward more independent work. Trainees are expected to participate in a mentored research experience, during the second semester of didactic training, and begin work on the project during the summer.

Course Electives
The MSCR program includes nine academic credit hours of Specialized Course Electives. Each trainee will be required to work with an academic advisor to develop their own set of Specialized Course Electives that will fulfill the trainee's personal research career goals and objectives. The courses selected may not be in an area the trainee works in directly, but will help maximize their educational experience and further their health sciences career.

Specialized Course Electives may include for-credit didactic instruction, as well as non-credit lectures or web modules. Non-credit lecture and web modules will be made available to each trainee and may be suggested by the trainee's advisor as an additional element to enhance the set of specialized course electives.