

Applying to Professional Programs ...

Medicine

Trent Career Centre

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...a place to begin

Thinking about Medicine? Start Early!

In Ontario, there are six medical schools and the application process is centralized through the Ontario Medical School Application System (OMSAS). The application cycle usually begins in the summer and the deadline to register on-line for OMSAS application is in September. The complete application deadline is early October. Start preparing during the summer prior to the application deadline. OMSAS recommends that applicants allow from 10-30 hours preparing their application. The application is at: OMSAS ouac.ca/omsas. Also, some schools have information sessions which you can attend to learn more about the admission process and studying medicine.

Ontario Universities with Medical Schools (English)

- McMaster University
- Northern Ontario School of Medicine
- University of Ottawa
- Queen's University
- University of Toronto
- The University of Western Ontario

Important! All medical schools have unique admissions requirements

Check the OMSAS web site and the individual schools' web sites for specific information. Admissions requirements can change at any time without notice so check school web sites regularly for updated information. Individual school web sites will also provide you with information not available on the OMSAS web site: for example, you may find information about the formulae used by the school in selection i.e. how GPA, MCAT scores, and other factors are weighted. They may also provide information on the background of successful applicants. Some schools have additional requirements, such as McMaster, which requires that all applicants write the Computer-based Assessment for Sampling Personal Characteristics (CASPer).

Writing the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT):

All medical schools in Ontario require the MCAT except for the University of Ottawa and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. The MCAT assesses concepts in the biological, biochemical, chemical and physical sciences as well as problem solving, critical thinking, and writing skills. There are four multiple choice sections: Biological & Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems; Chemical & Physical Foundations of Biological Systems; Psychological, Social & Biological Foundations of Behaviors; and Critical Analysis & Reasoning Skills (only section required by McMaster). Test dates are offered between January and September. Registration is at the web site: aamc.org/mcat. Practice tests, some free, are available at: e-mcat.com, as well as other test preparation companies. Reserve a seat as early as possible as seats may be limited at your preferred testing location. Read the test taking information carefully before attending the exam as there are detailed instructions about information required such as photo ID.

Information Required for Application

Autobiographical Sketch

Through OMSAS, all applicants will be required to submit a comprehensive list of all activities from the age of 16 in seven categories: education, employment, volunteer, extra-curricular activities, awards and accomplishments, research, and other. Individual schools may ask for more or less detail in these categories. For example, Ottawa only requires information from activities completed during undergraduate studies. All schools except McMaster require contact information for verifiers for these activities.

References

All applicants will be required to submit three references. The reference forms, called Confidential Assessment Forms, are available through the on-line application.

Transcripts

Transcripts from all post-secondary courses must be sent to OMSAS, including college or graduate courses. Applicants will have to request that the registrar send transcripts to OMSAS.

Post-secondary education

GPA: The required GPA varies from school to school and GPA minimums can change annually. The courses assessed and formulae used to calculate GPA vary from school to school. Your GPA will be translated on to the OMSAS 4 point scale. The OMASAS website has a grade conversion table for all Canadian universities including Trent! Some schools will use supplementary, distance, summer and part-time courses in calculating the GPA, while others will only use courses that are part of a full-time program. Some offers will be conditional on completion of courses and maintaining the GPA.

Prerequisites: Most medical schools suggest a combination of the biological, physical and social sciences and the humanities. However, some medical schools have no specific course prerequisites, including McMaster, Western and Northern Ontario School of Medicine.

Academic requirements: Some schools require applicants to have completed or be in the final year of an Honours undergraduate degree while other schools will accept applications from students during their 3rd year.

Interviews:

Medical schools include an interview in the application process. Some use the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) format while others use a standard panel interview. Some use a combination.

After graduation – How to become licensed to practice medicine

Medical school usually takes 4 years to complete (3 at McMaster), and leads to a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree. After the MD is obtained, graduates must complete a residency program. All doctors must then successfully complete the Medical Council of Canada's (MCC) qualifying exams. In Ontario, family doctors will then complete an approved 2 year residency and write an exam to be certified through the College of Family Physicians of Canada. Finally, a license to practice is granted through the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. Doctors who want to specialize in a particular area such as pediatrics or psychiatry must complete multi-year residencies, depending on the specialty. Specialists must also pass certification exams in their specialty administered by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC).