

Considering Medical School

Is a Career In Medicine Right for Me?

Before Pursuing A Medical Career...

A career in medicine can be very rewarding. However, before you make a decision, you should carefully research the field to investigate your options and your suitability for the profession. There are many different ways to obtain the information necessary to make an informed decision; this resource lists a few of them.

Do you see yourself...

- Continuing with your education and training after your undergraduate degree?
- Performing well in high pressure, stressful situations?
- Informing a patient that they have a terminal illness?
- Informing a patient's family that the patient has passed away?
- Being responsible for the well being of a patient?
- Being "on-call" throughout the night after a long day of work?
- Working shifts (including nights) during your residency and practice?

Non-Academic Involvement

Throughout your studies, involvement in a variety of experiences through school, work, and extracurricular activities are important. Experiences in the medical field are also ideal. They expose you to the role of the health professional and show how serious you are about pursuing a medical career. It is important to remember that it is not just your grades and MCAT scores that count towards admission; rather it is the quality of all your experiences throughout your undergraduate career.

MED PLUS

The Med Plus program is a limited-enrolment, co-curricular program for Brock University students who have an interest in pursuing a health-related career. This four-year program complements students' academic studies, provides exposure to various health care professions and assists them in developing a network of supportive health care professionals in the Niagara Region. For more information or to apply for the Med Plus program, go to the Career Services website at careerservices.brocku.ca, or send an e-mail to medpasst@brocku.ca.

The MCAT

4 of the 6 Medical Schools in Ontario require applicants to submit MCAT scores. For information on the MCAT, see our Entrance Exam Guide in the Career Resource Centre. It is advisable to begin preparing well in advance for the test by using study guides, taking prep courses, and going to the MCAT website <http://www.aamc.org/mcat> for test dates and locations.

Quick Tip: Even if you have completed life and physical science courses in university, most students spend 2-3 months studying in advance for the MCAT.

Educational Requirements

Each of the 6 Medical Schools in Ontario has their own academic and non-academic entrance requirements. Candidates should check each school's website for detailed information about their specific requirements. The OMSAS (Ontario Medical School Application Service) controls the application process for all Ontario medical schools; therefore you must apply through the OMSAS website. Typically the application deadline for Ontario medical schools is the beginning of October. Deadlines can also be found on the OMSAS website. Watch for both account registration and application deadlines; if you miss either of them, you will be ineligible to apply for the coming year.

How To Apply To Ontario Universities

The admission process is handled centrally by the Ontario Medical School Application Service (OMSAS). <http://www.ouac.on.ca/omsas>

- The OMSAS instruction booklet and application can both be found online at the above address.
- Where possible, Candidates should apply online. This will allow them to make any necessary corrections easily, and will decrease the processing time.
- Each university's admission requirements are different. Applicants should check each university's website to verify that they meet the specific requirements, and to ensure that they have submitted all required documents/materials.
- For information on interviews and how to write letters of intent and personal statements visit the Career Resource Centre.

Quick Tip: It is advisable to create an OMSAS account well before the deadline, and make additions to it throughout the summer. This way you can avoid missing any deadlines and ensure that your package is complete.

Ontario Medical Schools

McMaster University

<http://www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/mdprog>

Northern Ontario School of Medicine

<http://www.normed.ca>

Queens University

<http://meds.queensu.ca/undergrad>

University of Ottawa

<http://www.intermed.med.uottawa.ca/Students/MD/eng/undergraduate.html>

University of Toronto

<http://www.facmed.utoronto.ca>

University of Western Ontario

<http://www.med.uwo.ca>

Resources available in Career Services

- **Best 168 Medical Schools 2008 Edition**, The Princeton Review
- **Opportunities in Health and Medical Careers**, L.P. D'orazio & I.D. Snook Jr.
- **MCAT CBT Study Guide**, The Princeton Review
- **Entrance Exam Guide**, Brock University Career Services