

FPEH Undergraduate Guide to Medical Doctor (M.D.) Programs 2010

The Ontario Universities Application Centre (OUAC) is now accepting applications from students who want to attend Medical School in Ontario starting in August/September 2010.

The deadline to create an application account for 2010 entry is September 15, 2009 (4:30 p.m. EDT). The deadline for students to have their complete file submitted to OUAC once they have created their account is October 1, 2009 (4:30 p.m. EDT). These are strict deadlines and no exceptions are made for late applications. Applications must be completed using the COMPASS system on the OUAC website: <http://www.ouac.on.ca/omsas/index.html>

Preparing for Medical School

There are six Universities in Ontario that offer the Medical Doctor (M.D.) program.

[McMaster University](#)

[Northern Ontario School of Medicine](#)

[University of Ottawa](#)

[Queen's University](#)

[University of Toronto](#)

[University of Western Ontario](#)

Competition to get into medical school is very high. All of the schools require excellent university grades, at least 15.0 undergraduate academic credits completed prior to starting the M.D. (Northern & Western require 4 years/20.0 credits), interviews and confidential assessment forms. Some schools also require MCAT results, varying prerequisites, police record checks, autobiographical submissions, and CPR level 'C'.

PAC rotation grades will be factored in your admission average by OMSAS though the PAC courses will not count toward your yearly academic credit totals. It is important to score very well in the PAC component of the undergraduate program in addition to the academic component.

General Guidelines

Prerequisites and entry requirements vary from school to school. To view the various requirements & prerequisites for each school visit the OUAC website and download the 2010 OMSAS booklet in PDF format. <http://www.ouac.on.ca/omsas/index.html>. It is helpful for students to narrow their focus to their top two or three medical school choices that have similar entry requirements.

Since availability in many Arts & Science electives is limited, summer school may be necessary to complete all of the requested prerequisites.

Students should follow a program of study that will offer an alternative to medicine should they not be accepted.

From a degree planning perspective the key decision for the student in the undergraduate program is whether or not they want to use university level undergraduate courses to prepare for the MCAT. The following medical schools require the full MCAT: Queen's University, University of Toronto, and the University of Western Ontario. McMaster requires the Verbal Reasoning section of the MCAT.

The MCAT

The American Association of Medical Colleges administers the MCAT at various times during the year. The test is designed to evaluate prospective medical students' problem solving, critical thinking, and writing skills as well as their knowledge of science concepts and principles needed to study medicine. The

test reports standardized scores in four major areas: Verbal Reasoning, Physical Sciences, Writing Sample, and Biological Sciences.

Preparation for the MCAT can be through self study, MCAT preparation courses offered by independent companies, or through university level courses. It is recommended that undergraduate students who want to prepare for the MCAT through university course work consider taking the following elective Arts & Science courses:

- BIO150Y1 – Organisms in their Environment
- CHM138H1 – Introductory Organic Chemistry I
- CHM139H1 – Chemistry: Physical Principles
- PHY131H1 – Introduction to Physics I
- PHY132H1 – Introduction to Physics II

The BPHE program limits students to 2.0 Arts & Science electives at the 100 series level. If a student chooses to do all of the courses above, one credit would count as an 'extra' credit and would not be counted towards the degree. In general the most recent 100 series course(s) completed will be designated as the extra course(s) on the transcript. Students who wish to take an extra credit should contact the Undergraduate Program Office for advice on how to strategically designate a course as extra on their transcript.

Other courses students have found helpful in preparing for the MCAT include ANA126Y, PSL200Y, PHE209H, PHE325Y, PHE308H, PHE319H, PHE414H, BCH210H, BIO240H/241H or BIO255Y, PHY231H, & CHM247H.

More information about the MCAT test, including sample questions, is available at the official MCAT website: <http://www.aamc.org/students/mcat/>

Autobiographical Sketch

All applicants will be asked to provide the medical schools they apply to with an autobiographical sketch of their activities since the age of 16. In particular, the medical schools are interested in an applicant's activities under the following headings: Formal Education, Employment, Volunteer Activities, Extracurricular Activities, Awards and Accomplishments, Research, Other. Applicants are asked to elaborate on their experiences "*both structured and non-structured, that demonstrate an ability to determine needs in their community and a willingness to play a part in filling those needs.*"

It is advisable for students wishing to attend medical school to pursue ongoing activities that will strengthen their Autobiographical Sketch. In particular the research courses PHE390Y/490Y and the leadership placement courses PHE350Y/450Y offered in the undergraduate program can assist with this.

Useful Medicine Links

[Association of American Medical Colleges](#) – has links to all medical schools in Canada & the USA

[Canadian Academy of Sports Medicine](#)

[Canadian Medical Association](#)

[College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario](#)

[U of T Office of Interprofessional Education](#)

[University of Toronto Premedical Society](#) - inactive

[MCAT](#)

[Kaplan](#) – offers MCAT preparation courses

[The Princeton Review](#) – offers MCAT preparation courses

[Prep101](#) – offers MCAT preparation courses