**Becoming a Doctor**

The MD degree takes four years to complete and includes the study of both basic medical sciences and practical training in hospitals and other clinical sites. In addition, some of the training takes place in rural areas. Obtaining the MD degree is only the first step to becoming a doctor. To become a licensed physician, you need to complete postgraduate training as a medical resident, which can be as short as two years to become a family doctor, or as much as four to five years (or more) for other specialties (e.g., pediatrician, surgeon, psychiatrist).

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**Aboriginal Admissions Program**

**More Information**

If you would like more information about the College of Medicine Aboriginal Admissions Program, please contact:

Sherrill Bueckert  
Admissions Coordinator, Admissions Office  
Phone: (306) 966-4030 / 966-6143  
E-mail: med.admissions@usask.ca

Website: medicine.usask.ca/admissions

Admissions Office  
College of Medicine  
University of Saskatchewan  
Box 17, 107 Wiggins Road  
Health Sciences Building  
Saskatoon, SK  S7N 5E5
The Program

Through the College of Medicine Aboriginal Admissions Program, people of Aboriginal (Metis, Inuit and First Nations) ancestry can apply for admission to the Medical Doctor (MD) program of study. The program is designed to support growth in the number of Aboriginal people becoming doctors in Saskatchewan. Ten percent of the positions available in the MD degree program each year are specifically for applicants of Aboriginal ancestry.

The program is open to all residents of Canada, with preference given to residents of Saskatchewan, the Yukon, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. (Residency is defined more specifically on the College of Medicine admissions website at medicine.usask.ca/admissions in the Applicant Information document.)

To be considered in the Aboriginal Admissions Program category, indicate on the application form that your ancestry is Aboriginal (proof of ancestry is required). Aboriginal applicants are required to meet the minimum standards for admission, as described in this brochure.

Requirements for Admission

The College of Medicine selects students based on their academic ability and personal qualities. Be sure to thoroughly review the admission requirements posted at medicine.usask.ca/admissions, as this is the most up-to-date and complete information. A brief overview is provided here:

Academic Requirements

The study of medicine requires a good background in the sciences as well as some training in the humanities, social sciences and communication. Applicants to the MD program must have a four-year baccalaureate degree prior to entry into medicine. The minimum average required for admission is 75 per cent. Potential applicants should refer to the website for clarification as to how the university academic average (UAA) will be calculated and the timeframe requirements. High school students should review course requirements for the baccalaureate degree they intend to pursue when making decisions regarding high school courses.

The Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) is a requirement for admission, as well. Specific prerequisite courses at the university level are not required; however, introductory-level courses in the following areas are recommended to potential applicants to prepare for both the content in the MCAT and the basic sciences covered in the first two years of the MD degree program: biochemistry, biology, chemistry, English, psychology, physics and statistics. Further details regarding the MCAT can be found on the Association of American Medical Colleges website (aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/).

Personal Qualities

A good physician should be compassionate, personable, trustworthy, conscientious, hardworking, mature, and have broad general knowledge and interests. These personal qualities are assessed through the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) process described in more detail at medicine.usask.ca/admissions.

Application Procedure

Apply to the College of Medicine online at medicine.usask.ca/admissions.

Selection Procedure

The College of Medicine Admissions makes its final decisions of those being accepted into the MD program each year in May. Students who have applied through the Aboriginal Admissions Program are assessed first to see if they would be successful in the general applicant pool. If so, they are admitted in that category. If not, they are considered within the Aboriginal Admissions Program pool.

Cost

The cost of medical school, including tuition, other fees, books, and equipment, is about $20,000 in the first year and a bit less in the following years. There are also the costs of housing, food and transportation. However, you may qualify for government assistance, band support and various bursaries and scholarships. Once you have completed the four-year MD degree, you will receive a salary during your postgraduate residency or specialty training.

Further Support

Aboriginal Student Mentorship Program

If you are interested in medicine and would like some exposure before deciding whether or not medicine is right for you, the college offers Aboriginal students the opportunity to spend a half or full day in a hospital or clinic with a physician. Meet medical students, doctors and other health care workers, and experience their work first-hand.

If you would like more information, please contact:

Val Arnault-Pelletier  
Aboriginal Coordinator  
Phone: (306) 966-5901  
E-mail: valerie.arnault@usask.ca

College of Medicine  
University of Saskatchewan  
Box 17, 107 Wiggins Road  
Health Sciences Building  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5E5

College of Medicine Pre-Med Awards for Aboriginal Students

The College of Medicine offers annual scholarships to continuing students of Aboriginal ancestry in premedical studies registered in a minimum of 24 credit units (September-April) and working towards a four-year baccalaureate degree program at an accredited Saskatchewan post-secondary institution. If you would like more information or an application form, please contact the Admissions Office or visit our website at medicine.usask.ca/programs/undergraduate-md.php.

Applications for the Pre-Med Awards will be available online, with the deadline to apply of October 1.