Getting your MD:
The Saskatchewan experience
A new, enhanced curriculum over the four-year MD program provides you with a solid basis in preparatory clinical medicine and biomedical sciences while incorporating more time for clinical learning. Round out your education with opportunities to participate in medical research through the Dean’s Summer Research Projects and other initiatives.

Our faculty and staff are here to support your success, and we touch base with you often through meetings and (free!) lunches. You are further supported by our student services team across career and academic advising, wellness programs and events, mentoring opportunities with other students and physicians, regular one-on-one “pulse checks” during pre-clerkship (Years 1 and 2) and more.
During Year 1, the whole class of about 100 will study together at our Saskatoon campus. For each of Years 2 through 4, about 40 students call our Regina campus at the Regina General Hospital (RGH) home, while about 60 study at the Saskatoon campus.

In Years 3 and 4, a small number of students—usually about four—complete their degree at our Prince Albert (PA) instructional site. As well, the college has launched the Saskatchewan Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (SLIC), and about four of our medical students take all of Year 3 at Meadow Lake or Estevan.

You will also have opportunities to learn in smaller centres at our distributed sites in Swift Current, Moose Jaw, North Battleford and La Ronge during summer rural externships and clerkships. In total, more than 40 sites around Saskatchewan provide clinical learning experiences to round out your professional training across urban, rural and remote medicine, Indigenous health and medical specialties (core rotations include emergency medicine, internal medicine, surgery, family medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry, obstetrics and gynecology, and anesthesia).
Making the Links

This two-year Certificate in Global Health is an accredited program for first and second-year MD students that focuses on preparation for work with marginalized, underserved communities locally and globally. Rich in interactive, experiential and didactic learning opportunities, this is currently the only undergraduate certificate in global health in Canada.

Switch

Student Wellness Initiative Toward Community Health (SWITCH) is a student-run inner-city Saskatoon clinic, where you can volunteer and work alongside a doctor or nurse practitioner, cultural support worker, receptionist and other health-care mentors. In addition to traditional clinical services, SWITCH offers a range of other services including counselling, physical therapy, cultural supports, gynecology, pediatrics, pharmacy and nutritional education.

Search

Student Energy in Action in Regina for Community Health (SEARCH) is a student-run, interdisciplinary primary health-care initiative in North Central Regina. SEARCH has many student volunteers, professional mentors and partners, and serves over 1,000 clients each year. Your volunteer opportunities include shadowing and doing initial assessments of clients in the medical clinic.

Additional Learning Opportunities
ABORIGINAL HEALTH ELECTIVES

Aboriginal health electives provide unique opportunities, placing you among interdisciplinary teams of health-care providers where you are engaged in rural, patient-centered care. Experiences include integrated and culturally respectful approaches to care for First Nations and Métis peoples, and opportunities to connect with cultural advisors (Elders), health educators and residential school support workers as they interact with Indigenous patients. These electives are offered at All Nations Healing Hospital in Fort Qu’Appelle, within First Nations and Métis Health Services in Saskatoon, at Kawacatoose First Nation and at the White Cap Health Centre. Areas of focus at these different sites range from emergency medicine, mental health, maternal services and general wards to residential school outcomes, addictions, abuse, family counselling and crisis interventions.

MD/MBA

A unique opportunity exists for you to complete dual MD and MBA degrees. If accepted into the College of Medicine, you can apply to and, if accepted, complete an MBA degree in addition to the MD degree. Up to two applicants per year are accepted. The program is designed to create effective managers and teach leadership roles in the medical profession.

MD/PHD

The combined MD/PhD program is intended for undergraduate medical students wanting a career as a clinical scientist. Areas of research interest can range from molecular science to social/population determinants of health.

EXTRACURRICULAR

Get involved in a range of college and university activities from sports and recreational leagues to politics and fundraising initiatives. The Student Medical Society of Saskatchewan is an important conduit of information for our students. Participate on the college’s wellness committee or join other students and faculty members on the Aboriginal, Rural and Remote Health Group.

PGME IN SASKATCHEWAN

Following completion of the MD degree, a minimum of two years and up to six years are spent in residency training. The Postgraduate Medical Education Office (PGME) works with residents to ensure that your educational experience during the time you spend at the University of Saskatchewan provides you with the best possible program to meet your needs and future career goals. The role of the PGME office is one of co-ordination—with residents, teaching hospitals, various stakeholder agencies, departments and program directors.
The **Saskatoon** experience

Our Saskatoon campus is located in the newly renovated Health Sciences Building at the University of Saskatchewan. Experience campus life with members of five other professional health science colleges—an opportunity unique in western Canada.

The Health Sciences Building provides vital educational support and research facilities, including state-of-the-art lecture theatres, classrooms and research laboratories, meeting and breakout rooms, and study and lounge spaces.

In E Wing, the Clinical Learning Resource Centre is home to skills labs, examination rooms, procedure labs and simulation labs, as well as a standardized patient program. E Wing also houses the Leslie and Irene Dubé Health Sciences Library, opened in 2013, that spans three floors and features 23 bookable group/study rooms to support collaborative work and quiet study.

In Years 3 and 4 of the MD program, a small number of students complete their studies at our Prince Albert (PA) instructional site at Victoria Hospital. In addition to the usual inpatient and outpatient experiences, PA offers first-hand exposure to trauma, Indigenous health, public health, addictions medicine and prison health.

The success and popularity of the Rural Family Medicine Program here is a reflection of this diversity of care. As the third-largest service district in Saskatchewan, the diverse population and health needs are balanced by the broad range of rural, urban and specialty physician services found in PA.

In 2019, the newly renovated A Wing will house the administrative offices of the dean of medicine (currently in D Wing), the Undergraduate Medical Education program (currently B Wing), the Postgraduate Medical Education program (St. Andrew’s College) and Continuing Medical Education (Royal University Hospital).

The college is closely affiliated with Saskatoon’s three hospitals: RUH, St. Paul’s and Saskatoon City Hospital, and a complementary shuttle service is available for transportation between these facilities. The new Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital is currently being built at the RUH site.

The **Prince Albert** experience

In Years 3 and 4 of the MD program, a small number of students complete their studies at our Prince Albert (PA) instructional site at Victoria Hospital. In addition to the usual inpatient and outpatient experiences, PA offers first-hand exposure to trauma, Indigenous health, public health, addictions medicine and prison health.

The local population is also characterized by its great proportion of both elderly and young patients—with a high birthrate of more than 1,500 deliveries per year, ranging from routine to extreme with complexity.

Thirty per cent of the population is Indigenous. Victoria Hospital’s emergency room is one of the busiest in the province, and 90 per cent of visits are urgent, emergent or critical. The broad range of learning opportunities is supported by low preceptor (teaching medical professional) to student ratios.
The Regina experience

Our Regina campus at RGH offers learners a close-knit community, and our students frequently comment on the quality of their interactions and the personalized, hands-on approach to teaching and learning they experience in Regina.

The hospital houses multiple facilities for our learners, many of which are conveniently located in the Health Sciences Learning and Resource Centre. Additionally, the Dilawri Simulation Centre, an auditorium, a health sciences library and the College of Medicine Regina campus leadership and administrative office are situated at RGH.

The resource centre includes a large classroom, meeting rooms and smaller breakout rooms, a student lounge, study space and computer room for all health science students, as well as dedicated wireless internet access and computer charging stations.

The classroom and the RGH auditorium are the main classroom sites for all Year 2, 3 and 4 medical students training in Regina, and are fully equipped for internet-based simultaneous lecture transmission and capture technology so that students in both Saskatoon and Regina can interact with each other and professors at both sites, with lectures generated from either location.

The RGH health sciences librarians and materials provide on-site resources for medical learners and faculty, in addition to USask centralized library services.

The Dilawri Simulation Centre enables facilitated learning sessions and independent skill development, and features a full array of high-fidelity simulators—premature, newborn, pediatric and adult, as well as a state-of-the-art birthing mannequin. The centre provides after-hours access for medical learners involved in special interest groups and a rich environment for interprofessional simulated learning.

RGH is the city’s trauma centre, complete with emergency helipad. Pasqua Hospital, which houses the Allan Blair Cancer Centre, as well as the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre, are short drives away. A complementary shuttle service provides transportation between these three major health centres.

Tours of the College of Medicine Regina campus are available by contacting Deanna Vilagos at 306-766-0554 or deanna.vilagos@saskhealthauthority.ca.

The SLIC experience

The college has just introduced a Saskatchewan Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (SLIC) that extends for 48 weeks during Year 3, with four positions available for students at sites in Estevan and Meadow Lake. The experience features comprehensive care of patients over time, while meeting the third-year clerkship core clinic competencies across multiple disciplines simultaneously in one teaching environment.