

## COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

**\*\*\*NOTE: FOR COMPLETE DETAILS ON THESE QUESTIONS AND MORE, PLEASE READ THE APPLICANT INFORMATION DOCUMENT ON OUR WEBSITE\*\*\***

#### GENERAL

**Can I book an appointment to meet with an advisor?** No, we do not take appointments nor do we do advising. All communication with the Admissions Office must be done via email.

**What is the application deadline?** October 1, 2020 at 4:00pm (Saskatchewan time).

**When does the application open?** The online application opens in early August.

**Are non-academic activities considered?** No, a record of volunteer activities is not considered. However, a supervisor from a volunteer experience can be used as one of your references.

**Do you accept International students?** No, applicants must have lived in Canada for at least three years prior to August 1 of the year in which admission is being sought and must be a Canadian citizen or have Permanent Resident status by the application deadline.

**Can I transfer into the MD program from another medical school?** No, the College of Medicine does not accept transfer students from another medical school. All applicants must follow the complete admissions process. Please see the Transfer Student Policy in the Applicant Information Document.

#### UAA CALCULATION/ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

**Which degree should I get to be eligible to apply for Medicine or which degree looks best on an application?** Any four-year baccalaureate degree from an accredited degree-granting institution will be accepted. No degree holds more weight than another.

**How is a withdrawn course on my transcript treated?** A withdrawn course noted on a transcript has no bearing on an application.

**What prerequisite courses do I need to take?** There are no high school or university level prerequisite courses required.

**How is a repeated course calculated?** An initial course and a repeated course will both be counted if they fall within the courses used to calculate the UAA (see the Applicant Information Document).

**Are summer courses counted?** It does not matter what time of year courses are taken as long as the degree is awarded in the required timeframe as outlined in the Applicant Information Document.

**Do you accept online courses?** Up to 60 credit units of distance education are allowed. Please see the Applicant Information document for details on terms affected by COVID-19.

**Will my UAA be rounded up?** We round to two decimal places. (Example: 89.23795% will be rounded to 89.24%)

**What if my school uses letter grading?** Please email the Admissions Office with the name of the institution you attend and we will send you a conversion scale you can use to convert your grades to percentages.

**Do I need to carry a full course load?** No, however, your degree must be completed within the required timeframe (see Applicant Information Document).

**If I take extra classes to increase my average will they count towards my UAA?** No, courses taken after the awarding of a degree will not count towards your UAA unless it results in another degree that will be completed before entry to Medicine.

**Do you accept WES or IQAS evaluations?** No.

**Are pass/fail courses considered in the UAA calculation?** Up to 60 credit units are considered. See Applicant Information document for more details.

**Is a Master's degree or PhD considered?** Yes, please see Graduate Students in the Academic Requirements section of the Applicant Information document for more information.

**Will my foreign degree be acceptable?** Any inquiry pertaining to the review and evaluation of a foreign transcript (not including American institutions) must be accompanied by a valid MCAT result (test written no earlier than January 2017). The review may take weeks to process so the transcripts must be received at least two months prior to the application deadline.

## **RESIDENCY**

**If I have a family member who grew up in Saskatchewan or a relative who currently lives in Saskatchewan, can I apply as a Saskatchewan resident?** No, you must be physically residing in Saskatchewan to be considered a Saskatchewan resident.

**What if I am from Saskatchewan, but left to attend university outside of the province?** As long as you can provide proof that you return to Saskatchewan when school is not in session, you will still be considered a Saskatchewan resident applicant.

**Can I apply as a Saskatchewan resident if I took my undergrad degree at a Saskatchewan university?** You must be able to provide proof that you reside in Saskatchewan for three years immediately preceding August 1 of the year in which you are seeking admission. If you have completed your degree, you must remain in Saskatchewan in order to not break your residency. Documented proof will need to be provided.

**Can I apply as a Saskatchewan resident if I am in the military?** You must have physically resided in Saskatchewan for at least 12 consecutive months immediately preceding October 1 of the year of application and obtain written approval from the Admissions Office.

**Can I apply if I am new to Canada?** Applicants must have lived in Canada for at least three years prior to August 1 of the year in which admission is being sought.

## **MCAT**

**What is the last MCAT testing date you will accept?** The MCAT must be written prior to the application deadline.

**As a non-Saskatchewan resident applicant, can I still apply if I meet the MCAT scores in all but one section?** No, non-Saskatchewan resident applicants must meet the test sum score minimum as well as the minimum score for each of the four sections to be eligible to apply.

**If I have written more than one MCAT, which score is used?** Only the most recent MCAT score is used.

**Am I required to release my scores during the dates listed on the website even if I have already released them?** Yes! Only scores released during the stated time period will be considered.

**What is the earliest MCAT result accepted?** The earliest accepted scores for application 2020 are from January 2017.

## **TRANSCRIPTS**

**Can I mail my transcripts myself?** Transcripts must be sent directly from the institution to our office. Transcripts that have passed through an applicant's hand are deemed to be unofficial and will not be accepted even if they are sealed.

**Due to COVID-19 my school will not mail physical transcripts, where can my school email the digital transcript?** Please have the institution send to our office email address – [med.admissions@usask.ca](mailto:med.admissions@usask.ca).

**Will the office confirm with me when they have received my transcripts?** No. Due to the high volume of transcripts that are received in our office, we are unable to confirm receipt of transcripts.

**Do I need to submit a transcript from a foreign school even if only attended one semester there?** Yes, you must have official transcripts sent directly from every institution ever attended.

**If I received transfer credits on a transcript from another institution I attended, do I still need to submit the transcript for the institution I was granted transfer credit for?** Yes, you must have official transcripts sent directly from every institution ever attended, even if you received transfer credits.

**Do applicants who re-apply need to submit transcripts again?** If no new courses were taken, you do not need to order new transcripts. However, you must submit a request to the Admissions Office to have your transcripts pulled forward.

## **ONLINE APPLICATION**

**After I submitted my application, can I log back in to make changes?** No, once you have submitted the application you cannot log back in. Any changes/updates have to be emailed to the Admissions Office.

**How can I track the status of my application?** Our system does not track an applicant's status through the application process. You will be notified by mid-May of the outcome of your application.

**What do I do if I lost/forgot my password and am unable to log in to complete my application?** Email [med.admissions@usask.ca](mailto:med.admissions@usask.ca) and we will reset your password for you.

**What is the "Other Documents" section for?** You can upload any additional documents here relating to residency, PR Card or proof of Indigenous ancestry.

**How do I obtain an official letter from Saskatchewan Health Services to support my residency?** Contact Saskatchewan Health (eHealth Saskatchewan).

**How will the Admissions Office communicate with me throughout the application cycle?** All communication from the Admissions Office will be sent via email.

## **REFERENCES**

**Do my referees need to submit a letter?** No, we do not accept reference letters.

**Will the Admissions Office approve my referees prior to submitting my application?** No, we will not confirm suitability of specific referees. It is up to the applicant to determine which referees would be most appropriate based on the criteria we have outlined in the Applicant Information Document.

**When will my references be contacted?** In late March or early April an email will be sent to referees to schedule a 10 – 15 minute phone call during the month of April and early May. The number of references contacted is at the discretion of the Admissions Office.

## **CASPER**

**Do I have to take the CASPer test?** Yes, this is a requirement that all applicants must take in order for their application to be considered.

**How is the CASPer score used in the application process?** The score is used as one of the criteria to determine if an applicant will receive an interview offer.

**What is the deadline to take the CASPer test for application to the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine?** Once the test dates and score distribution deadlines have been set for an application to the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine, the information will be available on the CASPer website.

**Is the extension to the CASPer test SnapShot required?** Altus Assessments has released CASPer Snapshot, an extension of the CASPer test to help aid in the admissions process. Our program will NOT be requiring our applicants to complete Snapshot for this admissions cycle, however, please note that because of its one-time completion, other programs you are applying to may require it. You can learn more about Snapshot at the CASPer site.