

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 offer advising. All communication with the Admissions Office must be done via email.

What is the application deadline? October 1, 2022.

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How is a withdrawn course on my transcript treated? A withdrawn course noted on a transcript has no bearing on an application.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 for the 2022 application cycle. Beginning in the 2024 application cycle, applicants must have an Indigenous studies prerequisite.

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. Courses that were required to be presented remotely due to COVID-19 that were normally presented in a face-to-face format, will be excluded from the 60 CU maximum.

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? Calculation of the university academic average (UAA) is done in percentages (%). Where transcripts have results in other than %, conversion to % will be done. For more information go to [Conversion Scale](#).

Do I need to carry a full course load? Applicants are highly encouraged to take a full course load (30 CU) for at least one year within the last three years of study to demonstrate their ability to withstand the rigors of our medical program.

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 they result in an additional degree being awarded prior to application.

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 2019). The review may take weeks to process so the transcripts must be received at least two months prior to the application deadline.

How will the new UAA be calculated? Please see the New University Academic Average (UAA) Calculation section on the website.

RESIDENCY

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. All applicants must be a Canadian citizen or have Permanent Resident status by the application deadline.

MCAT

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

What is the minimum MCAT score requirement? For each application cycle, the Admissions Committee will review all of the MCAT scores and set the minimum overall scores and MCAT section scores, for the current cycle. For application in 2022 for entry 2023, no minimum MCAT section or total score will be required. However, it is important to note that for the last three admissions cycles, the Admissions Committee removed applicants from further consideration for an interview offer if their total MCAT score was less than 492 and/or their minimum section score(s) were less than BBFL 123; CARS 122; CPBS 123; PSBB 123.

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 outlined in the Applicant Information document will be considered.

What is the earliest MCAT result accepted? The earliest accepted scores for application 2022 are from January 2019.

TRANSCRIPTS

Will the office confirm with me when they have received my transcripts? No. You must upload a copy of your official transcript(s) to your application. You will be notified through your application when official transcripts are required to be sent.

Do I need to submit a transcript from a foreign school even if I only attended one semester there? Yes, you must upload a copy of your official transcript(s) to your application. You will be notified through your application when official transcripts are required to be sent.

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.

Can I mail my official transcripts myself? Official 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.

Do applicants who re-apply need to submit transcripts again? Yes, all transcripts (other than USASK transcripts) will need to be uploaded to the application system each new application cycle.

ONLINE APPLICATION

After I submit my application, can I log back in to make changes? No, once you have submitted the application you cannot log back in and make any changes. Any changes to the information you have provided in your application will need to be emailed to the Admissions Office at med.admissions@usask.ca.

How can I upload my documents? Once you have submitted your application and paid the application fee, you can then log back into your account to upload your required documents in the Supplemental Items section.

How can I track the status of my application? You may log into your application to track the status of your application and to see if you have any outstanding documentation.

What do I do if I lost/forgot my password and am unable to log in to complete my application? Follow the prompts on the application site for login issues.

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 them? 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 March an email will be sent to referees to schedule a 10 – 15 minute phone call during the months of March and April. 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 complete 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 www.TakeAltus.com website.

Is the extension to the CASPer test SnapShot required? Our program will **NOT** be requiring applicants to complete Snapshot for this admissions cycle (for entry 2023).