

Admission - MD Program

MEDICINE

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Registration Deadline: To apply to the MD Program at Schulich, all applicants must register for an account with OMSAS by the second week of September. Online applications are obtained from the OMSAS website, and must be submitted by the stated deadlines. Please refer to the [OMSAS website](#) for more information, including "Important Dates".

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Please note that the admission policy is reviewed annually and the admission requirements from previous years may not apply. The University reserves the right to review and change the admission requirements at any time, without notice.

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry provides an outstanding education within a research-intensive environment, where tomorrow's physicians, dentists and health researchers learn to be socially-responsible leaders in the advancement of human health.

The Doctor of Medicine Program runs simultaneously from two campuses: London, Ontario and Windsor, Ontario (at the University of Windsor). Each year a portion of the admitted class will complete all of their academic studies at the Schulich Medicine - Windsor Campus and graduate from Western University. The Windsor Campus is a partnership between Western University, The University of Windsor, and the London and Windsor hospitals. The Windsor campus builds on the strength of clerkship training provided in Windsor through the Schulich Medicine & Dentistry's Distributed Education program.

Applicants invited for an interview will have an opportunity to indicate their location of preference. When a location reaches its enrollment limit, successful applicants will be offered admission to the available location. All applicants will be processed by the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University, and will be subject to the same entry criteria.

Financial Support

Each year over \$5 million in scholarships, awards and bursary funding is distributed to assist medical students in greatest financial need. Within Schulich Medicine, there are Schulich Scholarships awarded annually (\$25,000/year for four years) as well as several endowment funds available for disbursement as scholarships/bursaries and awards. In addition, there are other university-based awards issued by Western University, as well as loans through the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP). Through these and other measures, Schulich aspires to have financial considerations never act as a barrier to any student wishing to study Medicine at this school.

Admission Requirements

Enrollment is limited. Admission to the Doctor of Medicine Program is highly competitive and possessing the minimum requirements does not ensure an interview or acceptance. Individuals satisfying the following requirements are eligible to apply for admission to the first year of the program. Note that failure to be aware of the admission requirements does not constitute a ground for appeal. Individuals must satisfy the following requirements to be considered for admission to the first year of the four-year MD program in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry:

1. Degree Requirements

Applicants must have a four-year degree from a recognized university. They may be in the final year of a four-year degree at the time of application. There is no preference given for the undergraduate program of study and there are no course prerequisites.

Applicants who have earned a degree from a recognized university, may elect to continue in full-time undergraduate studies. Only the first such "special year" taken by the applicant will be considered for determination of GPA. A special year will be considered only if it contains 5.0 courses or equivalent (30 credit hours) taken between September and April. First-year courses, repeat/antirequisite courses, and second-year courses that do not require a first-year prerequisite, are not acceptable in the "special year."

Applicants who embark on a second undergraduate degree program are eligible to apply during the final year of their new program. In order to be considered for GPA purposes, the second degree must be equivalent to a four-year degree. In this situation, GPA consideration will be based only on the two best years of the second degree program. Course load and course level requirements for the second degree are analogous to the requirements of the first degree. Applicants who are given a conditional offer must complete all program requirements for the second degree by June 30th.

Graduate students who are completing **thesis-based master's** must have completed all requirements for their graduate degree. Final transcripts showing that all requirements for their graduate degree have been completed (or a letter attesting to the same) must be received by OMSAS no later than June 30th.

Applicants who are enrolled in a **course-based master's** at the time of application must have completed all requirements by August 15th. A letter of good standing indicating there are no concerns with meeting all requirements of the course-based master's degree must be received at OMSAS no later than June 30th. Western does not take graduate courses into consideration for the GPA; only undergraduate years are used.

Schulich Medicine will no longer consider applications to the first year of the medical program from individuals who were registered in a Doctor of Medicine Program or equivalent elsewhere.

2. GPA

The GPA minimums are reset each year. Applicants must meet or exceed this threshold in each of two undergraduate years of full-time study (one of which may be the current year).

Full-time study is defined as 5.0 courses or equivalent with 30 or more credit hours. Academic transcripts must show clearly that applicants have met this course load requirement.

To be considered, each year must contain at least 3.0 courses or equivalent whose published academic level is at or above the year of study (for example, in third year, at least 3.0 courses or equivalent must be at the third- or fourth-year level). Please note, only ONE Pass/Fail credit will be permissible in each of the two years being considered for GPA.

For applicants who have attended other universities on exchange, GPA calculation will be based on the marks achieved at the exchange institution. Official transcripts from the exchange institution must be provided to OMSAS at the time of application. Applicants who have completed their undergraduate studies outside of Canada or the United States should consult the section titled "Foreign courses/Grades."

3. MCAT

MCAT minimums are reset each year. Applicants must meet or exceed these thresholds in their most recent writing of the MCAT (which must be no more than five years prior to the application deadline).

Effective July 1 2017, for the 2017-18 application cycle, all applicants must have written the MCAT test introduced in April 2015. Test scores from the previous version of the MCAT test will no longer be valid. Applicants from designated counties in Southwestern Ontario (Grey, Bruce, Huron, Perth, Oxford, Middlesex, Lambton, Chatham-Kent, Elgin and Essex Counties) must meet the same overall score but are afforded some flexibility for individual component scores in order to meet this aggregate score.

All applicants must arrange for verified results of the revised MCAT to be submitted directly to the Ontario Medical School Application Service (OMSAS).

Additional Non-Academic Requirements

1. Citizenship

Applicants must be Canadian Citizens or Permanent Residents of Canada.

2. Confidential Assessment Form

Any three persons who, in the opinion of the applicant, will give an informed critical assessment will be acceptable as referees.

3. Autobiographical summary

Applicants will be asked to highlight their top activities that showcase certain skillsets important for being a physician. Verifiers for these activities must be provided. It is the applicant's responsibility to describe appropriate activities, provide accurate verifiers who can attest to their abilities, and ensure that verifiers are aware that they may or may not be contacted by the Admissions Office to provide support and verification of the skills and/or activities any time up to August 31st of the year following submission.

4. Interview

Select applicants will be invited for an interview. Individuals who satisfy the academic requirements as determined by the Admissions Committee each year will have their applications reviewed carefully and will receive consideration for an interview. Interviews are structured, standardized 45-minute interviews with a panel of three: one faculty member/physician, one senior medical student, and one community representative.

Many factors contribute to the final determination of which applicants will be invited for an interview. Achieving the minimum GPA and MCAT scores does not guarantee an invitation to be interviewed.

5. Proficiency in English

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry reserves the right to deny admission to any applicant whose facility in written and spoken English is judged to be inadequate.

6. Basic Life Support Training

Applicants are required to complete training in standard first aid and a CPR Basic Rescuer course (CPR-C), and provide valid certification before enrolment in the medical program. It is the responsibility of the student to keep this up to date.

7. Statement on Potential Health Risks and Immunization Requirements

Students in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry will be required to care for persons with infectious diseases (including Hepatitis B and HIV) should they be assigned to them. Students accepted into the medical program will be sent complete documentation regarding health status policies and immunization requirements. Documentation of immunization and tuberculin status will be required.

8. Police Records Check Including Vulnerable Sector Screening

All medical students will interact with vulnerable populations through the course of their academic programs. In recognition of the requirements of clinical agencies to ensure that medical students do not place vulnerable populations at risk, the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry requires that all students provide, as a condition of their admission into the MD program, a current Police Records check including a Vulnerable Sector (Position) Screening.

For more detailed information, please see the [Admissions website](#), or review the [Police Check policy](#) for the Undergraduate Medicine program.

Admission and Application Policies

The maximum number of places available in first year is 171 with 133 students enrolled at the London campus and 38 students enrolled at the Windsor campus.

Following the final date for application, an applicant may file any supplementary information relevant to the application with the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, The University of Western Ontario, on or before the last day of May in the year following submission of the application.

Applicants may request a review of the decision of the Medicine Admissions Committee, provided that such a request is based upon new and significant information pertinent to the application. This request must be filed with the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, The University of Western Ontario, no later than two weeks after the issue of the original decision. The request should contain information not available to the applicant prior to the last Wednesday in May in the year following submission of the application. This request will be passed on to the Appeals Committee whose decision is final.

Health Care Improvement in Southwestern Ontario and Indigenous Communities

As a component of its mandate, Schulich Medicine will give special consideration to applicants who have indicated on their OMSAS application that they are from designated communities in Southwestern Ontario (Grey, Bruce, Huron, Perth, Oxford, Middlesex, Lambton, Chatham-Kent, Elgin, and Essex, Counties) and/or from the Indigenous communities.

Schulich Medicine & Dentistry's Distributed Education program is a partnership of over 50 communities throughout Southwestern Ontario which provides rural/regional medical education and training experience to undergraduate and postgraduate trainees from the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

The clinical clerkship or third year of the medical program is constituted so that all clerks will be expected to spend time outside of London or Windsor in the Distributed Education teaching sites. For those students with a particular interest in community medicine a rural/regional clerkship stream is available. Each year a section of students will complete the majority of the clerkship year in some of Schulich Medicine & Dentistry's Distributed Education communities. It is important that applicants to the Schulich Medicine MD undergraduate program understand that all students will be mandated to spend at least part of third year away from London or Windsor. There are no exceptions to this policy. By accepting an offer of admission to this program, students are consenting to participate fully in this approach to learning.

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry is committed to increasing the number of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit physicians. It has established the Indigenous Admissions Committee to increase the enrollment of Indigenous students in Medicine and to provide Indigenous applicants and students with support and counseling to facilitate their success in medical school. Schulich Medicine has designated seats in each entering class for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students. Applicants self-identified as Indigenous and one of Canada's First Peoples who wish to be considered for a designated seat must provide official documents of Indigenous status or proof of ancestral Indigenous origin to OMSAS. Such applicants must also provide at the time of application a personal statement describing experiences within Indigenous communities, and additional letters of support from Indigenous communities or organizations.

Applicants will be assessed on a balanced portfolio which includes academic achievements, MCAT scores, letters of support, and a personal statement that provides evidence of long-term involvement in the Indigenous community and the impact of these experiences.

Only in exceptional circumstances will Indigenous applicants with a GPA of less than 3.30 or MCAT score below BS 8, PS 8, VR 8, WS O, be considered for the designated seats. Applicants invited to an interview will be welcomed by an interview panel consisting of an Indigenous physician, Indigenous community member, and senior medical student.

First Nations, Métis, and Inuit applicants and students considering a future career in Medicine are encouraged to contact the Admissions Office at admissions.medicine@schulich.uwo.ca or call 519-661-3744 for further information and counseling.

Combined Programs

1. MD/PhD Program

A maximum of three (3) seats will be set aside each year for applicants to the MD/PhD program. For further information, please visit the MD/PhD Program website at:

http://www.schulich.uwo.ca/medicine/undergraduate/research/mdphd_program.html

2. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery/MD/MSc Program

A maximum of one seat will be set aside each year for applicants to the OMFS/MD/MSc program. For details about this program, please visit:

http://www.schulich.uwo.ca/dentistry/future_students/oral_maxillofacial_surgery.html.

Additional Information for Applicants

1. Co-op Programs and Clinical Placements

All undergraduate degree programs that have a co-op or clinical placement component are dealt with on an individual basis. Questions about how this is considered, should be emailed to admissions.medicine@schulich.uwo.ca.

If applicants are enrolled in an Honors-level co-op degree program, their academic course work will be considered as follows:

The two years considered for GPA purposes will be the best two academic years with a full course load (5.0 courses or equivalent). Please note that an “academic year” in this case will consist of the two semesters which combine to complete one of the mandatory “years” of the program (e.g., a student’s third year may consist of courses taken between September-December and May-September, while the student is registered by their university as being a third-year student. Two semesters belonging to different academic years of study will not be considered.

Applicants registered in co-operative programs should submit a separate letter from their Dean or program director that specifies the schedule of their academic and work terms if this information is **not** clear from their transcript. This letter should be sent directly to the Office of Admissions & Student Affairs, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

2. Graduate Students

Candidates enrolled in a Master’s program at the time of application must complete the requirements of the program. Withdrawal from a Master’s program during that year in order to enrol within Schulich Medicine will not be acceptable.

Graduate students completing thesis-based master’s degrees must have completed all requirements for their graduate degree. Final transcripts showing that all requirements for their graduate degree have been completed (or a letter attesting to the same) must be received by OMSAS no later than June 30th.

Applicants who are enrolled in a course-based master’s at the time of application must have completed all requirements by August 15th. A letter of good standing indicating there are no concerns with meeting all requirements of the course-based master’s degree must be received at OMSAS no later than June 30th.

Western does not take graduate courses into consideration for the GPA; only undergraduate years are used. Applicants who currently are enrolled in a master’s program are encouraged to make inquiries about the MD/PhD program:

http://www.schulich.uwo.ca/medicine/undergraduate/research/mdphd_program.html

3. Repeat Courses

Schulich Medicine does not accept repeat courses. If a course is repeated, the course is not counted in the course load for that year, nor is it factored into the GPA calculation for that year. Therefore, if 5.0 courses or equivalent are taken, but one of them is a repeat course, that year will be considered to have less than a full course load and not suitable for GPA calculations.

4. Summer Courses

Summer courses will not be counted in the overall GPA for interview and admission consideration. Summer courses will not be counted as part of the September to April course load.

5. Disability and Admission to Medicine

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, in accord with the Ontario Human Rights Code and University Policy, is committed to provision of equal access opportunities to all qualified applicants. To fulfill the requirements of the MD degree and to avoid serious risk to the health and safety of patients/clients, students are required to acquire competency in a wide range of knowledge, skills and abilities. Individuals with special needs are advised to contact the Admissions Office, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, and to carefully review the “Council of Ontario Faculties of Medicine (COFM) Policy Document: Essential Skills and Abilities Required for the Study of Medicine” at:

<http://www.ouac.on.ca/omsas/omsas-essential.html>.

6. Transfer Students

Transfer consideration is restricted to Canadian citizens or Permanent Residents of Canada currently enrolled in a Canadian medical school. Applicants considering transfer must contact the Admissions Office. For detailed information on transfer into the undergraduate Medical program please refer to the Statement on Transfer of Student for Program Studies in UME.

7. Foreign Courses/Grades

Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada who have completed their undergraduate-level university education outside of Canada may apply to the Schulich MD program.

Applicants who have completed their undergraduate education outside of Canada and the United States must have their foreign transcripts assessed by World Education Services (WES). By doing so, WES will convert foreign academic credentials into their Canadian educational equivalents. A course-by-course evaluation along with an overall GPA is required. WES evaluations must be sent directly to OMSAS by WES and must be received by the application deadline.

WES will forward the transcript to OMSAS along with their report. A second copy does not need to be sent to OMSAS or Western. To contact WES visit their website at: www.wes.org/ca.

8. Candidates from Accredited Degree-Granting Institutions

Candidates with acceptable standing at accredited degree-granting institutions may be considered for admission provided that the content of studies completed is equivalent in content to the courses offered by Western, and to the requirements of the program to which the student has applied. The University will review other candidates on an individual basis. Admission in all cases is competitive.

Applicants who submit false information will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Western policy.