

Doctor of Medicine (MD) Program - Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS & PROGRESSION

The Doctor of Medicine (MD) program is a four year program. Year One and Year Two involve didactic lectures, laboratory experiences, small group instruction, individual and team based mentoring, case based learning, simulation and supervised clinical experiences. The curriculum is designed to provide foundational learning in both the basic and clinical sciences.

Year Three is a 52-week integrated clerkship (one course) where learners become an active member of the clinical care team in the following medical disciplines: Family Medicine, Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Psychiatry and Surgery. Under the supervision of faculty and senior house-staff, Clinical Clerks are given graded responsibility in diagnosis, investigation, management of patient care in hospital, clinic and outpatient settings and professionalism. Students in Year Three are required to complete a community Clinical Clerkship rotation for a minimum of four weeks.

The curriculum in Year Four (Term One) Clinical Science Electives (16 weeks) is arranged entirely by the students in any area of medicine at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, as well as centres within Canada and at approved sites abroad. The curriculum in Year Four (Term Two) Integration & Transition (16 weeks) is designed to assess cognitive, affective and psychomotor learning and a student-centered and student-directed manner which requires the command, analysis and synthesis of knowledge and skills.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

<u>Year One Courses</u>	<u>Year Two Courses</u>
Introduction to Medicine (Medicine 5115)	Digestive System & Nutrition (Medicine 5203)
Blood (Medicine 5121)	Endocrine & Metabolism (Medicine 5202)
Infection & Immunity (Medicine 5116)	Reproduction (Medicine 5205)
Skin (Medicine 5117)	Musculoskeletal System (Medicine 5218)
Heart & Circulation (Medicine 5120)	Emergency Care (Medicine 5208)
Respiration & Airways (Medicine 5119)	Neurosciences, Eye & Ear (Medicine 5206)
Genitourinary System (Medicine 5104)	Psychiatry & the Behavioral Sciences (Medicine 5207)
Social Medicine (Medicine 5151)	Key Topics in Family Medicine (Medicine 5210)
	Professional Identity (Medicine 5250)
Professional Portfolio (Medicine 5140)	
Patient Centered Clinical Methods (Medicine 5139)	Patient Centred Clinical Methods (Medicine 5246)

<u>Year Three Course</u>	
Clerkship (Medicine 5475)	
Rotation: Family Medicine (6 Week)	Community Clinical Clerkship Rotation (4 Week)
Rotation: Obstetrics & Gynaecology (6 Week)	Rotation: Medicine (12 Week)
Rotation: Psychiatry (6 Week)	Rotation: Paediatrics (6 Week)
	Rotation: Surgery (12 Week)
<u>Year Four Courses</u>	
Clinical Science Electives (Medicine 5401)	Integration & Transition (Medicine 5402)

PROGRAM REGULATIONS

Attendance

It is expected that students will attend all scheduled learning sessions.

Attendance in small-group learning sessions is mandatory. At the discretion of the Associate Dean or Course Chair, certain learning sessions (outside of small-group learning) may be identified as mandatory. Failure to attend mandatory sessions (without approval) may result in remediation of and/or a grade of “fail” in a Course. Attendance in Clerkship and in Clinical Sciences Electives is mandatory. Failure to attend scheduled clinical obligations may result in remediation of and/or a grade of “fail” on a rotation, of Clerkship or of an elective. The Attendance Policy is reviewed annually and available to students on the program website. No exceptions to the Attendance Policy will be made.

Professionalism

Medicine is a professional academic program. A breach of personal professional behaviour or patient safety in any course, rotation or elective may result in remediation of and/or a grade of “fail.”

Immunization

Upon Admission, students are required to provide immunization documentation as it relates to the Council of Ontario Faculties of Medicine Policy on Immunization. <http://cou.on.ca/papers/immunization-policy/>

This policy applies to all medical learners (undergraduate medical students and postgraduate residents and fellows) attending an Ontario medical school and performing clinical activities in Ontario. Undergraduate medical learners who do not comply with the immunization policy may be excluded or suspended from clinical activities. Ontario medical learners doing international clinical placements will require an additional assessment. A travel medicine consultation should take place at least eight weeks before their placement. Additional immunizations may be necessary depending on the location of their placement

Police Checks

Students in the MD program are exposed to many areas of patient care, including vulnerable sectors during the course of their learning. In order to fulfill legal obligations and support patient safety, students will be required to submit their police record checks and vulnerable sector checks upon admission to the program and at the beginning of Year 3 and Year 4 to the Learner Equity & Wellness Office. Students are not permitted to commence their studies in Year 3 and Year 4 if they do not submit required documentation. Students must consult the Learner Equity & Wellness Office about procedures to follow in the case of a failed check. The Statement on Police Checks and Vulnerable Sector Screening is found on the MD program website here:

https://www.schulich.uwo.ca/medicine/undergraduate/docs/policies_statements/statements/1-3-16-Police-Checks.pdf

Time Limitation for Completion of the MD Program

The Doctor of Medicine (MD) Program is a full-time, four year academic program. Students with extenuating circumstances may be granted a leave of absence while enrolled in the program. The MD program must be completed within six years of the original date of entry. Under no circumstances may (a) a student withdraw and re-enter the program or (b) exceed the maximum program length of six years. A student who fails to complete the program in six years, for any reason, must withdraw from the medical program. Students enrolled in the combined MD-PhD program may request an additional year to complete their graduate research for a maximum of seven years.

ASSESSMENT

The principal function of student assessment in the MD Program is to determine competence and provide feedback for student learning. For the purpose of reporting performance, a Pass/ Fail grade is used for each course. Letter or percentage grades may be used for the purpose of enhancing feedback at the course level. Students' attitudes and ethics also form part of the assessment and unprofessional behaviour or irresponsible and inappropriate conduct may constitute grounds for a failing grade.

Assessment throughout the curriculum takes two forms:

1. **Formative Assessment For Feedback:** These evaluations are designed to help students assess their progress and to provide feedback on strengths and weaknesses. Such sessions may take the form of informal verbal feedback, individual and group assignments, or written and oral examinations provided for practice. They may occur at any time.
2. **Summative Assessment For Progression:** These assessments must be successfully passed in order for the student to progress to the next level of study. For these assessments, **students receive a numerical grade, which is a component of the overall course grade reported on the academic transcript as pass/fail.**

During Year 1 and Year 2

1. Assessment for feedback occurs in the review of group participation, written examinations, written or oral presentations, and laboratory practical evaluations.
2. Assessment for progression occurs a number of times throughout each course with a final examination period each term. Assessment may include an evaluation of the quality of each student's group participation.

During Year 3

1. Assessment for feedback and assessment for progression occur daily during Clerkship as the clerk interacts with house staff and clinical faculty. Frequent observation during patient care activities forms the basis for such feedback.

During Year 4

1. Assessment for feedback occurs daily in Clinical Science Electives as the learner interacts with house staff and clinical faculty. Frequent observation during patient care activities forms the basis for such feedback.
2. Assessment for progression in Clinical Science Electives is tested via the Year 4 Objectives Structured Comprehensive Examination (OSCE). The OSCE will test students' mastery of the overall objectives of the clerkship and clinical electives. This examination will assess students' knowledge, clinical skills, professional conduct and clinical reasoning using real and simulated clinical settings.
 - a. Students will complete the OSCE while enrolled in Integration & Transition.
 - b. Successful completion of the OSCE is required (an overall grade of PASS) to pass Clinical Science Electives and to graduate from the Doctor of Medicine Program.
 - c. A student who receives a grade of FAIL on the OSCE may be offered remediation at the discretion of the Course Chair.

- d. As per the Program Requirements above, remediation in the Doctor of Medicine program is a privilege and may not be offered upon failure of the OSCE.
 - e. Failure on the OSCE without remedial privilege will require a student to withdraw from the program.
 - f. If remediation is offered, and a score of FAIL is achieved on the remediation, a student will be asked to withdraw from the program.
3. Assessment for feedback occurs in Integration & Transition through the review of group participation, written examinations, and written or oral presentations.
 4. Assessment for progression occurs in Integration & Transition throughout the course using tests, assignments and a student research project.

PROGRESSION

Satisfactory Progression

To satisfactorily complete each year, and to progress to the next year or to graduation, a student must meet the following requirements:

1. For Year 1, students must pass all course work, assignments, examinations of each course in the year, as defined by the Course Chair(s).
2. For Year 2, students must pass all course work, assignments, examinations of each course in the year, as defined by the Course Chair(s).
3. For Year 3 (Integrated Clinical Clerkship), students must pass all Clinical Rotations
4. For Year 4, students must pass the Observed Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE), all Clinical Science Electives and must meet the requirements of the Integration & Transition Course (final 12 weeks of the program).

Course Weights

Course Length	Course Weight
0 - 60 hours	0.5
61 - 160 hours	1.0
161 - 260 hours	2.0
261 - 360 hours	3.0
361 - 460 hours	4.0
52 weeks Clinical Clerkship	8.0
Clinical Science Electives	1.5

Conditional Progression & Remediation Privileges

In some instances, a student who fails a course, single rotation, the Clerkship or an elective may be provided with remediation at the discretion of the Progression & Awards Committee. Remediation of a course, single rotation, the Clerkship or an elective may only be provided once. A student who does not successfully pass after remediation will be required to withdraw from the program.

1. A student who has failed a single six-week clinical rotation in Year 3 and has been granted permission to remediate, will do so during Clinical Science Electives in Year 4.

2. A student who fails the Observed Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE) and has been granted permission to remediate will do so at the conclusion of the Integration & Transition.
3. Permission for remediation will be considered only when following conditions both exist:
 - a. The total of all failures (FAI) during the Doctor of Medicine program, including failures for which supplemental examination remediation was previously granted, does not exceed three course weights, and:
 - b. One of the following is true regarding performance in the current Year:
 - i. At the end of the first semester in Year 1 and/or the end of Year 1, the student has received grades of PAS in all but one course weight;
 - ii. At the end of the first semester in Year 2 and/or the end of Year 2, the student has received grades of PAS in all but one course weight;
 - iii. At the end of Year 3 (Integrated Clinical Clerkship), the student has received grades of PAS in all but one Clinical Rotation;
 - iv. At the end of Year 4, the student has:
 1. Met all of the objectives for Integration & Transition and Clinical Sciences Elective Rotations with a grade of FAI on the OSCE, or;
 2. Met all of the objectives for Integration & Transition with a grade of PAS on the OSCE but with a grade of FAI on no more than one Clinical Science Elective Rotation, or;
 3. Met all of the objectives for Clinical Science Elective Rotations with a grade of PAS on the OSCE but with a grade of FAI on Integration & Transition.
 4. A student who fails more than one of Clinical Science Elective Rotations, the OSCE, and/or Integration & Transition will be required to repeat Year 4. A student required to repeat Year 4 must be able to do so within the maximum program length of 6 years or will be required to withdraw.
4. The maximum period of remediation will be:
 - i. **Years 1, 2:** Supplemental examination(s) (when granted) must be successfully completed by the student within six weeks of the end of the academic year.
 - ii. **Year 3 Integrated Clinical Clerkship:** Supplemental examination(s) (when granted) must be successfully completed within eight weeks of the commencement of Clinical Science Electives.
 - iii. **Year 4 Clinical Science Electives:** Supplemental examination(s) (when granted) must be successfully completed by the student within four weeks, to be completed after the end of Year 4.
 - iv. **Year 4 Integration & Transition:** Supplemental examination(s) (when granted) must be successfully completed by the student within two weeks, to be completed after the end of Year 4.
 - v. **Year 4 OSCE:** Supplemental examination(s) (when granted) must be successfully completed by the student within four weeks, to be completed after the end of Year 4.
5. Students who are required to do remedial work at the end of Year 4 may be required to graduate in the subsequent academic year.
6. Achievement of pass in a remediation does not delete the original grade from the student record. A grade of SRP (Supplemental Examination/Remedial Work Passed) will be separately recorded on the student record.

Requirement to Withdraw

A student who has not met the requirements listed under "Satisfactory Progression" or passed after completion of "Conditional Progression & Remediation Privileges" shall be required to withdraw from the medical program for any of the following reasons:

- i. The student has not met the conditions listed under "Conditional Progression" and, therefore, is not eligible for supplemental examination;
- ii. The student has met the conditions listed under "Conditional Progression" but permission for supplemental examination is not granted;
- iii. The student fails a supplemental examination granted under "Conditional Progression".

- iv. The student has met the requirements under "Satisfactory Progression" may be required to withdraw under the University penalties for Scholastic Offenses or violation of the Student Code of Conduct (Western).
- v. The student has met the requirements under "Satisfactory Progression" but has demonstrated unprofessional or unethical behaviour as defined by the Policies of the of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and the Canadian Medical Association Code of Ethics.
- vi. The student has not met the requirements for Immunization and/or Police Record Check/Vulnerable Sector Screening resulting in suspension of clinical privileges, thus failure to complete academic requirements.
- vii. The student has failed to remit tuition or student fees and has been sent to collection, resulting in the suspension of clinical privileges, thus failure to complete academic requirements.
- viii. The student has met the requirements under "Satisfactory Progression" but has not adhered to the "Program Regulations" identified in this document, including (but not limited to) absenteeism and professional conduct.

Appeals

Students wishing to appeal against a decision of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry should refer to the Undergraduate Medical Education Program Statement on Appeals http://www.schulich.uwo.ca/medicine/undergraduate/docs/policies_statements/linked/1-3-7-Statement-on-Appeals.pdf which defers to the process as outlined in the Senate Policy on Academic Rights and Responsibilities.

Grading Scales

The criteria for receiving a "passing" grade will be clearly identified at the start of each course. While percentage grades or letter grades may be used within courses for the purpose of student feedback, a Pass/Fail system is used to identify performance for progression and graduation.

The key to this grading scheme is as follows:

PAS - Clear competency with regards to all criteria considered essential for the completion of that specific course. On any evaluation this will be determined by achieving a minimum of 60%.

CR – Credit

FAI - An inability to meet the minimal acceptable standards for a specific course. Less than 60%

INC – Incomplete

IPR – Course in Progress

SRP - Supplemental Examination/Remedial Work passed