

Undergraduate Medical Education

Aboriginal Admissions Process

Admissions Component: Policy #AD-02

Supersedes: none

Lead Writer: unknown

Approved by Admissions Committee: January 12, 1999

Revisions: none



The Admissions Committee recognizes the critical shortage of aboriginal physicians in Canada and the need to educate more aboriginal physicians to serve as role models and address the health care needs to Canada's aboriginal people.

The Committee has developed an alternate process for assessment of aboriginal candidates. Up to a maximum of four qualified aboriginal students per year may be admitted to the M.D. Program by the alternate process. Aboriginal candidates may also choose to apply through the regular admission process.

At the time of submission of their application to OMSAS, aboriginal candidates should submit a separate letter to the Chair, Admissions Committee, in which they declare their aboriginal ancestry and give specific information about First Nation, treaty, community or organizational affiliation. The letter should request consideration by this alternate process, and should expand on the candidate's academic and personal background, and reasons and motivation for wishing to become a physician. The initial application letter should be accompanied by a letter of support from an individual representing the First Nation, community or organization to which the applicant belongs.

A panel consisting of representatives from the Admissions Committee and the aboriginal community will review the files of all candidates who wish to be considered by this alternate process and select candidate for interview. The panel will pay particular attention to academic commitment towards a career in medicine. (Only in exceptional circumstances will candidates with an average GPA of less than 3.0 and an average MCAT score of less than 8 be selected for interview).

Candidates identified by the screening panel will be invited for interview at the same time as the general pool of applicants. The interview team will include representatives from the aboriginal community.