



Undergraduate Medical Education

Indigenous Admissions Process

Admissions Component: Policy #AD-02v3

Supersedes: AD-02v2

Lead Writer: unknown

Approved by Admissions Committee: January 12, 1999, August 26, 2021

Revisions Approved by MD Program Executive Committee: May 5, 2021, September 24, 2021

Revisions approved by Faculty Board Executive: October 25, 2021

Revisions: September 17, 2020, August 26, 2021

Effective Date: October 25, 2021

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

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

At the time of submission of their application to OMSAS, Indigenous candidates should submit a separate letter to the Chair, Admissions Committee, in which they declare their indigenous 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 Indigenous community will review the files of eligible 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 a MCAT score of less than 120 in each section 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 indigenous community.