

MD Program

Academic Accommodation Policy

Student Assessment Component: Policy #SA-08v3

Supersedes: Policy #SA-08v2

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1.0 Guiding Principles

- 1.1 The Queen's MD program welcomes students and applicants who require accommodations and is committed to supporting students with disabilities and to reducing academic barriers as they pursue their academic goals.
- 1.2 In order to graduate, students of the MD Program must demonstrate the necessary knowledge and skills that are required to meet the objectives of the MD Program. All students in the program must meet the requirements of the curriculum. Upon admission students are directed to review the Council of Ontario Faculties of Medicine (COFM) policy document: *Essential Skills and Abilities required for the Study of Medicine (Approved October 2016)* ¹ which is based on the AFMC technical standards (Approved January 2024)

2.0 Applicants to the MD Program

- 2.1 The MD Program will fairly and equitably consider each candidate's admission qualifications irrespective of the need for accommodation.
- 2.2 Potential applicants to the MD Program will be notified of the COFM Essential Skills and Technical Standards in advance of application through the OMSAS website.
- 2.3 Applicants who require accommodation to participate in the admissions assessment process will be advised that they must contact QSAS (Queen's Student Accessibility Services) regarding a request for accommodation during the admissions process.
- 2.4 Applicants who indicate a need for accommodation will be provided with a copy of this policy and the procedural requirements for accommodation during the admissions process.

3.0 Current Students in the MD Program

3.1 Long-term or Ongoing Academic Accommodation

- 3.1.1 Students who require long-term or ongoing academic accommodation in order to attend curricular events in the classroom or clinical placements, sit examinations or assessments, or pursue the objectives of the MD Program curriculum are required to register with QSAS.
- 3.1.2 QSAS, a unit within Queen's Student Wellness Services, supports students with disabilities through the development of accommodation plans to remove barriers and to ensure equitable opportunity to pursue their academic and professional goals.
- 3.1.3 All students registering with QSAS must submit documentation with respect to disabilities as outlined on the Student Wellness Services webpage under Accessibility (QSAS) - Documentation Criteria.
- 3.1.4 Accommodation plans are developed in consultation with representatives from the MD program to ensure they meet the needs of the student and objectives of the MD program with attention to patient safety on clinical placements. Accommodation plans requiring significant deviation in assessment or program delivery will be reviewed by the Complex Accommodation Advisory Group in consultation with QSAS and the Associate Dean MD Program in order to best meet the needs of the student while meeting the goals and objectives of the MD program. Recommendations from the Complex Accommodation Advisory group are forwarded to the Academic Performance Advisory Group for implementation with individual course directors.
- 3.1.5 Any disability related documentation provided to QSAS to facilitate generation of the accommodation plan is reviewed solely by QSAS advisors, retained on site in the QSAS office and is not shared with the MD program.
- 3.1.6 Information about QSAS documentation requirements and available supports can be found on the Accessibility Hub webpage under the for Students – Support and Services for Student with Disabilities.

3.2 Short-term or Emergency Accommodation

- 3.2.1 Students who require accommodation on an emergency basis for up to 5 days due to short-term disability or need may request accommodation through the Learner Wellness Centre. The accommodation plan is determined on an individual basis and approved by the Associate Dean MD program, or their delegate, in consultation with Complex Accommodation Advisory Group.. Students who are granted short-term accommodation may be required to make up any missed assessments, examinations or other elements of the curriculum which is decided upon and operationalized by the Academic Performance Advisory Group.

3.2.2 Leave of absence.

Students who require a longer leave of absence of more than 5 days may request accommodation through the Learner Wellness Centre for approval by the Associate Dean MD program or their delegate. A students' individual academic reentry plan is designed and operationalized by the Academic Performance Advisory Group.

4.0 Confidentiality

- 4.1 All accommodation plans are kept confidential and available only on a *need to know basis* within the MD Program in order to facilitate operationalization of the plan

¹ https://www.ouac.on.ca/docs/omsas/cofm_abilities_oct16.pdf (accessed January 24, 2023)