What does it take to be a doctor in Ontario?

In Ontario, doctors (MDs) can practice in family medicine or as specialists. There are over 60 medical specialties. Physicians in family medicine provide primary care including the diagnosis and treatment of disease, disorders and injuries as well as health promotion. Other career paths for doctors include research and teaching positions. (Health Force Ontario)

Practicing medicine in Ontario requires:
- Medical degree (including clinical placement in a teaching hospital)
- Passing the Medical College of Canada Evaluation Examination
- Approved residency at a teaching hospital coordinated by the Canadian Residency Matching Service (CaRMS)

What are common academic requirements for MD programs?

- Completion of 15.0 credits (or more) at the university level in any undergraduate program
- A GPA score above the institution’s minimum is strongly recommended. Minimums range from 3.0-3.7
- Pre-requisite courses may include:
  - Biology, Zoology, Humanities, Social Studies, Life Sciences, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Organic Chemistry

Where can I study medicine?

There are 6 medical schools in Ontario:
- McMaster University
- Northern Ontario School of Medicine
- University of Ottawa (English and French streams)
- Queen’s University
- University of Toronto
- Western University

Visit each university’s website for specific information on their program and admission requirements.

How do I apply?

The application process is centralized through OUAC’s Ontario Medical Schools Application Service (OMSAS): [www.ouac.on.ca/omsas](http://www.ouac.on.ca/omsas)

Applications are typically due at the end of September every application year.

Start Early!

Medical schools require a high GPA. Many look for demonstrated interest in healthcare on your application.

Improve your GPA:

Visit the AA&CC and the Centre for Teaching & Learning (CTL) to improve your academic skills.

Cultivate References:

Get to know your professors. Their research is interesting! Professors who know you fairly well are able to write strong reference letters for you.

Get Involved:

Join volunteer and co-curricular activities that demonstrate your skills and ongoing interest in a career in medicine.

Typical Application Timeline

Begin 1 year prior to your desired Fall start:
- August – Create your OMSAS account
- September – Complete the online application
- October – Submit MCAT score by Nov 1
- February-April – Interviews are held
- May – Admission decisions are sent to applicants
Please note: While this tip sheet aims to ensure accuracy, requirements do change. Consider it a starting point for your further research. Visit individual medical school websites for detailed, up-to-date information about admission requirements and application procedures.