

About the Program

The main goal of the PhD program is to produce family physicians who will be competitive family medicine researchers at the highest levels of grantsmanship internationally. The discipline of family medicine from a research perspective is at a critical juncture and in order to ensure the future of family medicine research, PhD trained family physicians are fundamental.

Program requirements include a two week on-site portion each year, allowing students to meet individually with the Chair of the Program to discuss their individual learning objectives and progress throughout the term of study. The on-site portion also provides an opportunity for students to meet face-to-face with their supervisory committee and interact with fellow learners.

Graduates of the doctoral program will:

- Understand the theoretical foundations of family medicine
- Design and conduct research relevant to significant issues in the discipline of family medicine
- Demonstrate a commitment to the advancement of knowledge in the discipline of family medicine in the areas of teaching, research and clinical practice

Milestones - Path to Successful Completion

The following are guidelines for successful completion of the PhD program:

- Completion of comprehensive examination and oral defense
- Completion of thesis and oral defense

Students will engage in research under the supervision of a chief advisor and two additional faculty advisors that will culminate in a doctoral thesis to be examined in accordance with the procedures of the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at Western.



Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University has a long tradition of excellence, beginning with the founding of the medical school in 1881 and continuing with the formation of the dental school in 1964.

We are dedicated to preparing tomorrow's dentists, physicians and health researchers to become leaders who will optimize life-long health.

Western delivers an academic experience second to none, challenging the best and brightest faculty, staff and students to commit to the highest global standards. Western attracts individuals with a broad worldview, seeking to study, influence and lead in the international community.

Since 1878, 'The Western Experience' has combined academic excellence with life-long opportunities for intellectual, social and cultural growth.

**For more information, visit
www.schulich.uwo.ca/familymedicine, or contact:**

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Family Medicine Doctor of Philosophy





Admission Requirements

Admission to the PhD in Family Medicine program will require:

- Possession of a master's degree, with an overall average of B+, as well as a medical degree and certification (or eligibility for certification) by the College of Family Physicians of Canada or its equivalent in other countries
- Fluency in spoken and written English. Candidates whose first language is not English must pass the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam

Applicants are required to submit:

- A current curriculum vitae
- A written statement covering the following topics:
 - Reasons for pursuing doctoral level work in family medicine
 - Commitment to, and plan for, timely completion of the program
 - Self-evaluation of scholarly abilities
 - Evidence of research potential, including any publications
 - Proposed research focus and its alignment with the work of the faculty member proposed as thesis supervisor
- Two academic references
- Official transcripts of all completed studies

Courses

- Theoretical Foundations of Family Medicine
- Research Methods in Family Medicine (or demonstrated equivalent)
- Advanced Patient-Centered Medicine
- Canada's Primary Health Care System
- Doctoral Seminar
- Advanced Qualitative Research Methods
- Advanced Quantitative Research Methods

Comprehensive Examination Requirements

Successful completion of the program includes a major paper written by the student in their area of research interest. The paper is expected to make a substantive and original contribution to knowledge in this area. The Comprehensive Examination will include an oral defense.

Dissertation

The dissertation process will commence following successful completion of the Comprehensive Examination. The thesis proposal will be presented to the candidate's advisory committee and once accepted the thesis research will be conducted.

Fast Track Entry

Outstanding students in the Master of Clinical Sciences (MCISc) program may apply to fast track into the PhD program. In this option students must be recommended by their supervisor, have completed the four core courses (Teaching & Learning in Family Medicine, Research Methods in Family Medicine, Theoretical Foundations of Family Medicine and Advanced Patient-Centred Medicine) and have completed a research project (qualitative or quantitative).

Faculty Supervisors

Judith Belle Brown, PhD
Professor, Department of Family Medicine

Stewart Harris, MD, MPH, FCFP, FACPM
Professor, Department of Family Medicine

Maria Matthews, PhD
Professor, Department of Family Medicine

Rob Petrella, MD, PhD, FCFP, FACSM
Professor, Department of Family Medicine, School of Kinesiology and School of Health & Rehabilitation Science, Faculty of Health Sciences

Graham Reid, PhD, C. Psych
Associate Professor, Departments of Family Medicine, Psychology

Bridget Ryan, PhD
Assistant Professor, Departments of Family Medicine, Epidemiology & Biostatistics

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Assistant Professor, School of Health Studies, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Family Medicine, Schulich Interfaculty Program in Public Health

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