

Family Medicine Master of Clinical Sciences





About the Program

Since 1977, the Department of Family Medicine at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University has offered a program leading to the degree of Master of Clinical Science in Family Medicine (MCISc). The program has attracted family physicians from across Canada and around the world interested in enhancing their knowledge, skills and leadership within the discipline of family medicine.

Combining on-site learning with distance education via the internet, this program is available on a full- or part-time basis and utilizes the broad range of academic and research expertise of the faculty. The program is designed to fit the needs of currently practising family physicians or residents who are considering a third year of residence and have a strong interest in pursuing an academic career in family medicine.

Practising Family Physicians

For currently practising family physicians, the program can be taken on a part-time basis and completed in three to four years. Included in the part-time program is a mandatory two-week on-site visit (two weeks in September until the completion of all course requirements). During this two-week block, students will be introduced to core and/or optional courses. This approach allows the development of relationships with faculty and peers through face-to-face interactions and group work. Students will meet with the Chair of the Graduate Program to discuss their progression in the program and will have opportunities to meet with other faculty members regarding course requirements (i.e., research).

Enhanced Skills Program in Academic Family Medicine

Designed for family medicine residents who have completed a Family Medicine Residency program and have secured a PGY3 position in Academic Family Medicine, this enhanced skills opportunity is available to a limited number of residents. The course requirement for this program stream must be completed on a full-time basis.

Degree Program (MCISc)

The Master of Clinical Science in Family Medicine degree is awarded to those who successfully complete the on-site activities, required course work and research component. The program varies in length from three to four years of part-time study to a minimum of one year as a full-time student.

Required Courses

- Teaching and Learning in Family Medicine (1.0 credit)
- Research Methods in Family Medicine (1.0 credit)
- Advanced Patient-Centered Medicine (1.0 credit)
- Theoretical Foundations of Family Medicine (0.5 credit)

Optional Courses

- Teaching Practicum (0.5 credit)
- Canada's Health System: Current Policy Issues (0.5 credit)

Other optional courses can be selected from graduate programs around the world using a distance education format upon approval from the Chair, Graduate Studies Program, the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at Western University, and the provider university. These courses can not exceed 1.0 course credit.

Scholarly Activity

a) Thesis + 4.0 course credits

The procedure for a thesis in family medicine is in accordance with that of the Master of Clinical Science degree of the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at Western University. When each student has chosen an area of research, a thesis advisory committee is appointed. Defense of the thesis will be conducted before a board of examiners.

b) Non-Thesis - Research Project and Major Essay on a Family Medicine Topic + 4.5 course credits

Research Project - The objective of the project is to conceive, plan, execute, and report a study relevant to family medicine. The student will carry out the project under the direction of an assigned supervisor. A written report of the study will be evaluated by the supervisor and two faculty of the MCISc Program.

Major Essay in Family Medicine - The students are expected to demonstrate a rigorous and scholarly approach to the discipline of family medicine by writing an essay of approximately 2,000 words on a topic of relevance to family medicine. The student will write the essay under the direction of an assigned supervisor and it will be evaluated by two faculty of the MCISc Program.



Admission Requirements

- All successful candidates must hold a medical degree with a minimum overall “B” average and be certified, or eligible for certification by the College of Family Physicians of Canada or its equivalent in other countries.
- All candidates must be fluent 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 will not require an Ontario general licence/educational licence as any clinically associated work will be conducted in the applicant’s home setting.
- Applicants will require ongoing access to a computer with access to email and the internet.
- Applicants must be able to attend the two-week on-site portion of the program until completion of all course requirements during their part-time studies. Please note that continuous registration is required (three terms/year) throughout the course of study (minimum three terms, maximum 12 terms). For current fees please refer to the fee schedule from the Registrar’s Office at Western (registrar.uwo.ca).

Funding and Scholarships

The School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies offers scholarships to both Canadian and international students registered in full-time studies only. Two other awards are available through the Department of Family Medicine.

- The Martin J. Bass Award is available to family physicians who resided in the province of Ontario during the year prior to registration in the program.
- The Georges Lachapelle Scholarship is awarded to a francophone Quebec student studying family medicine at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

For more information, contact:

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