I HAVE OBTAINED MY MD - NOW WHAT?

The MD degree is not equivalent to a license for the practice of medicine. Two to six (or more) years of training are required before you can finally "hang out your shingle".

I ORGANIZATION OF POSTGRADUATE TRAINING

The responsibility for accreditation of postgraduate programs in Canada rests with the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. In collaboration with the Federation of Medical Licensing Authorities of Canada, these agencies delegate the task of operating postgraduate programs to the seventeen Canadian medical schools. It is the responsibility of the medical schools to ensure that the curricula and accreditation standards established by the national parent organizations are met.

All postgraduate medical trainees are registered in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the U of A and are required to pay a program fee. The current fee is $968.39 (subject to change). The financial resource for funding these programs comes from the Alberta Ministry of Health. Salaries for postgraduate trainees are negotiated between the Educating and Employing Entities (Entities) acting as the agent for the government, and the Professional Association of Resident Physicians of Alberta (PARA) to which annual dues are paid through payroll deductions. The salary scale is as follows:

- RI $55,073
- RII $61,066
- RIII $65,849
- RIV $70,637
- RV $76,624
- RVI $81,411
- RVII $88,037
- RVIII $95,207

Other negotiated benefits include 20 working days of vacation, eligibility for Blue Cross, a flexible spending account and a dental plan. All trainees are covered under group liability insurance contracts of the Alberta Health Services and the U of A.
The numbers of positions available in the Family Medicine and specialty stream are determined annually. For the 2017 CaRMS Match, 170 positions are available for entry at the Postgraduate Year-1 (PGY-1) level. Of these, 78 positions are available for individuals seeking certification in Family Medicine (including 20 positions for the Rural Regional Family Medicine) and 92 for those seeking certification in a Royal College specialty.

II CHOICES FOR POSTGRADUATE TRAINING

There are two streams for post-M.D. training in Canada, one leading to certification as a family physician by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) and the other to certification as a specialist by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC). In addition to the Family Medicine Program, 54 specialty and subspecialty training programs are available at the University of Alberta. Each program is under the supervision of a designated Program Director.

A. Family Medicine

The requirement for certification by the College of Family Physicians of Canada is successful completion of a two-year training program and passing the final examination which is taken in May/June of the final year of training. A certificate program in Emergency Medicine and a diploma program in "Care of the Elderly" are available with an additional year of training beyond certification in Family Medicine. A one-year conjointly accredited RCPSC/CFPC program is available in Palliative Medicine following RCPSC or CFPC certification. A separate rural stream is available for those wishing to base their training in rural areas of Northern Alberta.

B. Specialty Training

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada is responsible for the accreditation of specialty training programs in Canada. Fifty-nine specialty programs are accredited by the Royal College. Of these, 31 are classified as Primary Certification Programs and are four to six years in duration. Their successful completion (including passing the examinations) enables one to practice as a specialist in that primary discipline.

Another category of programs are the sub-specialties which are designated as "Certificate of Special Competence" Programs. These programs are usually of 2 years duration and are taken after completion of a prerequisite primary certification program. It is necessary for the trainee to become certified in a relevant primary discipline before being eligible to take the examination leading to the Certificate of Special Competence in the sub-specialty. In virtually all of these programs, one of the years of sub-specialty training can be applied towards completing the primary certification requirements. For example, if an individual wishes to be a Pediatric Endocrinologist, one could achieve that objective in five years. The first three years of training would be in General Pediatrics and the last two in Pediatric Endocrinology. At the end of the first year of sub-specialty training, the individual would have completed the required four years of General Pediatric training and therefore be eligible to take the General Pediatric examination. If successful in this examination, one would then be eligible to take the examination in Pediatric Endocrinology at the end of the fifth year.

There are also two Special Programs – the Clinician Investigator Program and the Palliative Care Medicine which is jointly accredited by the RCPSC and the CFPC. Certification from either body is required as a prerequisite.

Following is a list of the 1) Primary Certification Programs, and 2) Certificate of Special Competence Programs which are currently approved by the Royal College. An asterisk indicates programs currently not available at the University of Alberta.
I. **Primary Certification Programs**

Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine  
Anatomical Pathology  
Cardiac Surgery  
Dermatology  
Diagnostic Radiology  
Emergency Medicine  
General Pathology  
General Surgery  
Hematological Pathology  
Internal Medicine  
Medical Biochemistry*  
Medical Genetics*  
Medical Microbiology  
Neurology (Adult and Pediatric)  
Neuropathology*  
Neurosurgery  
Nuclear Medicine  
Obstetrics and Gynaecology  
Ophthalmology  
Orthopaedic Surgery  
Otolaryngology  
Pediatrics  
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
Plastic Surgery  
Public Health and Preventive Medicine  
Psychiatry  
Radiation Oncology  
Thoracic Surgery*  
Urology

2. **Certificate of Special Competence Programs**

(prerequisite primary certification program indicated in brackets)

Cardiology (internal medicine/pediatrics)  
- adult  
- pediatric  
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (psychiatry)  
Clinical Immunology and Allergy (internal medicine/pediatrics)*  
- adult  
- pediatric  
Clinical Pharmacology (anesthesiology/internal medicine/pediatrics/psychiatry)*  
Colorectal Surgery (general surgery)*  
Critical Care Medicine (anesthesiology/emergency medicine/internal medicine/general surgery/pediatrics)  
- adult  
- pediatric  
Developmental Pediatrics (pediatrics)  
Endocrinology and Metabolism (internal medicine/pediatrics)  
- adult  
- pediatric  
Forensic pathology (pathology)  
Forensic Psychiatry (psychiatry)  
Gastroenterology (internal medicine/pediatrics)  
- adult
pediatric
General Surgical Oncology (general surgery)*
Geriatric Medicine (internal medicine)
Geriatric Psychiatry (psychiatry)
Gynecologic Oncology (obstetrics & gynaecology)*
Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility (obstetrics & gynaecology)*
Hematology (internal medicine/pediatrics)
  -adult
  -pediatric
Infectious Diseases (internal medicine/pediatrics)
  -adult
  -pediatric
Maternal-Fetal Medicine (obstetrics and gynaecology)*
Medical Oncology (internal medicine)
Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine (pediatrics)
Nephrology (internal medicine/pediatrics)
  -adult
  -pediatric
Neuroradiology (diagnostic radiology)*
Occupational Medicine (internal medicine)
Pediatric Emergency Medicine (pediatrics/emergency medicine)
Pediatric General Surgery (general surgery)*
Pediatric Radiology (diagnostic radiology)
Respirology (internal medicine/pediatrics)
  -adult
  -pediatric
Rheumatology (internal medicine/pediatrics)
  -adult
  -pediatric*
Transfusion Medicine*
Vascular Surgery (general surgery/cardiac surgery)*

3. Special Programs

Clinician Investigator Program
Palliative Medicine (certification in any CFPC or RCPSC program)

III. LICENSURE

The responsibility for determining licensure to practice in Canada rests with each individual province and territory. Since January 1, 1994, there has been national agreement to establish a uniform standard which would enable portability of licensure among all Canadian provinces. The requirements for such a license are:

1. An M.D. degree
2. Parts I and II of the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE). Part I is written in May of the final year of medical school. Eligibility for Part II requires:
   a) having successfully passed Part I, and
   b) having completed 12 months of postgraduate clinical training.
After having passed Parts 1 and 2 of the MCCQE the individual is awarded the Licentiate of the Medical Council of Canada (LMCC).
3. Certification from either the College of Family Physicians of Canada or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Certification by the Royal College will lead to a Defined License, allowing one to practice in the specialty for which training was taken. Certification by the College of Family Physicians will lead to a General License.
IV. HOW DOES ONE ACCESS POSTGRADUATE TRAINING?

Application for postgraduate positions in all programs is made through the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS). The Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry provides career counselling programs to enable students to make as informed choices as possible when applying for postgraduate programs during their final year of medical school. These career counselling programs include the Residency Fair, access to Glaxo Pathways Program during Phase II, and enhanced use of Faculty Advisors.

V. ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A PREDOMINANTLY ACADEMIC CAREER?

For those students seeking more academic careers, a number of options exist including the summer student research program, the MD with Special Training in Research, and graduate programs including the MD/PhD program. The Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry has a very strong research component within the 20 departments and 7 research divisions, attracting approximately $100 million annually in external research funding. We also have approximately 20 interdisciplinary research groups comprised of basic and clinician-scientists who approach problems with a "bench to bedside" and "bedside to bench" philosophy. Most all of our departments offer graduate degree programs under the auspices of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research. The climate is excellent for advanced research training, and interdisciplinary and collaborative research programs are encouraged. The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons has established the Clinician Investigator Program (CIP). This program is designed to encourage an additional two years of carefully supervised research activity aimed at achieving certification in a Royal College Specialty as well as providing the basis for a MSc or PhD degree. For further information on our research training and graduate programs please visit our website at http://www.med.ualberta.ca/programs

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS OFFERED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Legend

Name of Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Duration of Program</th>
<th></th>
<th>Estimated Number of PGY-1 positions for 2017 CaRMS Match (The bracketed number is the total number of positions offered nationally in the 2016 Match)</th>
<th></th>
<th>Entrance requirements</th>
<th></th>
<th>Program Director (Telephone)</th>
<th></th>
<th>Additional Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A. College of Family Physicians of Canada Programs

Family Medicine

1 2 years
2 50 positions (1050 includes RRFM)
3 MD degree
4 Dr J Chmelicek (780-492-9961)

Family Medicine – Distributed Sites (Red Deer, Grande Prairie, Ft McMurray)

1 2 years
2 19 positions (61)
3 MD degree
4 Dr J Chmelicek (780-492-9961)

Care of the Elderly (Enhanced Skills)

1 3 - 12 months
2 2 positions  
3 CFPC certification  
4 Dr Leslie Charles (780-735-8882)

**Emergency Medicine (CFPC) (Enhanced Skills)**  
1 1 year  
2 6 positions  
3 CFPC certification  
4 Dr A Naismith (780-492-9961)

**Palliative Care Medicine**  
1 1 year  
2 Variable  
3 CFPC or RCPSC certification  
4 Dr D Oneschuk (780-735-7727)

**B. Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Programs**

**I) Primary Certifications Programs**

- **Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine**  
  1 5 years  
  2 5 positions (139)  
  3 MD degree  
  4 Dr J Taam (780-407-1877)

- **Anatomical Pathology**  
  1 5 years  
  2 2 positions (19)  
  3 MD degree  
  4 Dr W Chen (780-407-2606)

- **Cardiac Surgery**  
  1 6 years  
  2 1 position (12)  
  3 MD degree  
  5 Dr S Wang (780-407-7454)

- **Dermatology**  
  1 5 years  
  2 2 positions (64)  
  3 MD degree  
  4 Dr L Fiorillo (780-248-1353)

- **Diagnostic Radiology**  
  1 5 years  
  2 4 positions (76)  
  3 MD degree  
  4 Dr A Kanigan (780-407-6810)

**Emergency Medicine (RCPSC)**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Positions</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Pathology</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>Dr S Dong (780-492-9962)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Surgery</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>Dr K Fathamani (780-407-2606)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hematological Pathology</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>Dr K Wong (780-407-2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>Dr D Rolfson (780-248-1347)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Microbiology</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>11–some schools recruit via Laboratory Medicine</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>Dr K Kowalewska Grochowska (780-492-2306)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurology (Adult)</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>Dr J Jirsch (780-248-1630)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurology (Pediatric)</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>Dr F Morneau-Jacob (780-248-5543)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurosurgery</td>
<td>6 years</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speciality</td>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>Positions</td>
<td>MD Degree</td>
<td>Contact Information</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nuclear Medicine</strong></td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>2 positions (6)</td>
<td>MD degree</td>
<td>Dr C O’Kelly (780-407-1591)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Obstetrics and Gynaecology</strong></td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>6 positions (109)</td>
<td>MD degree</td>
<td>Dr H Steed (780-735-4806)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ophthalmology</strong></td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>3 positions (55)</td>
<td>MD degree</td>
<td>Dr C Solarte (780-735-5954)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Orthopaedic Surgery</strong></td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>3 positions (55)</td>
<td>MD degree</td>
<td>Dr A Scharfenberger (780-407-6042)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Otolaryngology – Head &amp; Neck Surgery</strong></td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>2 position (42)</td>
<td>MD degree</td>
<td>Dr K Ansari (780-407-6042)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pediatrics</strong></td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>8 positions (167)</td>
<td>MD degree</td>
<td>Dr M Belletrutti (780-248-5542)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation</strong></td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>2 positions (40)</td>
<td>MD degree</td>
<td>Dr M Prowse (780-735-8870)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Plastic Surgery  
1  5 years  
2  2 positions (50)  
3  MD degree  
4  Dr J Toy (780-407-1591)

Psychiatry  
1  5 years  
2  10 positions (173)  
3  MD degree  
4  Dr L Stovel (780-407-6938)

Public Health and Preventive Medicine  
1  5 years  
2  2 positions (18)  
3  MD degree  
4  Dr K Koliaska (780-492-1366)

Radiation Oncology  
1  5 years  
2  1 position (15)  
3  MD degree  
4  Dr B Debenham (780-432-8754)

Urology  
1  5 years  
2  2 positions (42)  
3  MD degree  
4  Dr N Jacobsen (780-990-7093)

II) Certificate of Special Competence Programs

Cardiology  
1  3 years  
2  Variable  
3  Prior RCPSC certification (or eligibility) in Medicine or Pediatrics  
4  Dr I Paterson (780-248-1441)-Adult Cardiology  
   Dr A Mackie (780-248-5534)-Pediatric Cardiology  
5  First year of the program can be accredited as one year towards certification in Medicine or Pediatrics

Child & Adolescent Psychiatry  
1  1 years  
2  Variable  
3  Prior RCPSC certification (or eligibility) in Psychiatry  
4  Dr B Stich (780-342-1611)  
5  N/A
Critical Care Medicine
1 2 years
2 Variable
3 RCPSC Certification (or eligibility) in one of the base specialties of Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, Surgery, Anesthesiology, or Pediatrics.
4 Dr W Sligl (780-492-8311) – Adult Critical Care
   Dr J Duff (780-248-5445) – Pediatric Critical Care
5 First year of the program can be accredited as one year towards certification in specialties listed under #3.

Endocrinology and Metabolism
1 2 years
2 Variable
3 Prior RCPSC certification (or eligibility) in Medicine or Pediatrics
4 Dr M Ghosh (780-248-1346)-Adult Endocrinology/Metabolism
   Dr E Rosolowsky (780-248-5539)-Pediatric Endocrinology/Metabolism
5 First year of the program can be accredited as one year towards certification in Medicine or Pediatrics

Forensic Pathology
1 1 years
2 Variable
3 Prior RCPSC certification (or eligibility) in General or Anatomical Pathology
4 Dr M Weinberg (780-427-4987)
5 N/A

Forensic Psychiatry
1 1 years
2 Variable
3 Prior RCPSC certification (or eligibility) in Psychiatry
4 Dr A Choy (780-342-5313)
5 N/A

Gastroenterology
1 2 years
2 Variable
3 Prior RCPSC certification (or eligibility) in Medicine or Pediatrics
4 Dr K Kroeker (780-492-8243)-Adult Gastroenterology
   Dr J Silverman (780-248-5539)-Pediatric Gastroenterology
5 First year of the program can be accredited as one year towards certification in Medicine or Pediatrics

General Internal Medicine
1 2 years
2 Variable
3 Prior RCPSC certification (or eligibility) in Medicine
4 Dr J Ringrose (780-492-6280)
5 First year of program can be accredited as one year towards certification in Medicine

Geriatric Medicine
1 2 years
2 Variable
3 Prior RCPSC certification (or eligibility) in Medicine
4 Dr F Lawson (780-735-8827)
5 First year of program can be accredited as one year towards certification in Medicine
Geriatric Psychiatry
1 1 years
2 Variable
3 Prior RCPSC certification (or eligibility) in Psychiatry
4 Dr C Walker (780-342-6552)
5 N/A

Hematology
1 2 years
2 Variable
3 Prior RCPSC certification (or eligibility) in Medicine or Pediatrics
4 Dr M Hamilton (780-248-1344)-Adult Hematology
   Dr M Spavor (780-248-5523)-Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
5 First year of the program can be accredited as one year towards certification in Medicine or Pediatrics

Infectious Diseases
1 2 years
2 Variable
3 Prior RCPSC certification (or eligibility) in Medicine or Pediatrics
4 Dr S Smith (780-492-7174)-Adult Infectious Diseases
   Dr M Hawkes (780-248-5531)-Pediatric Infectious Diseases
5 First year of the program can be accredited as one year towards certification in Medicine or Pediatrics

Medical Oncology
1 2 years
2 Variable
3 Prior RCPSC certification (or eligibility) in Medicine
4 Dr S Basi (780-432-8513)
5 First year of the program can be accredited as one year towards certification in Medicine

Neonatal Perinatal Medicine
1 2 years
2 Variable
3 Previous RCPSC Certification (or eligibility) in Pediatrics
4 Dr M van Manen (780-407-1305)
5 First year of the program can be accredited as one year towards certification in Pediatrics

Nephrology
1 2 years
2 Variable
3 Prior RCPSC certification (or eligibility) in Medicine or Pediatrics
4 Dr M Courtney (780-492-7174)- Adult Nephrology
   Dr A Alabbas (780-248-5531) - Pediatric Nephrology
5 First year of the program can be accredited as one year towards certification in Medicine or Pediatrics

Occupational Medicine
1 2 years
2 Variable
3 Prior RCPSC certification (or eligibility) in Medicine
4 Dr J Beach (780-492-1366)
5 First year of the program can be accredited as one year towards certification in Medicine

Pediatric Emergency Medicine
1 2 years
2 Variable
3 RCPSC Certification (or eligibility) in one of the base specialties of Emergency Medicine or Pediatrics.
4 Dr A Dixon (780-248-5533)
5 N/A

**Pediatric Radiology**
1 1 year
2 Variable
3 RCPSC Certification (or eligibility) in Diagnostic Radiology.
4 Dr R Bhargava (780-407-1210)
5 N/A

**Respirology**
1 2 years
2 Variable
3 Prior RCPSC certification (or eligibility) in Medicine
4 Dr L Cheung (780-492-1473) Adult Respirology
   Dr A Carroll (780-248-5533) Pediatric Respirology
5 First year of the program can be accredited as one year towards certification in Medicine or Pediatrics

**Rheumatology**
1 2 years
2 Variable
3 Prior RCPSC certification (or eligibility) in Medicine
4 Dr S Katz (780-248-1346)
5 First year of the program can be accredited as one year towards certification in Medicine

**III) Accreditation without Certification Programs**

**Palliative Medicine**
1 1 year
2 Variable
3 CFPC or RCPSC certification
4 Dr S Burton-MacLeod (780-735-7727)
5 N/A

**POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS NOT OFFERED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**

The University of Alberta offers training in 56 of 66 RCPSC specialty training programs.

The following RCPSC programs are not currently offered:

- Clinical Pharmacology
- Colorectal Surgery
- General Surgical Oncology
- Gynecologic Oncology
- Gynecologic Reproductive
- Endocrinology & Infertility
- Maternal Fetal Medicine
- Medical Biochemistry
- Medical Genetics
- Neuropathology
- Neuroradiology
- Pediatric General Surgery
- Pediatric Rheumatology
- Thoracic Surgery
- Vascular Surgery