

Since 1966, innovation has been the hallmark of McMaster University's Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine in Hamilton, Ontario.

The founding educators developed a three-year undergraduate medical program that stirred controversy and defied convention by emphasizing self-directed learning. This was anchored by a problem-based learning curriculum and community-oriented, interdisciplinary, small-group learning, which has since influenced health care education worldwide.

Recently, the school significantly revised the curriculum to be concept-based and electronically enhanced. It places a greater emphasis on professional competencies and fundamental mechanisms that impact health and has more opportunity for students to practise what they learn.

The innovations continue. The school's educators developed multiple mini-interviews to differentiate applicants based on personal qualities. Within five years, the system became part of the selection process for most Canadian medical schools, as well as many abroad.

McMaster University is renowned for its research intensity and, with its academic hospitals, oversees \$259 million in health sciences research a year.

The school has two regional campuses. The Kitchener campus accepted 15 first-year students in September 2007; the Niagara campus opened with 15 first-year students in September 2008.

The 496 undergraduate medical students and 684 medical residents work in 44 specialties and sub-specialties. Medical students and residents gain clinical experience at academic hospital sites and community health centres throughout Hamilton, Waterloo, Niagara and rural Ontario communities. Family medicine has teaching sites in Brampton and St. Catharines, with new sites in Burlington and downtown Hamilton planned.

"At McMaster, we choose very bright people who are good with communications, problem solving and teamwork: they make the best doctors. Intelligent people from a variety of backgrounds can learn the science. But you can't teach a person to care: it must be a core belief."

Dr. John Kelton

*Dean, Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine and dean and vice-president of the Faculty of Health Sciences
McMaster University
Appointed dean in July 2001*

QUICK FACTS

Founded: 1966

Location: Hamilton, ON

Length of Program: 3 years

Language of Instruction: English

2008/09 New Admissions into Year One: 176

fhs.mcmaster.ca/main/medschool.html

