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**NORTHERN ONTARIO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**  
**JOINT SENATE COMMITTEE FOR NOSM**

Report to Lakehead and Laurentian University Senates

From: Joint Senate Committee for NOSM

April 5, 2012

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The Joint Senate Committee for NOSM met on April 5, 2012. At the Joint Senate Committee meeting the following item was approved for submission to the Senates.

Based on this approval:

**ITEM 1**

**Document for Approval – Calendar: Admissions Policy (revised)** [Motion]

BE IT RESOLVED THAT upon the recommendation of the Joint Senate Committee the Calendar: Admissions Policy (revised) for NOSM is approved as presented.

**Background/Rationale:**

- Transfer revision: Due to the integrated nature of the curriculum.
- Other changes were formatting and removing the specific date of October 1.
- Stage five included correcting the number of offers sent from 54 to 64.
- Track change document included for information.

## Clean Version

## Calendar: Admissions Policy (revised) for approval

### Admissions and Policies

#### OMSAS

Application to the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) is through the Ontario Medical School Application Service ([www.ouac.on.ca/OMSAS](http://www.ouac.on.ca/OMSAS)). The official admissions policy for the Undergraduate Medical Program is published in the Ontario Medical School Application and Instruction Booklet available on the OMSAS website.

All deadlines relevant to the application process are published in this booklet. These deadlines are strictly observed. This includes not only the application itself but the receipt of all relevant documentation.

Applicants are advised to follow the application instructions precisely. Failure to meet the deadlines or to follow the application instructions will result in disqualification.

#### Important Dates

The following is a list of general dates. For more detailed information contact [www.ouac.on.ca/omsas/](http://www.ouac.on.ca/omsas/).

- Mid July: COMPASS.OMSAS on-line application available.
- Mid September: Deadline to create an account for the on-line application. Applicants who miss the mid September deadline and who obtain a COMPASS.OMSAS account originally created by a third party will not be considered.
- Beginning of October: Last day for submitting applications.
- Beginning of October: All transcripts and academic documents must be received by this date

#### Eligibility

The minimum requirement is a 4 year undergraduate university degree or equivalent in any discipline (e.g. Science, Arts, Commerce, Engineering, Pharmacy) from a recognized Canadian university or equivalent. No preference is given to a particular discipline over another. While there are no specific course requirements, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine is looking for students with a broad undergraduate education. For example, those students with majors in science are expected to include some arts, social sciences and/or humanities courses in their degree programs while those students with majors in arts, social sciences and/or humanities are expected to include some science courses in their degree programs.

Students may apply in the final year of their 4 year degree program. However, proof of completion of the 4 year degree is required by 1 July of the year of enrolment. The following are accepted as equivalent to a 4 year undergraduate university degree:

- A Diplome d'études collégiales (DEC) from the Province of Quebec plus an undergraduate degree from a Quebec university.
- A prescribed Qualifying Year after a 3 year degree (leading to eligibility for graduate studies) which is identified as such on the transcript, or in a letter from the Registrar.
- A 4th year diploma after a 3 year degree for Laurentian graduates.
- Formal conversion of a 3 year degree to a 4 year degree (and identified as such on the transcript).

Applicants who are 25 years of age or older on the application deadline are considered Mature Applicants. The minimum requirement for Mature Applicants is a 3 year university degree in any discipline.

Only grades from undergraduate university programs will be used in the calculation of the weighted GPA. Applicants transferring from college programs to university degree programs must have completed a minimum of the equivalent of one full year of undergraduate degree level credits (not including college transfer credits) at the time of application.

Applicants who have completed Graduate Degrees by the application deadline are required to have met the GPA cut-off with their undergraduate grades but for the purposes of further screening will have 0.2 added to the weighted GPA determined from their undergraduate grades. Graduate students enrolled in a graduate program at the time of application must provide a letter from their supervisor or Department

Chair, addressed to the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, indicating that the applicant's Department is aware of the application. This letter must be received at OMSAS by the application deadline. Applicants in Graduate degree programs not completed by the application deadline will have the weighted GPA determined from their undergraduate degree. There are no additional score added to the GPA or other credit given for applicants who have not completed a Graduate degree.

An applicant must be either a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada by 1 by the application deadline of the application year.

### **Transcript Requirements**

Applicants are required to report and supply transcripts for all degree credit courses in which they have been registered including grades that they have received for these courses. All transcripts must go directly to OMSAS either electronically via the Electronic Request Form or by mail. Failure to report all courses, programs or grades on the Academic Record will result in disqualification of the application.

Students enrolled in co-op programs are required to submit directly to the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, a schedule of their work and academic terms.

Applicants who are using degrees from universities outside of Canada are required to have their foreign transcript assessed by the World Education Service (WES). This evaluation must include an overall GPA conversion for each year of study. Instructions for using WES are on the OMSAS website. This assessment must be received at OMSAS by the application deadline. Failure to comply with this deadline will result in disqualification of the application.

### **Skills and Abilities for our Medical Program**

Students in medicine must be able to communicate with patients and colleagues, make observations about patients, gather information and analyze data in order to arrive at medical judgments. Applicants who may need accommodation to undertake the Medical Program at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine are advised to review the Skills and Abilities policy on the OMSAS or NOSM website and to contact the Learning Assistance Office at Lakehead University or the Special Needs Office at Laurentian University for more information.

### **English Language Proficiency**

Students at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine must be proficient in written and spoken English. All application material must be submitted in English. The School reserves the right to deny admission to any applicant whose ability in written and spoken English is judged to be inadequate.

### **The Aboriginal Admissions Stream**

Aboriginal applicants may choose either the general admissions stream or the Aboriginal Admissions Stream. Aboriginal applicants choosing either stream are required to fill in the on-line application form through OMSAS. Those who wish to be considered for the Aboriginal (Indian, Inuit or Metis as recognized in the Constitution Act, 1982) Admissions Stream will also be required to provide evidence of their Aboriginal ancestry and a letter of support from their First Nation, Band Council, Tribal Council, Treaty community or Aboriginal organizational affiliation. This letter must be sent directly to the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Office of Admissions and Student Affairs, 955 Oliver Road, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5E1 postmarked no later than 31 October in the application year. Applicants considering the Aboriginal Admissions Stream are strongly urged to contact the Office of Admissions and Student Affairs for further information.

### **The Admissions Process**

The final selection for Admission is based on the weighted GPA, the score of the admissions questionnaire, the score from the interview and reference letters. The admissions policies and procedures will give an advantage to applicants from the following groups:

- Rural, remote and northern urban origin applicants from Northern Ontario

- Aboriginal applicants
- Franco-Ontarian applicants
- Rural applicants from elsewhere in Ontario
- Rural, remote and northern urban applicants from elsewhere in Canada

Selection procedures for the Northern Ontario School of Medicine include:

- Stage 1:  
Application is examined to ensure that it is complete and that minimum requirements are met.
- Stage 2:  
Admissions questionnaire is scored and weighted GPA is confirmed.
- Stage 3:  
Invitation to interview (approximately 400).
- Stage 4:  
Final score for all applications of interview candidates completed and ranking determined.
- Stage 5:  
Offers of admission sent to top 64 candidates. Waiting list developed.

### **Additional Admissions Requirements**

Successful applicants are required to provide proof of up-to-date immunization status. Information on specific requirements is included with the offer of admission. Also, a current Basic Cardiac Life Support Certificate and a current Criminal Records Check is required. Failure to comply with any of these requirements may result in students being denied access to clinical settings. Proof must be provided by 30 September of the year of admission.

### **Unsuccessful Applicants**

Applicants who are not invited for an interview will receive a letter in March of the year following application indicating that they have been unsuccessful at that stage in the admissions process. Those applicants who are interviewed will be sent notification the last working day of May as to their status: accepted, on the waiting list or unsuccessful.

Applications are not held over from one year to the next. Unsuccessful applicants will be required to reapply through OMSAS with a new application for the following admissions cycle.

### **Transfers**

Due to the integrated nature of the curriculum, NOSM cannot accept transfer students.

**NORTHERN ONTARIO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**  
JOINT SENATE COMMITTEE FOR NOSM

Track Change Version of Calendar: Admissions Policy (revised)

For NOSM

Information only

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Track change version

Calendar: Admissions Policy (revised) with edits.

Information only.

## Admissions and Policies

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- A Diplome d'études collégiales (DEC) from the Province of Quebec plus an undergraduate degree from a Quebec university.
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purposes of further screening will have 0.2 added to the weighted GPA determined from their undergraduate grades. Graduate students enrolled in a graduate program at the time of application must provide a letter from their supervisor or Department Chair, addressed to the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, indicating that the applicant's Department is aware of the application. This letter must be received at OMSAS by the application deadline 2-October-2006. Applicants in Graduate degree programs not completed by ~~4-October~~the application deadline of the application year will have the weighted GPA determined from their undergraduate degree. There are no additional score added to the GPA or other credit given for applicants who have not completed a Graduate degree.

An applicant must be either a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada by ~~1-October~~by the application deadline of the application year.

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## Transfers

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~~There will be no transfer students accepted to NOSM in the first two years of the program. Prior to clerkship, students requesting transfer will be reviewed on an individual basis, and only when NOSM has the capacity to consider their acceptance.~~