McMaster University

Family Medicine

Working with Undergraduate Students Aspiring to Medical School

Watch a recording of this session

Lawrence Grierson

March 18th, 2025

Working with undergraduate students aspiring to medical school

DFM Research Knowledge and Skill Builder Session

March 18, 2025

What makes a strong medical school application?

Are you sure?

Yang et al. BMC Medical Education (2022) 22:151
https://doi.org/10.1186/s12909-022-03207-y

BMC Medical Education

RESEARCH Open Access

Research experiences for Canadian aspiring physicians: a descriptive analysis of medical school admission policies concerning research involvement in Canada

Laurie Yang[1†], Irene Chang[1†], Stacey Ritz[1,2] and Lawrence Grierson[3,4*]

- Research experiences are NOT required for entry into Canadian MD programs
- But all Canadian medical schools valorize research within the institution
- And many application forms suggest that research experience is important

Canadian Medical Education Journal
Revue canadienne de l'éducation médicale

A brief report of aspiring medical student perceptions and behaviours concerning research experiences for selection into Canadian medical schools

Communication brève sur les perceptions et les comportements postulants potentiels aux études de médecine par rapport à la recherche en lien avec l'admission dans une faculté de médecine canadienne

Irene Chang, Laurie Yang, Asiana Elma, Stacey A Ritz and Lawrence Grierson

Reported Time Commitment	*Mean (SD)*
Months of research involvement	11.2 (9.9)
Hours per week of research involvement	13.0 (13.2)
Research Products	***% Respondents***
First author publications	
0	77.2
1	11.4
2 or more	5.3
No answer	6.1
Co-author publications	
0	71.1
1	10.5
2 or more	13.2
No answer	5.3
Academic presentations	
0	67.5
1	14.0
2 or more	12.3
No answer	6.1

Recommendations

- Only engage with undergraduate students who are enrolled in project courses or who are receiving pay. No volunteers.

- Structure undergraduate learners into active research programs, led by graduate students and/or collaborative teams. Avoid centring the undergraduate student as the lead investigator.

NEW RESEARCH
Poisoning the pre-medical well

Thank-you!
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