

Master of Medicine In Family Medicine (M.MED.Fam.Med)

1. Introduction

The Master of Medicine In Family Medicine (M.MED.Fam.Med) is a four-year, full-time postgraduate specialist programme administered jointly by the Department of Health in KZN and the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

2. The purpose of the programme is to

- Provide skills and knowledge necessary to equip graduates for professional service in the context of the health needs of the population
- Produce graduates who are socially accountable
- Provide graduates with specialised knowledge and competence in science and practice in specialist clinical disciplines to enable registration with the HPCSA as a specialist
- Prepare graduates to contribute to the development and dissemination of knowledge at an advanced level by fostering scholarship, and intellectual independence, equipping them with skills and knowledge relevant to the practice of research and professional communication
- Produce competent graduates for admission to doctoral programmes
- Prepare the graduate for a life of self-directed continuing learning, reflective practice and professional development.

3. Objectives

The specific objectives of the programme are that a graduate will be able to:

- Effectively manage him/herself; his/her team and his/her practice, in any sector, with visionary leadership and self-awareness, to ensure the provision of high quality, evidence-based care.
- Evaluate and manage patients with both undifferentiated and more specific problems cost-effectively according to the bio-psycho-social approach.
- Facilitate the health and quality of life of the community.
- Facilitate the learning of others regarding the discipline of family medicine, primary health care, and other health-related matters
- Conduct all aspects of health care in an ethical, legal and professional manner

4. Admission requirements

For admission to the MMed Fam Med degree programme, an applicant must have:

- Tertiary qualification - MBCHB or equivalent; PLUS
- Current registration for Independent Practice with the Health Professions Council of South Africa;
- Twelve (12) months post Community Service experience as a Medical Officer.
- Valid driver's license
- Research experience, rural experience as a medical officer and additional postgraduate diplomas will be considered an added advantage.

5. Education

Training is based on experiential learning in the various training sites in the province. UKZN has both rural and urban sites. As an adult learner, the student needs to manage their own learning needs

through the Portfolio of Learning. We utilise an ePortfolio at UKZN. There are dedicated academic and research days built into the programme.

6. Course content and duration

The MMed is a 4-year programme, and the discipline has four integrated modules.

Research Methods and Clinical and Professional Practice One must be completed by the end of academic year One. The Research Project should be completed by the end of academic year four. Clinical and Professional Practice Two is assessed in year four by the College of Family Physicians.

7. Clinical Rotations

The first three years consist of integrated/ structured rotations to provide exposure and experience in the following domains. The rotations occur in the community, the primary care clinic and the district/regional/tertiary hospitals.

- i. Anaesthetics
- ii. Child Health
- iii. Ear, Nose, Throat, Ophthalmology and Dermatology
- iv. Emergency Medicine
- v. General Adult Medicine
- vi. General Surgery
- vii. Infectious diseases
- viii. Mental Health
- ix. Orthopaedics
- x. Women's Health

8. Contact sessions

There will be obligatory 1-2 day contact sessions monthly. The main purpose of these contact sessions will be to learn practical clinical skills, get clinical updates, meet the module tutors, support staff, and other students and interact with any problems or questions. This is part of becoming a community of practice.

9. E-PORTFOLIO

An e-portfolio must be completed for each year of the programme that records your clinical learning and experience.

The e-portfolio has sections that focus on:

- Verification of professional experience at different departments and facilities
- Record of educational meetings with your supervisors
- Evidence of workplace-based learning
- Audit of your clinical competency in core clinical skills
- Report on your performance during the year or rotation
- A 60% annual portfolio score is needed for progression and eligibility for the Fellowship (exit) Examination.
- Six monthly assessments are done based on the UKZN Academic and Mentorship Support Programme.

10. Work hours

Registrars are expected to perform commuted overtime and must comply with a minimum of 224 hours of work in a 4-week cycle. That is 4 x 40 hours a week office hours and a minimum of 64 hours commuted overtime over 4 weeks. This means a minimum average overtime of 16 hours per week, with a maximum of 20 hours per week. For specific details on overtime hours and leave regulations, please read the provincial policy and inquire from the local district HR office.

11. Assessment

Year 1:

- i. Satisfactory completion of portfolio which will carry 20% of the MMed Part 1 summative mark. This mark will be adjusted as per CMSA guidelines with the pass mark equal to 60% (standard setting).
- ii. Pass the MMed Part 1 final examination (80% overall weighting for the module). This is further weighted as follows: Written (60% of which 60% is basic science and 40% is clinical)

and Clinical examination (40% - 20% OSCE, 20% Clinical cases)

- iii. Satisfactory completion of the research module and the research proposal.

Year 2:

- i. Satisfactory completion of portfolio which will carry 50% of the year mark(formative). Adjusted using standard setting.
- ii. Pass the Written MCQ examination at the end of year 2 which carries 50% of the year mark(formative)
- iii. Research: Full ethical approval obtained, and data collection has begun.

Year 3:

- i. Satisfactory completion of portfolio which will carry 50% of the year mark(formative). Adjusted using standard setting.
- ii. Pass the Written examination (MCQ, MEQ,CRJ) and OSCE at the end of year 3 which carries 50% of the year mark(formative)
- iii. Research: Data collection has been completed, and manuscript writing has begun.

Each registrar will be assessed formatively/ summatively every six months for the duration of the programme. Feedback to the supervisor and registrar will be provided. A registrar performing below expectations will be managed as per the UKZN Academic Mentorship and Support Programme.

12. Exit examination

Registrars will sit the National Exit Examination, the College of Family Physicians Fellowship, (FCFP). Access to this exam is based on completing 36 months of the training programme.

Requirements for this exam can be found on the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa website <http://www.collegemedsa.ac.za/>.

The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) requires the following for registration as a specialist in South Africa:

- i. Successful completion of the single National Exit Examination (FCFP).
- ii. Completion of a research project –a requirement of the M.Med, Fam Med degree
- iii. Completed four years of appropriate, supervised experience in a registrar training post.

13. Applications for the programme

Please respond to the registrar advert placed by the KZN Department of Health six/ twelve monthly on the KZN Health website. <http://www.kznhealth.gov.za/vacirs.htm>

After successfully completing the interview, you must register for the MMED Programme.

Enquiries:

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