



**McGill**

**Faculty of  
Medicine**

**Faculté de  
Médecine**

## **Policy Name: UGME Language Proficiency Policy**

**Approved By:** MDCM Program Committee

**Approved On:** February 1, 2021

**Updated by:** Governance Officer, Medical Education

**Updated on:** January 20, 2021

**Pertinent to:** MDCM students

**Purpose:** Policy outlining language proficiency expectations essential for the Program and students.

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### **Principles**

1. The primary language of instruction in the MDCM Program is English at the Montreal Campus, and French at the Campus Outaouais.
2. Medical students are assigned to both bilingual and francophone clinical sites during their studies. At bilingual clinical sites, the language of documentation in patient charts is French or English and clinical supervision is generally in English. At francophone clinical sites, the language of documentation in patient charts and clinical supervision is French.
3. Medical students will interact with anglophone, francophone and allophone patients and healthcare professionals at both bilingual and francophone clinical sites, as it is part of our social responsibility to care for the communities in our health network.
4. Students without adequate language proficiency will not be able to fully participate in learning opportunities in the MDCM Program, and may pose a risk to patient safety.
5. The MDCM Program includes experiences in the clinical setting beginning in the first year of the Program and is unable to teach language skills as part of the MDCM Program curriculum.
  - 5.1. However, since 2020, the MDCM Program provides its students with opportunities to further their medical language skills by providing learning materials in both languages and increased French language resources.

### **Policy**

Beginning with students admitted in 2019, the MDCM Program has undertaken the testing of language proficiency at admission to the Program. This has allowed the program to identify students who may benefit from resources to improve their language skills to succeed in the program and safely care for patients. Despite these measures, there remains a proportion of students who have not met French level proficiency and are not able to fully participate in the care of patients, therefore potentially impacting patient's safety.

1. Applicants to the Montreal Campus:
  - 1.1. Are expected to have a working knowledge of the English and French languages (comprehension, spoken, and written) from the outset of the MDCM Program.
  - 1.2. Are required to submit proof of proficiency in English and French.
2. Applicants to the Campus Medical Outaouais:
  - 2.1. Are expected to have a working knowledge of the French language (comprehension, spoken, and written) from the outset of the MDCM Program.
  - 2.2. Are required to submit proof of proficiency in French.
3. The MDCM Admissions Committee will determine the requirements for proof of language proficiency and this will be specified on the MDCM Admissions website.
4. The MDCM Admissions website will provide applicants with suggestions on how improve their English and French language proficiency to ensure that potential candidates to the MDCM Program are aware of these resources.

As of Fall 2023 admission, proof of French proficiency will become an admission requirement.

**Document History**

Approved by MDCM Program Committee: February 1, 2021  
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