

School Submissions: CASPer

The universities of McMaster and Ottawa use the CASPer (which stands for Computer-Based Assessment for Sampling Personal Characteristics) as part of their admissions process. You will write it mid to late October after your application is due to OMSAS. It is used to assess your interpersonal and decision making skills and is 90 minutes in length.

The CASPer test is comprised of 12 sections of either a video or written scenarios. Following each scenario applicants are required to answer a set of about 3 probing questions in 5 minutes. Each response is graded by a different rater, giving a very robust and reliable view of personal and professional characteristics important to their programs.

It would be helpful to review the websites mockcasper.ca and takecasper.com as they both provide ideas on how to prepare for the test. The sites recommend understanding and having knowledge of ethical issues, knowing the CanMEDS framework, having examples about yourself that are relevant to CanMEDS, knowing yourself, and knowing the Canadian health care system. Check the Further Education Boot Camp schedule that is held every fall to see if we will be offering a CASPer workshop.

For each scenario review all 3 probing questions first to see if there are ideas or a direction that you should take your answers in. You want to show a balanced perspective when answering questions and include a personal experience if possible. Typing speed matters. Train yourself to the structured time allotted.