



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do fees work in the LiM program? Will I have to pay graduate and medical school fees at the same time?

A: No! You will only have to pay fees from the program in which you are currently enrolled. During graduate school, you will only have to pay graduate fees, and likewise for medical school. If you are being charged for both fees, please contact Diana Law (mdgrad@ucalgary.ca).

Q: How long before the start of medical school should I defend my thesis?

A: Students should defend within three months of the start date for medical school in July. If you plan to defend your thesis prior to this three-month window, you will have to take a leave of absence from the program until the start of medical school (which can impact funding).

Q: Can I start medical school without writing my thesis/defending?

A: We very strongly recommend that you write your thesis and defend prior to starting the MD program. Due to the fast pace of our MD program, it is very difficult to write a thesis or defend after starting medical school. Once you reach clerkship, completing graduate work becomes unfeasible. If you plan to start medical school soon, but do not think you will be able to finish your graduate requirements prior to starting, please contact Diana and Dr. Rabi to discuss your options.

Q: Can I convocate/walk the stage for my graduate degree before starting medical school?

A: Unfortunately, you will not be able to convocate from your graduate program until you have also completed your medical degree, as this is a joint degree program. Once all requirements for both of your degrees have been completed, you will convocate with your medical class and receive both of your degrees.

Q: Can I receive the Governor General's Academic Medal or the President's Award if I've only completed my graduate requirements?

A: The Academic Medal is a thesis-based award, and therefore you are eligible to be nominated for this award after completing your defence exam. The President's Award is

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a convocation award, meaning you are not eligible for this award until you have completed both of your degrees.

Q: Can I shadow a physician during graduate school?

A: Yes! Please see the section “Shadowing Opportunities” for more information.

