McMASTER UNIVERSITY: Clinician Educator Program

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**Specialty Description:**

Clinician Educators are physicians with formal training in medical education, who can provide consultative medical education advice and guidance for education projects. Example areas where Clinician Educators can assist include: curriculum design and implementation, scholarly teaching and learning, assessment and evaluation, education scholarship and leadership. The goal of the CE program is to train a competent and successful Clinician Educator, who is capable of enhanced practice in this area of focused competence. Successful program completion includes acquisition of a working knowledge of the discipline, offering a valuable educational resource to the educational environment and workplace.

The Clinician Educator program is an Area of Focused Competency (AFC) Diploma Program. Royal College AFC programs are competency-based and designed for trainee participation concurrent with active medical practice. Most trainees will complete this program post-residency, although senior residents are eligible to apply.

**Program Application - Eligibility Criteria:**

- McMaster University faculty or senior trainee
- Current employment as a physician or enrollment in a senior postgraduate medical training position with demonstrated proficiency and engagement in teaching
- Any Royal College or Family Medicine certification is eligible
- Evidence that current clinical practice will provide opportunities for direct supervision (within the McMaster University CE Program) for educational activities required of each unit
- Candidates are welcome from all McMaster campuses and distributed learning sites

**Program Curriculum:**

The program curriculum for the CE program at McMaster University is shaped by the Royal College requirements for the program. As the diploma is designed for participation and completion concurrent with active clinical practice, the pace of completion is driven by the participant, along with program direction. It is anticipated that most candidates will complete the program within a 12-18 month time frame. The competency-based design of the AFC program allows candidates to finish the program earlier, as long as they successfully complete the unit tasks, assignments and portfolio activities.
Depending on candidate’s tailored circumstances, some units may be completed concurrently. Much of the program activity and learning is self-directed, with oversight by unit supervisors.

Key features of the program:

- Practical training in medical education
- Application of theories to education projects you’re already involved in
- Certification by the Royal College (credential = DRCPSC)
- Modular design, allowing you to complete the diploma in 12-18 months, while working full time
- One-on-one involvement with faculty supervisors that fits your schedule (no in class work)

The CE Diploma program consists of 4 mandatory units: **Foundations, Curriculum, Teaching & Learning and Assessment.** Each unit is anticipated to take the trainee 2-3 months to complete. There are 3 prescribed selective experiences, with each trainee selecting 2 of these 3 units: **Simulation, Leadership and Education Scholarship.** The total duration of this elective time is anticipated to take 6 months. Each unit will have identified key faculty supervisors from their home department.

Our AFC program committee membership is inclusive, with expertise and input from undergraduate, postgraduate and faculty development leaders.

**Program Committee Membership:**

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<th>Member</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Karen Finlay</td>
<td>AFC Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Jonathan Sherbino</td>
<td>Program Curriculum and Design</td>
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<td>Kelly, Dore PhD</td>
<td>Educational Resources</td>
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<td>Dr. Anne Wong</td>
<td>Faculty Resources and Faculty Development</td>
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<td>Dr. Cathy Morris</td>
<td>Waterloo Regional Campus Representative</td>
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<td>Dr. Adnan Hameed</td>
<td>Niagara Regional Campus Representative</td>
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<td>Dr. Mark Walton</td>
<td>Assistant Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education</td>
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<td>Dr. Rob Whyte</td>
<td>Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Alan Neville</td>
<td>Associate Dean, Education, Faculty of Health Sciences</td>
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<td>Elected trainee</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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**Frequently Asked Questions:**

**What are the Royal College specified entry criteria for applicants?**

- Evidence that the applicant is a physician currently in practice or enrolled in postgraduate training
- Evidence that their current clinical practice will provide appropriate opportunities for direct supervision (via the CE program) of the education activities required of each unit
- Demonstrated proficiency in teaching
- Demonstrated engagement with, or experience in local or national education activities
Do I have to be a Fellow of the Royal College to apply to the diploma?
No

Can a resident apply to the CE diploma?
Yes, a senior resident that meets the above criteria can apply to the diploma.

Can a physician-in-practice apply to the CE diploma?
Yes, this diploma is designed to be completed by a physician-in-practice, while continuing in their clinical and academic responsibilities.

What are the selection criteria for the CE program at McMaster University?
- Current employment as a physician or enrollment in a senior postgraduate medical training position with demonstrated proficiency and engagement in teaching
- Any Royal College or Family Medicine certification is eligible
- Evidence that current clinical practice will provide opportunities for direct supervision (within the McMaster University CE Program) for educational activities required of each unit
- McMaster University faculty or trainee
- Candidates are welcome from all McMaster campuses and distributed learning sites

How many candidates does McMaster University accept each year?
The program will accept 6 trainees per year.

What information is needed for my application?
Applications will be solicited once a year, with the following required documents: Personal CV, a Personal Statement (maximum 2 pages) and 2 letters of reference, one of which should be from your department Chair or DEC.

What should I include in my Personal Statement?
Your statement should outline your past and current involvement in medical education and teaching. Please expand on your reasons for applying to McMaster’s CE program and how you feel this program experience will suit your future goals and interests in clinical practice and medical education. Describe how your current clinical practice will provide support for required unit activities.

How will candidates be selected?
Once the date for application closure has passed, program committee members will review all eligible candidates and short list applicants for interview. Post interview, offers will be made to successful candidates. Accepted trainees will be invited to commence their program, usually with start time at the beginning of September.

How long is this program?
This competency-based program is designed for completion concurrent with your active clinical medical practice. It is anticipated that most candidates will complete the program within 12-18 months.

What is the cost of the program?
Current program fee is $5000.00 for the entire program. Additional anticipated fees for the candidate include final fee for portfolio assessment and credentialing at the Royal College. This fee is set by the Royal College, not McMaster.
How will trainees be assessed?
The trainee must maintain an active portfolio. This will include guided self-assessment reports. Unit progress and assessments will include a report from unit supervisors. The trainees will meet with the AFC Director for a Progress Report Summary. At program completion candidate portfolio and supporting documentation are forwarded to the Royal College for review and assessment. Independent portfolio assessors will review the submitted materials, with outcome decision communicated to the candidate by the Credentials Unit at the Royal College.

What designation will I have after program completion?
Candidates who successfully complete all program and Royal College requirements and maintain their Diploma with the Royal College will receive an additional qualification known as a Diploma of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (Clinician Educator), or DRCPSC(CE).

Why would I chose to complete this program instead of the Master’s Program in Health Science Education at McMaster University?
The CE Program is not meant to replace a Master’s degree. The CE Program is practical training for front line teachers and educators seeking formal training in education theory that can be applied to the everyday challenges of teaching, curriculum design, assessment etc. A master’s degree is a more direct step for an individual wishing to pursue a more focused and intensive academic career as an education researcher.

For more information, please see the Royal College website, under AFC program information for Clinician Educator:
http://www.royalcollege.ca/portal/page/portal/rc/credentials/specialty_information/clinician_educator