

Family Medicine Teaching Unit

The Fredericton Family Medicine Teaching Unit (FMTU), established in 1994, is one of four community training sites for the Department of Family Medicine at Dalhousie University. The Fredericton site was the first satellite unit affiliated with the University. The model of teaching family medicine residents in community programs has become very popular as the best way to learn is by practicing clinical skills and decision-making in a setting as close to 'real-life' as possible.

The program is based at the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital (DECRH) in Fredericton, where most of the specialty rotations are completed. Most residents working in the hospital are family medicine residents. There is no competition for learning opportunities – if residents show themselves to be interested and keen, our specialists will make every effort to help them meet their learning objectives. This program is best suited for independent, self-directed learners who like a hands-on approach. There is an academic curriculum provided weekly but our emphasis is on learning through experience.

The program is designed so that residents complete the majority of rotations in Fredericton. The only exception is the Cardiac Care Unit in second-year, which must be completed at a larger centre. There are rural community medicine rotations located within a reasonable distance from Fredericton, making it possible to commute from home. When travel is required, the accommodation and travel costs are covered by the program so that residents only have to pay rent in one place. For those residents who wish to travel and see more of the Maritimes over the two years, there are options which allow you to complete rotations elsewhere. We encourage residents to seek out different geographical areas and practices to experience a complete range of family medicine. Electives, like rural community family medicine and some core rotations, can be completed at different sites in the Maritimes.

You can expect the following rotations over a two-year period:

FIRST YEAR

Internal Medicine	8 weeks	DECRH
Obstetrics/Gynecology	8 weeks	DECRH
Pediatrics	8 weeks	DECRH
General Surgery	6 weeks	DECRH
Plastic Surgery	2 weeks	DECRH
Orthopedic Surgery	4 weeks	DECRH

Emergency Medicine	4 weeks	DECRH or Saint John Regional Hospital
Family Medicine	12 weeks	Fredericton
Vacation	4 weeks	

SECOND YEAR

Psychiatry	4 weeks	DECRH
CCU	4 weeks	Saint John Regional Hospital
Geriatrics	4 weeks	DECRH or Saint John Regional Hospital
Family Medicine (Core)	16 weeks	Fredericton
Community Experience	12 weeks	Maritime Region
Elective	12 weeks	
Vacation	4 weeks	

The 12 weeks of elective time is to be spent in an area of clinical practice that the resident identifies as an area where additional information and skills are desired. Residents are required to spend eight weeks of their elective time in the Maritime region. The remaining four weeks may be completed outside of the Maritimes.

The formal curriculum of the Fredericton FMTU is concentrated in the core Family Medicine rotations in first and second year. In the first-year core program, weekly tutorials are led by local preceptors over the 12-week period. As well, all first-year residents who are in Fredericton on specialty rotations are required to attend a weekly one-hour tutorial session. These sessions are delivered by each specialty department on a rotating basis. Topics are strongly influenced by the residents' own perceived learning needs.

In the second-year core rotation, the curriculum is taught in a number of ways. Specialists from the hospital lecture on a variety of topics, family physicians provide sessions on a wide range of primary care topics and residents are required to prepare and present seminars. Evidence-based medicine is taught by our Fredericton Site Director who has a strong interest in primary care research. This curriculum, combined with the organization of electives, makes it possible to cover all of the areas that the program and residents feel is most important.

To arrange a visit to the Fredericton Family Medicine Teaching Unit, or for more information on our program, please contact:

Fredericton Family Medicine Teaching Unit

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