

LARGE TRIFOLD

INDIGENOUS HEALTH  
INITIATIVES PROGRAM

**FIND YOUR  
JOURNEY  
INTO A HEALTH  
CAREER**

 **UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**  
FACULTY OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY  
Division of Community Engagement

YOUR JOURNEY STARTS HERE

## SEE YOURSELF HERE

The IHIP recognizes that supporting the growth in the number of Indigenous health professionals is a journey that requires early partnership and collaboration among a diverse group of partners along the learning path of Indigenous students.

The IHIP engages with urban and rural Indigenous partners to provide Indigenous youth with hands-on learning and engagement opportunities to help generate an awareness of, and interest in, future educational and career paths in medical and dental professions. These include:

- Health Horizon Days (part of Discovery Days in Health Sciences): Engage in start-of-the-art medical simulation and hear from current students and research areas around the University.
- Let's Talk Science Outreach: We are proud to offer a free community-based program that delivers a wide variety of meaningful science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities for children as young as three years old and youth up to Grade 12.
- Other hands-on learning and research opportunities with the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry.

The IHIP also participates in local community health, education, and career days, and at University, faculty-wide, and other national recruitment events such as:

Aboriginal Student Discovery Day hosted by the Registrar's Office.

Annual Indigenous Networking Event hosted by the Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic

For more information about University-wide Indigenous initiatives and supports, please visit: <https://www.ualberta.ca/aboriginal-indigenous>

## SUPPORTING YOUR JOURNEY

The IHIP is collaborative and holistic program that provides wrap-around supports to qualified self-identified Indigenous applicants as they enter into, and graduate successfully from, the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry. The IHIP is further supported by the Faculty's special status admissions in the Doctor of Medicine (MD), Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS), Dental Hygiene (DH), and Medical Laboratory Sciences (MLS) programs.

### Admissions

The Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry reserves a total of 5 seats for Indigenous applicants into the MD program, and an additional 3 seats in each of the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS), Dental Hygiene (DH), and Medical Laboratory Sciences (MLS) programs respectively.

### About Us

The Indigenous Health Initiatives Program (formerly the Aboriginal Health Careers Program) was founded in 1988 by the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Alberta to encourage a greater number of First Nations, Inuit and Métis students gain access to, and graduate from, all faculty medicine and dentistry programs. Since the program's inception, the Indigenous Health Initiatives Program (IHIP) has been a leader in the recruitment and retention of Indigenous students into medical school in Canada.

### Our Mandate

The mandate of the Indigenous Health Initiatives Program (IHIP) is to support the growth in the number of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people in medicine and dentistry programs in order to address the gap in the underrepresentation of Indigenous peoples in health professions in Alberta and across Canada. This is accomplished through our collaborative and holistic program that provides wrap-around supports to qualified Indigenous applicants as they enter into, and graduate successfully from, the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry.

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Connor Grimes  
3RD YEAR, DENTISTRY



EDMONTON,  
ALBERTA

**"Since starting my program, I know I made the right choice and my program has been incredibly rewarding."**

ties for Indigenous students in Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry programs to participate in activities that promote and support connection to community, culture and language, and other learning opportunities.

## COMPLETING YOUR JOURNEY AND BEYOND

The IHIP provides guidance and support to self-identified Indigenous students interested in gaining access to Faculty of Medicine programs including:

- Information sharing
- Application support (i.e. process, documentation)
- Program Interview support
- Program and Faculty Orientation

Admissions requirements and general process details can change over time. Please visit the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry website for up-to-date information on admissions requirements: <https://www.ualberta.ca/medicine>

### Partnership & Collaboration

The IHIP is part of a larger interconnected community committed to collaboration and partnership in activities that promote and support the advancement of Indigenous peoples across all disciplines at the University of Alberta. Through this partnership, the IHIP provides opportuni-

### Graduation

The IHIP recognizes the tremendous journey undertaken by Indigenous students leading up to, and including, graduating from Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry programs. To honour the journey and celebrate individual and collective success of Indigenous students, the IHIP hosts an annual graduation ceremony where Elders present graduates with traditional symbols of honour to celebrate their convocation.

### Indigenous Medical Professionals

Many of our graduates have gone on to take important leadership roles in various Indigenous health programs and organizations across Canada and are providing direct services in First Nations communities throughout Alberta.

We are proud to be a foundational part of Indigenous medical professionals making a difference in the health and well-being of Indigenous peoples at the individual, collective, and system-wide levels. Many of

our graduates are making award-winning, innovative, and responsive differences in the lives of urban and rural Indigenous peoples and communities that serve as important examples and role-models for future Indigenous medical professionals.

## START HERE AND SUCCEED

Please contact us for more information about the IHIP and/or any other supports, programs, and services we offer to encourage admission into, and successful graduation from, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry programs.

PHONE: 780 492 9526  
EMAIL: [ihip@ualberta.ca](mailto:ihip@ualberta.ca)

**"The most rewarding aspect of the MD program was that it allowed me to create meaningful relationships with patients and earn their trust."**

## TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Metis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

Dr. Cara Bablitz  
MEDICINE



WHITECOURT,  
ALBERTA  
-  
THE WATERWAYS  
REGION IN  
FORT McMURRAY,  
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WEBSITE: [ualberta.ca/medicine/about/communities/community-engagement/ihi](http://ualberta.ca/medicine/about/communities/community-engagement/ihi)

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