



CLASS PROFILE - MEDICAL CLASS OF 2025

Hello, my name is Flavia Nobay, I am the Associate Dean of Admissions, and I have the honor and distinct pleasure of reviewing the applications and guiding the selection for the class of 2025.

The class profile is a Rochester tradition. It has a 2-fold purpose. Primarily it is an effort to help you “connect” with each other, especially during this first week of medical school when everything is new – exciting but clearly daunting. Secondly, it is a pause where we all can marvel at the accomplishments, potential and talent for the future of medicine sitting in front of us here today. A special note this year... you are a class that has experienced complete changes, virtual interviews, virtual tours, virtual connections all while in lockdown, facing incredible personal barriers and sacrifice. We could not be more impressed by the demonstrated resilience and fortitude of this year’s incoming class.

So let’s get to it. This year we had approximately 5900 applications from AMCAS that we reviewed. Of the completed applications, 3000 were from female applicants and 2800 were from male applicants, 21 were from self-disclosed, trans or non-conforming gender applicants. Our admissions committee interviewed 711 of these applications, for 105 places in your class. Your class includes 59 women, and 44 men and 2 non-binary students. The average age of your class is 23.67 years and 43% of your class is 24 years old or older. And while age is totally irrelevant to your progress and potential, the spread in years is from 21 to 32. This is concordant with national trends.



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Sixty-four of you identify as non-Caucasians and 28 of you are considered historically underrepresented in medicine. We have 3 international students, but most of you are citizens or permanent residents of the US, however, 12 of you were born outside of the United States including China, Colombia, Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Israel, India, Korea, and Taiwan. You speak an incredible number of languages: Spanish, French but also Italian, Chinese, Urdu, Hindi and Russian to start off the list. Arabic, Czech, Danish, German, Hebrew, Japanese, Korean, Malayalam, Persian, Tamil, Turkish, Gujarati are also spoken in this class. I am especially delighted by those of you who sign, given our community's needs.

Thirty-five members of your class are from New York state, fourteen hail from California, eight from New Jersey, seven from Pennsylvania, and four each from Maryland, Massachusetts, and Michigan, three from Colorado, Connecticut, Florida and Utah and two each from North Carolina and Texas. Twelve additional states are represented by one of your classmates. All in all, twenty-five different states of legal residence are represented by your class.

About 29% of you majored in Biology or some variation of that major, 15 of you majored in Neurosciences, six each majored in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, the Engineering fields and Psychology, five each majored in Chemistry, four in Public or Global Health. Three majored in Anthropology. Two each majored in History, Mathematics, Microbiology, Music and 1 each majored in Art History, Business, Comparative Literature, Comp Sci, Econ, Environmental



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Sciences, Epidemiology, Foreign Languages, Genetics, Human Development, Kinesiology, Physiology, Polisci, and the Visual Sciences. Some of you have Master's including African Studies, Biomedical Sciences, Control of Infectious Diseases, Music, Psychology, Science, Journalism, Security Studies, Social Epidemiology, and Statistics. One of you is a trained dentist. Just think about the breath and scope of the knowledge in this class.

Among our special matriculating programs, eleven of you entered from our affiliations with post baccalaureate programs. Nine are part of our eight-year Rochester Early Medical Scholars Baccalaureate/MD Program, ten are part of our Early Assurance Programs, two are joining us from our combined MD-MBA program and eight remarkable women and men join as future clinician scientists in our eight-year, NIH funded MD/PhD, Medical Scientist Training Program. Notably, we have our FIRST OMFS resident/ Medical student in this class, we are so excited to collaborate with the Eastman Center for Oral Health for this six-year program.

Alright get ready. You've attended sixty-one different colleges and universities as undergraduates and I'm listing all of them. In addition to the 16 students from Rochester; 5 attended Johns Hopkins, 4 each from Berkeley (GO Bears!), Hunter, and Xavier of Louisiana; 3 from Rochester Institute of Technology; 2 each from Amherst, Brandeis, BYU, Brown, Harvard, Middlebury, Stanford, Buffalo, Connecticut, and Yale. Also represented are: Carleton, Carnegie Mellon, Colgate, Cornish College of the Arts, Duke, Georgetown, Georgia Institute of Technology, Hamilton, Haverford, Indiana-Bloomington,



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Indiana-Purdue, Juniata, Lipscomb, Metropolitan State of the University of Denver, Michigan State, NYU, Northeastern, Oglethorpe, University of Oklahoma, Christian University, Princeton, Rutgers, Smith, Spelman, SUNY Geneseo, SUNY Maritime, SUNY Brockport, Swarthmore, Syracuse, The Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory, University of Scranton, United States Naval Academy, New Hampshire, UC Riverside, UC Santa Barbara, Colorado, Florida, University of Maryland, University of Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Notre Dame, Pennsylvania, University of Vermont, and Utah Valley. Phew! That's a lot of experience.

Most of you graduated with Latin Honors, including a large number who were *Summa* or *Magna Cum Laude*. Additionally, many of your class graduated *Phi Beta Kappa*, *Phi Kappa Phi*, *Tau Beta Pi* and or with other departmental, and university or national honors society and recognitions. These awards show that you've collectively had an incredible academic prowess and we are humbled before your accomplishments. But in addition to these well-known awards, we recognize that you have had *even* more profound accomplishments, many that don't come with certificates or applause, but still impacted the lives of communities, organizations and people all around you. Congratulations.

Your desire to deeply and meaningfully work in marginalized communities has led you to work in AmeriCorps, Teach for America and as Jesuit Service Corp members. More than 50% of you *worked* or *learned* in an overseas setting. From Sudan to Taipei, Japan to Bangalore, Greece to Nicaragua you have been impacted



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by what life looks like outside the confines of your hometowns and you are wiser for it. The University of Rochester celebrates your interest in a wide lens of experiences and we hope an equal or greater number of you continue your global reach in this phase of your transformation.

In order to be accepted to the University of Rochester, it is a *must* that you have worked outside your comfort zone; your class has shown heart and passion surpassing the average applicant. Many of you have worked with agencies in our inner cities, refugee camps and prisons, reaching out to those who suffer the greatest disparities in health care in our world. **All** of you have volunteered in various outreach opportunities, alternative summer breaks, health care brigades and other college or religious sponsored organizations and have made an impact on the health and wellness of communities. If there is a hospital clinic or possibility to help someone, someone in this room has volunteered in that opportunity and more importantly, have LOVED working within it. The Class of 2025 you have reached out to those people in need, regardless of pandemics, lock-downs, distance or personal hardship encountered.

You have really unique interests and accomplishments that display heart and soul to this class. To name just a few: you have built houses in Nicaragua, worked in reforming criminal justice systems, accompanied those with terminal illness to their deaths, joined teams for disaster relief, and supported housing insecurity and homelessness. You have worked to distribute Covid 19 vaccines at your own peril, been asylum advocates, led clinics such as Planned Parenthood and served our



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LGBTQ community. You have served communities not only in English, but Spanish, Chinese and Arabic. I am particularly proud of the overwhelming number of people concerned about the marginalized in their communities, combatting racism, sexism, misogynies, xenophobia, ableism and ageism; populations easily ignored. This is a class overflowing with advocates and advocacy – the number of people who have worked in community or as community organizers, in organized politics or on committees to foster change is simply breathtaking. From intimate partner violence, rape, suicide prevention, deportation and the bias against marginalized populations, you are there for your communities twenty-four seven. Your graciousness and innovative spirit is the essence of our progress. The University of Rochester is a fertile ground for your ideas to take root, please don't lose the opportunity to harness the power of your collective classes' talents and skills to be innovators and collective sparks.

Oh... and the class of 2025's your previous lives are fascinating. Many of you are EMT trained, but you have also been NIH clinical research coordinators, admissions officers, journalists, therapists, and case managers. Most of you have had jobs and know the value of clocking in and clocking out, living paycheck to paycheck as office workers, baristas, research coordinators, food service workers, and nannies. Stop and think about the collective experiences you come here with. Harness this talent and skill to improve our house of medicine. For those of you who have worked part time, full time and sometimes, don't forget the lessons these jobs have given you, for they are true for your "job in medicine" - be on time, be prepared, be respectful and be respected.



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To relax you have enjoyed a wide variety of interests, many common, but some less common. Your class has a true love for music and reading! We couldn't be happier. Additionally, this is a class of bakers – sourdough breads, cookies, muffins, cakes, tarts... I officially christen this class the “sourdough starters”. As per usual for the U of R, we have a remarkable, full symphony of musical talent. Not just ‘quarantine talent’ but professional talent – with two of your classmates professionally trained in music theory and music performance. Your class talent show has the potential to rival the Eastman School of Music and “On Call” our medical school acapella group will not only have voice and singing available to it, but beat box and musical theater to add to our repertoire. In a city that is home to the Eastman School of Music, you have a unique opportunity to continue to play and appreciate some of the best music in the world, I hope you take advantage of it.

Now bizarrely, we have collected a class that almost universally loves hiking, backpacking, rock climbing and trail running – the Adirondacks are just a short drive away, and we hope you explore the Finger Lakes and the hills, home to some beautiful countryside and sports in which to enjoy these passions. We have four team members from D1 Varsity athletics in this class, Track and Field, Synchronized Swimming, Cross Country and Skiing. We have multiple D3 athletics represented in Softball, Swimming, Track & Field, Soccer, Diving, Squash, Alpine Skiing, and Ultimate Frisbee. We have an exceptional coterie of club athletes representing martial arts, hockey, dance, sailing and fencing. Your personal activities abound in sports such as soccer, dance, skiing, ice skating,



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marathons, long distance running, power lifting and football. Please **DON'T STOP** taking care of your body in the upcoming years, it is vital to your long-term success.

All of you have shown deep a curiosity and a need to answer questions with rigor and patience. The sacrifice of a Sunday football game and social events so you could run a gel, or mine a data base in order to scratch the “itch of curiosity” is a theme that is represented in the class of 2025. Impressively, 44 of you have spent greater than a 1000 hours or more in your research endeavor. Most of you have done your work in the natural sciences but also in anthropology, humanities, archeology, and history. Helping us earn our name the liberal arts school of medicine. You have not only engaged in clinical, lab and bench work, but also in qualitative work. Your interest in science is vast, ranging from meditation research to planetary health, archeology to how mRNA of vaccines affect populations, STI research in Fijians to cell signaling; from molecular mechanisms of single organisms to research in diseases that affect vast numbers of people such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s. You have spanned the range from micro to macro inquiry. Regardless of the type of research, the universal theme in your class is quality work. I personally resonate with those of you that spoke of research as a lesson in humility and sometimes failure alongside the reality of so many of you who whose labs have been canceled and closed and shuttered through this pandemic; yet you have found a way to thrive. As research is a key pillar to our institution’s mission, we want to encourage you to **not STOP** being curious, it is



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this very attribute that will change the lives of your patients and the world around you.

For many of you, medicine is a family business, about 35 of you have parents that have served in medicine in some capacity. But for a large number of you, you have had no immediate family in medicine. Your family is in IT, work in department stores, drive for UBER, are adventure outfitters, business owners, gig workers, PhD researchers, custodial workers, care assistants, artists, lawyers, teachers, sales specialists, counselors, and the unsung hero of all jobs – the homemaker. Some of you have raised yourself alone either physically or psychologically. As you can see, many of you have had absolutely no family in which to model your future medical aspirations. However, for all of you, someone in your family has been your inspiration, either family you were born to or family you joined, because they were there supporting you, believing in you and reminding you of the power of your potential. Please remember to celebrate with them, they deserve a massive thank you and a giant warm hug.

It is remarkable and inspiring to see all that you have achieved in such a short period of time and, for many of you, against all odds. Class of 2025, you are the children of the pandemic, you have achieved success despite cancellations and confusion; you will be remembered not only for your minds and abilities but your flexibility. While things may not be “normal”, you are learning lessons that will help you thrive in the variety of environments of the future. Regardless of how you arrived here, you have excelled and surpassed every milestone set before you.



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Class of 2025, you are about to transform yourselves. So get ready, in the next 1460 days, get to know each other, for you are each other's resilience and wellness. Your individual talents, skills and capabilities have gotten you to this seat here today however, it is time to look around this room and this community and realize that it is your collective success that will change the lives of your future patients and communities forever.

Welcome to the University of Rochester. Welcome Class of 2025. We stand in absolute awe of your accomplishments, talents and potential... Meliora!