



CLASS PROFILE - MEDICAL CLASS OF 2026

Hello, my name is Christine Hay, I am the Associate Dean of Admissions, and I had the honor and distinct pleasure of reviewing the applications and guiding the selection for the class of 2026.

The class profile is a Rochester tradition. It has a 2-fold purpose. 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 also daunting. It is also an opportunity for us all to acknowledge your accomplishments and realize the enormous potential you represent for the future of medicine.

This year we received 5669 completed applications from AMCAS that we reviewed for approximately 70 spots in our incoming class. A further 38 of you entered through our special matriculating programs: 8 of you entered from our affiliations with post baccalaureate programs; 9 are part of our eight-year Rochester Early Medical Scholars Program; 9 entered through our Early Assurance Programs; and 4 are joining us from our combined MD-MBA program. One of your class, already a fully qualified dentist, is joining our combined OMFS residency/MD program and 8 future clinician scientists are joining our NIH funded MD/PhD, Medical Scientist Training Program.

Your class includes 49 women, and 54 men and 7 non-binary students. The average age of your class is 24 years and 45% of your class is 24 years old or older. This is concordant with national trends.



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Sixty-four of you identify as non-Caucasians and 16 of you are considered historically underrepresented in medicine. You call 26 different states home with New York, Massachusetts and California together accounting for the top 3 spots. 17 of you were born outside of the United States. You speak an incredible number of languages: 34 at last count including American Sign Language.

You've attended fifty-seven different colleges and universities as undergraduates. About 30% of you majored in Biology or some variation of that major; 24 of you majored in chemistry or biochemistry; thirteen in Neurosciences, and six in Psychology. All the major sciences are represented in this class along with non-science majors including business, international studies, political science, history and anthropology. And you did great work in your majors: Most of you graduated with Latin Honors and many of your class graduated with departmental, university and national honors society recognitions. But in addition to these well-known awards, we recognize that you have had *even* more profound accomplishments that have impacted the lives of communities, organizations and people all around you.

Your desire to deeply and meaningfully work in marginalized communities has led you to work in AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps, Teach For America, and the Jesuit Service Corps amongst others. You have worked in inner cities, refugee camps and prisons, reaching out to those who suffer the greatest disparities in in our world. More than half of you worked or learned in an overseas setting: From



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Tanzania to Lithuania you have been impacted by what life looks like outside the confines of your hometowns and you are wiser for it. You have reached out to people in need, regardless of pandemics, lock-downs, distance or personal hardship and you have grown with each interaction. This is a class overflowing with advocates—the number of people who have worked as community organizers, in organized politics or on committees to foster change is simply breathtaking. From intimate partner violence prevention, sexual assault advocacy, suicide prevention, fighting 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 progress. These experiences *will* make you better doctors.

You are all scientists. All of you have shown deep a curiosity and a need to answer questions with rigor and patience. 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; archaeology to how mRNA vaccines affect populations; from molecular mechanisms of single organisms to research in diseases that affect vast numbers of people such as Alzheimer's and HIV.

Most of you have worked and your prior work experiences will also inform your development as a physician. Many of you are EMT trained, but you have also been NIH researchers, educators, art and film producers, social justice researchers, park rangers, and NBA analysts. You've made ends meet as office workers,



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baristas, food service workers, landscapers, and farm handlers. Stop and think about the collective experiences you come here with and harness this talent and skill.

This is a class of artists – dancing, filmmaking, photography, calligraphy, painting, jewelry making, watchmaking, and podcasting are just a few of the outlets you enjoy. We have a full symphony of musical talent including music composers, singers, and instrumentalists and we hope you take advantage of all the amazing musical experiences Rochester has to offer.

Almost all of you report loving the outdoors relaxing by hiking, backpacking, rock climbing and trail running. The Adirondacks and the Finger Lakes are just a short drive away and I'm sure many of you have already discovered our amazing natural resources. From D1 Hockey, Rugby, and Swimming through D3 Crew, Golf, and Squash, to club martial arts, fencing, curling, and equestrian this is an active class! You dance, lift weights, ski, surf, box, play soccer and volleyball, and target shoot. Please **DON'T STOP** taking care of your body in the upcoming years, it is vital to your long-term success.

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 hug.



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It is truly 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 2026, you are the children of the pandemic, and 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. 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 Class of 2026. We are so proud of your accomplishments, talents and potential... Meliora!