



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY
UNIVERSITY *of* ROCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER

University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry – Class of 2017 Profile



The class profile is a Rochester tradition and is an effort to help you “connect” with each other, especially during this first week of medical school when everything is so new, exciting and daunting, all at the same time. Each year’s class looks like the best class to ever matriculate at Rochester and your class is no exception.

This year we had over 6000 applications from AMCAS and reviewed 5545 applicants who completed our supplemental application, an increase of over 18% from last year. Of the completed supplemental applications, 2250 were from female and 3295 were from male applicants. About 22% of the applications were from New York state residents and the remainder from out-of-state. The admissions committee, faculty and students interviewed 689 applicants this year for our 103 places in the class. Your class



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includes 55 women, 48 men and ranges in age from 21 to 29. The average age of your class is 23 years and about 37% of your class is 24 years old or older.

You have 4 Andrews (same as last year's class), 3 Erics and 2 Benjamins, Davids, Jacks, Matthews, Megans, and Tiffanys in your class.

About 45% of you identify as non-Caucasian. All of you are citizens or permanent residents of the United States, but 15 of you were born outside the United States. Places of birth include: Canada, China, Haiti, Iceland, India, Puerto Rico, Poland, and South Korea.

37 members of your class are New York state residents, although many of you attended colleges outside of New York. 9 hail from Pennsylvania, 8 from Massachusetts, 7 New Jersey, 5 from California, 4 from Ohio, 3 each from Colorado, Florida, Texas and Washington, and 2 each from Connecticut, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, and Wisconsin. 24 different states are represented in your class and other states include: Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, New Hampshire, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

About 41 of you majored in Biology or some variation of that major, 9 in Neuroscience, 8 in Biochemistry, 6 in Psychology, 3 each in Chemistry or English, and 2 each in Anthropology, Health and Society, Microbiology, Music and Spanish. Other majors included Accounting, Asian Studies, Biomedical Engineering, Business, Economics, French, Geography, History, Integrative Physiology, Liberal Studies, Linguistics, Philosophy, Physics, Supply Chain Management, and Theatre Arts. 17 of you are double majors and 7 of you have Masters Degrees in fields as diverse as Social Work, Public Health, Education, Biomedical Sciences, Bible, Rabbinic Studies, and Analytical Finance.



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Among our special matriculation programs, 5 of you entered under our Rochester Early Medical Scholars Program, 7 as Bryn Mawr Post-Baccalaureate students, 7 of you are part of our Early Assurance Program, and 9 are MD/PhD matriculants in our Medical Scientist Training Program. And last year, 2 of you deferred admission for one year and now join your class. 10 of you have alumni or faculty affiliations and 18 of you are members of groups that are underrepresented in medicine.

You attended 58 different colleges and universities as undergraduates. 12 of you attended the University of Rochester as undergraduates, 7 attended Swarthmore, and 4 each attended Carleton and Yale. 3 each attended Colgate, Emory, Haverford, NYU, and SUNY-Geneseo. 2 each attended Brandeis, BYU, Duke, Hamilton, Stanford, SUNY-Binghamton, Tufts, Wisconsin, Chicago, Michigan, Washington University, and Williams. Other schools attended included Amherst, Arizona State, Barry University, Boston College, Brown, Carnegie Mellon, Colby, Cornell, CUNY- Hunter College, Dartmouth, DePaul, Hillsdale, Johns Hopkins, Lafayette, Lehigh, Macalester, Oberlin, Penn State, Pomona, San Diego State, SUNY-Buffalo, Ohio State, Thomas Edison State, UC-Santa Cruz, US Naval Academy, Colorado, Puerto Rico, Southern Cal, Florida, Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh, Richmond, Washington, Wellesley, Wesleyan, Xavier in Cincinnati, Xavier of Louisiana, and Yeshiva University. Most of you graduated with Latin Honors and many in your class graduated *Phi Beta Kappa*, *Phi Kappa Phi*, *Tau Beta Pi* and/or with departmental or University Honors.

In addition to personal or family travel experiences, and study abroad programs, many of you held volunteer or work positions overseas. Many of you participated in volunteer mission, health and/or research experiences in a number of different countries. Six of you served as AmeriCorps volunteers from Minnesota to Yonkers, several were Teach for America participants in the Mississippi delta or Nashville. You've worked for the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, for America Reads and America Counts, participated in



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education outreach on the Navajo Reservation, and 1 of you was a volunteer with our own medical school alumnus Dr. Rick Hodes in his Ethiopian clinic. One you biked 4700 miles across the US with 25 teammates and raise \$165,000 for young adults with cancer. Countless others volunteered in various outreach or medical mission trips here and abroad. I hope many of you will take advantage of our International Medicine programs over the next 4 years and/or our community outreach programs, and continue to expand your horizons while lending a hand to our brothers and sisters in need.

You've participated in many of the standard volunteer experiences, both in clinical settings and community outreach, which we've come to expect of our medical students. Hospice, Habitat for Humanity, volunteer ambulance service, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, Planned Parenthood, nursing homes, camps for the disabled and, of course, numerous hospital, shadowing, and ambulatory clinic experiences, some rural and many in underserved inner cities. Many of you are EMT, CPR or Wilderness Training certified, and you've volunteered in the PICU, NICU, SICU, ICU, CCU and have accumulated some large IOUs, most in the form of student loans.

Interestingly, you've been bartenders, baby sitters, tutors, aides to the physically and mentally challenged, classroom teachers, first responders, technicians of all varieties, lifeguards, campus news editors, crisis hotline counselors, and volunteers in just about every conceivable community agency one can imagine. Of special interest, 3 of you train and/or are skilled horseback riders, several have participated in theatre, one spent a month on a submarine, at least one of you is a juggler and another an adroit magician. You've worked in the Pentagon for the Air Warfare Command, enjoy fly-fishing, stand-up comedy, Indian Classical Dance, and one young woman is a skilled Texas Hold'em poker player. Guard your rent money carefully!



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In your free time you enjoy dancing, cooking, art, yoga, rock climbing, hiking, boating, and skiing. Most of you are musical, with the majority of those playing the piano, violin, flute, guitar, saxophone, and drums, while many others enjoy singing. Our a cappella group welcomes you.

Of course, about 95% of you have done research in some capacity or another, most in the natural sciences but many others in the social sciences and humanities. Equally impressive are the number of you with published peer-reviewed articles and meeting abstracts. One of you ran in the Umstead 100 mile ultra-marathon, finishing with a personal best of 23.5 hours! Some of you were college varsity athletes. Your athletic pursuits included soccer (4 of you), 3 of you in track and field, tennis, golf (All Ivy League), crew and sailing. Finally, many of you are at least bilingual, with some of you fluent in 3 or more languages.

Twenty of your parents are physicians, 6 are dentists, 2 are Physician Assistants, many hold PhDs and are college professors, and 15 are registered nurses. Other parents are phlebotomists, acupuncturists, personal trainers, speech pathologists or pharmacy techs. For many of you, your parents are truly an inspiration, if for no other reason than they were always there for you. It is truly 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. A number of you are the first in your family to graduate from college and many have held work-study jobs throughout college just so you could attend. And, you've excelled; as students, as volunteers, as young parents, and as humanists, ready to begin careers in academic medicine, teaching and research, or private practice, and hopefully *always* as advocates for your patients.



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Finally, you come from some interesting towns and cities: Owls Head (ME), Ellisville (MO), Denver (IA), Pepper Pike (OH), Shelburne (VT), Broomfield (CO), Keflavik (Iceland), Rancho Santa Margarita (CA), Cazenovia (NY), Blue Bell (PA), Lyme (NH), and Waunakee (WI).

I think it is best to end here. You've done so much and time only permits me to capture a superficial glimpse of who you *really* are. I hope during the weeks ahead that you will take the time to seek each other out, get to really know each other, support one another, and establish friendships that will last a lifetime. Be nice to the person sitting next to you because there is a fair chance that some of you will form lasting partnerships, professional and personal.

You've made it, you are in medical school, so RELAX, LEARN, and ENJOY. To paraphrase a cartoon in the *New Yorker* magazine, you may view the next 4 years as attending medical school, but your parents may view it as raising the debt ceiling! Regardless, our hope is that you will marshal all of your unique talents and interests for the benefit of your patients and for the profession of medicine. May I be the first of many to say "Meliora," Rochester's motto, meaning "always better." Welcome and congratulations!