



CLASS PROFILE - MEDICAL CLASS OF 2027

Hello, my name is Dr. Christine Hay. I am the Associate Dean for Admissions, and I had the honor and distinct pleasure of reviewing the applications and guiding the selection for the class of 2027.

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 and 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 5,720 completed applications from AMCAS that we reviewed for approximately 77 spots in our incoming class. A further 26 of you entered through our special matriculating programs: 4 of you entered from our affiliations with post baccalaureate programs; 7 are part of our eight-year Rochester Early Medical Scholars Program; 11 entered through our Early Assurance Programs; and 2 are joining us from our combined MD-MBA program. 6 future clinician scientists are joining our NIH funded MD/PhD, Medical Scientist Training Program.

The average age of your class is 24 years and 44% of your class is 24 years old or older. This is concordant with national trends. Most of you took a gap year or two or ten.



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Fifty-seven of you identify as non-Caucasian and 17 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. 15 of you were born outside of the United States and one of you is joining us from China as our newest Levitan Family Endowed Scholar. You speak an incredible number of languages: 23 at last count including American Sign Language.

You attended sixty-one different colleges and universities as undergraduates and majored in everything from science to economics to music. About 34% of you majored in biology or some variation of that major; 18 of you majored in chemistry or biochemistry; 15 in neurosciences, and nine in psychology. Eight of you are engineers. Non-science-based majors include economics, public health, history, music and anthropology. And you did great work in your majors: you graduated cum laude and with departmental, university and national honors society recognitions. But in addition to these academic accolades, you have had profound experiences outside of the classroom that have impacted the lives of communities, organizations and people all around you.

Your desire to reach out and work with traditionally marginalized communities has led you to AmeriCorps, Teach for America, Remote Area Medical, and the Medical Reserve Corps amongst others. You have worked in inner cities, shelters and prisons, reaching out to those who suffer the greatest disparities in our world. Many of you worked or learned in an overseas setting: From Mexico City to Johannesburg to a Fulbright in Hungary you have been



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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 child abuse and neglect advocacy, sexual assault prevention, crisis intervention, 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 curiosity and a need to answer questions with rigor and patience. You have engaged in clinical research, bench and translational work and outcomes research. Your interest in science is vast, ranging from health disparities research to planetary health; history to artificial intelligence; from drug discovery 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, registered nurses, social workers, TV journalists, business analysts, and a Navy SEAL. You’ve made ends meet as office workers, on moving crews, food service workers, dental assistants, and customer service



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associates. Stop and think about the collective experiences you come here with and harness this talent and skill.

This is a class of artists – dancing, poetry, photography and videography, painting, sculpting, crocheting, and podcasting are just a few of the outlets you enjoy. We have a full symphony of musical talent including a cathedral organist and choral conductor, beatboxers, 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 Crew, Cheerleading, Track and Field, and Lacrosse through D3 Hockey and Swimming, to club tennis, skiing, and field hockey this is an active class! You dance, lift weights, play soccer and volleyball, and practice yoga and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. 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.



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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 2027, you are a group heavily impacted by the pandemic, and you have achieved success despite cancellations and confusion. You will be remembered not only for your intellect and abilities but for your flexibility. You have learned 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 2027. We are so proud of your accomplishments, talents and potential... Meliora!