

# University of Rochester Medical School Profile for the Class of 2014

**August 13, 2010**

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 4900 applications from AMCAS and reviewed 4444 applicants who completed our supplemental application, an increase of about 5% over last year. Of the completed supplemental applications, 2062 were from female and 2382 were from male applicants. About 25% of the applications were from New York State residents and the remainder from out-of-state applicants. The admissions committee, faculty and students interviewed 631 applicants this year for our 104 places in the class. Your class includes 48 women, 56 men and ranges in age from 21 to 34. The average age of your class is 24 and about 40% of your class is 24 years old or older.

You have 3 Andrews, 3 Colins and 3 Katherines in your class, along with 2 Davids, 2 Emilys, 2 Joshuas, 2 Justins, 2 Marys and 2 Nicholases.

About 31% of you identify as non-Caucasian and 15 of you are underrepresented in medicine applicants. All of you are citizens or permanent residents of the United States, but 11 of you were born outside the United States. Places of birth include: Belarus, China, Hong Kong, Iran, Jamaica, Pakistan, the Phillipines, Trinidad, the United Kingdom, and one of you was born in Landstuhl, Germany, at the largest US military hospital outside of the United States.

43 members of your class are New York state residents, although many of you attended colleges outside of New York state. 11 hail from Pennsylvania, 7 from Massachusetts, 5 from California, 4 from Michigan and Minnesota, 3 each from Utah and Washington, and 2 each from Connecticut, Illinois, Missouri, Oregon, and Wisconsin. 27 different states are represented in your class, and other states of residence include: Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, and Vermont.

About 45 of you majored in Biology or some variation of that major, including Physiology, Human Ecology, Health and Society, Cell Biology, Evolution, and Genetics, 7 each majored in Chemistry and Neuroscience, 6 in Biochemistry, 5 in Political Science, and 3 each in Anthropology and Biomedical Engineering. 2 each majored in Computer Science, Molecular Biology, Music, Philosophy, Psychology, and Sociology. Other majors included Art, Economics, Education, English, European Studies, Fine Arts, Foreign Language, Latin American Studies, International Relations, Materials Science, Microbiology, and Religion. 9 of you have Masters degrees, several in Public Health, and 2 of you are in our MBA/MD program, having already completed one year of business school. And, 2 of you have doctorates, including a JD degree in Health Law and a PhD in Political Science.

Among our special matriculation programs, 8 of you entered under our Bryn Mawr or Associated Medical Schools of New York Post-Baccalaureate Programs, 5 are part of our Rochester Early Medical Scholars Program, 4 are part of our Early Assurance Program, and 7 are MD/PhD matriculants in our Medical Scientist Training Program. Another member of your MSTP class has deferred this year to pursue his Master of Science degree at Oxford in Biomedical Engineering. And, last year 3 of you deferred admission for one year and now join your class.

You attended 66 different colleges and universities as undergraduates; I believe this is a class record! 14 of you attended the University of Rochester as undergraduates, 5 attended Cornell, and 4 each attended Brigham Young University and the University of Pennsylvania. 3 each attended Swarthmore, Wisconsin and Washington University. 2 each attended Colgate, Duke, Harvard, Hunter College, Princeton, SUNY-Geneseo, Pittsburgh, Wellesley and Williams. Other schools attended included Allegany, Amherst, Bates, Berklee College of Music, Boston College and Boston University, Bowdoin, Brandeis, Brown, Bryn Mawr, Canisius, Carleton, Carnegie Mellon, Chicago, College of the Atlantic, Connecticut, Holy Cross, Columbia, Depaul, Rochester's Eastman School of Music, Emory, Franklin and Marshall, Hamilton, Haverford, Hope, Iowa, Juniata, Mercy, Middlebury, Northwestern University, Notre Dame, Oberlin, Pittsburgh State, Roberts Wesleyan, Rochester Institute of Technology, Saint John Fisher, Stanford, Texas, Union, UC-Davis, UCLA, Utah Valley State, Vanderbilt, Villanova, Washington, Wesleyan, Willamette, Xavier and Yale. At least 23 of you participated in a Post-Baccalaureate program. Most of you graduated with Latin Honors, including 40 of you who were *Summa* or *Magna Cum Laude*. Additionally, many in your class graduated *Phi Beta Kappa*, *Phi Kappa Phi*, *Tau Beta Pi* and/or with departmental or university Honors. Congratulations to all of you.

In addition to personal or family travel experiences, many of you held volunteer or work positions overseas. 6 of you also served as Americorps volunteers, several were Teach for America participants or Upward Bound teachers, and countless others volunteered in various outreach or medical mission trips abroad. I hope many of you will take advantage of our International Medicine programs over the next 4 years and continue to expand your horizons while lending a hand to those most in need. About 30 of last year's class have just returned from their international medicine summer experiences, and more than a dozen others have participated in international experiences as third and fourth-year students.

You've done many of the standard volunteer experiences, both in clinical settings and community outreach, which we've come to expect of medical school applicants. 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.

Interestingly, you've been elementary or high school teachers, phlebotomists, tutors for your Division I NCAA athletes, Katrina volunteers on the Gulf Coast, farm workers, vineyard workers, nannies, a lobster fisherman for 2 years off the Maine coast, actors in college and professional theater, and a counterintelligence specialist in national, counterproliferation, and East Asian Affairs. I assume those were not "affairs of the heart!" You've been software engineers, online retailers, a Boston Red Sox "autography alley" volunteer, college Republicans or Democrats, volunteered in the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of New York City, or worked as a manager on a thoroughbred breeding farm. I guess this means you are the ultimate "match maker." Also, one of you was a member of the Texas Longhorn Marching Band, one was a member of the National Ski Patrol, at least one of you climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, one of you was elected as your university's 2009 Queen and another as your university's Homecoming King in 2007. And, one of you had a baby this summer. "Congratulations." Finally, one of you was called up with your Reserve Unit and served a tour of duty in Iraq, providing security for resupply convoys in the northern part of the country. You successfully completed over 125 missions and narrowly missed being seriously injured or worse when an IED exploded.

Of course, almost all 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. Many of you are at least bilingual and, finally, we were impressed with the number of pianists and guitar players in this class, as well as many of you who enjoy cooking, cycling, painting, photography, dance, golf, and horseback riding.

Many among you are athletic in the conventional way, while others have been members of your college varsity athletic teams including 3 track and field athletes, 3 soccer players, and members of your college's Lacrosse, tennis, field hockey, rugby, equestrian and swim teams. One of you also participated in trick, jump and slalom events for the University of Texas water skiing team.

Twenty-nine of your parents are physicians, 2 are dentists and 13 are registered nurses. 11 of you have parents who are college professors and many others who are teachers at various levels in our educational system. 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.

Your application essays revealed a lot about you. One of you referred to the ancient board game Go and drew upon the following metaphoric precepts:

“Let your game stem from you opening moves.  
The bad player sees a defeat; the good player sees an opportunity.  
Do not win fights at the expense of losing games.  
The Master player uses the whole board to attack.”

One of you, as a student activist in the last dictator-lead country in Europe, fled your homeland and sought political asylum in the United States. At the age of 20, with \$300 to your name, you found yourself sharing a hotel room with 5 other people; a room with no refrigerator or stove. You worked very hard in service-oriented entry level jobs, learned English, attended Community College, transferred to a university, graduated Summa Cum Laude, and today find yourself in medical school. You will be an inspiration to all of us.

Finally, we've read many essays that open or close with a famous quotation, so let me close with this from Sir William Osler. “The practice of medicine calls equally for the exercise of the heart and the head.” I encourage you to make the most of this opportunity and learn all you can, as you owe it to those who will place their trust in your healing hands.

I think it is best to end here. You are truly a diverse medical school class and an interesting group of young people. 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 are in medical school, so RELAX, LEARN, and ENJOY. Ultimately, 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. Welcome and congratulations!