



CLASS PROFILE - MEDICAL CLASS OF 2024

My name is Flavia Nobay, I am the Associate Dean of Admissions, I have had the honor of reviewing all the applications and guiding the selection of the class of 2024.

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 today.

This year we had approximately 5600 applications from AMCAS. 2600 were from female applicants, 2500 were from male applicants and 29 were from self-disclosed, non-conforming gender applicants. Our admissions committee interviewed 607 of these, for 104 places in the class. Your class includes 56 women, and 48 men. The average age of your class is 23.99 years and 49% of your class is 24 years old or older. Two of you are celebrating birthdays today, Happy Birthday! And while age is irrelevant to your progress and potential, the spread in years is 21 to 37. This is in concordance with national trends.

Fifty-seven of you identify as non-Caucasian and 19 of you are considered historically underrepresented in medicine. Most of you are citizens or permanent residents of the United States, but 19 of you were born outside of the mainland United States including China, Korea, Canada, France, Ghana, Israel, India, Pakistan, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Trinidad & Tobago, Vietnam, Russia and the Ukraine. You speak an unbelievable number of languages: Spanish, French but also Italian, Urdu, Hindi and Russian to start off the list: ASL, Arabic, Mandarin, Tui, German, Greek, Hebrew, Japanese, Korean, Malayalam, Persian, Portuguese, Punjabi, Tagalog, Hungarian, Polish, Vietnamese are also spoken in this class.



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Thirty-three members of your class are New York state residents, 12 hail from CA, 9 from PA, 5 from WA, 4 each from CT, MA, and MD, 3 from CO and 2 each from MI, MO, NJ, NV, TX, and VA. 16 additional states are represented by one of your classmates. All in all, 32 different states of legal residents are represented in your class

About 26% of you majored in Biology or some variation of that major, 12 of you majored in Neuroscience, 10 in Biochemistry, 8 in Public or Global Health, 8 in Psychology, 6 in Chemistry, 4 in the Engineering fields. Three each majored in Anthropology, and Microbiology. Two each majored in Economics, English, Psychology, Business, Finance, Statistics, and Journalism, and 1 each majored in Music, Math, Physics, Computer Science, History, Sociology, Chinese and Theater Arts. Some of you have Master's degrees including Bioengineering, Public Health, Medical Humanities, and Biomedical Discovery & Commercialization. We have advanced doctoral degrees in Physical Therapy and law.

Among our special matriculation programs, 5 of you entered from our affiliations with post bac programs. Nine are part of our 8-year Rochester Early Medical Scholars Baccalaureate/MD Program, 11 are part of our Early Assurance Program, 1 joins from our combined MD-MBA and 9 remarkable young women and men join as future clinician scientists in our 8-year, NIH funded MD/PhD, Medical Scientist Training Program.

You've attended 59 different colleges and universities as undergraduates. In addition to the 19 students from Rochester; 4 attended Washington U in St. Louis, 3 each from Amherst and Hunter; 2 each from Brown, Case Western, Cornell, Fordham, Haverford, Hopkins, Middlebury, NYU., Oberlin, Geneseo, Swarthmore, Berkeley, Davis, UCLA, Univ. of Florida, Michigan, Univ. of Washington, and Xavier Univ. of Louisiana. Also represented are: Alleghany, BYU, Carleton, Colgate, William & Mary, Colorado College, Columbia, Concordia, CUNY Brooklyn, Dartmouth, Duke, Elon, Georgetown, Hamilton, Indiana, Ithaca, McMaster, Messiah, Penn State, Rochester Institute of Technology, Santa Clara, Smith, Stanford, Stony Brook, Brockport, Alabama, Tufts, Colorado, Univ. of



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Evansville, Kansas, Univ., U of Maryland, Univ Mass, Penn, Washington & Jefferson College, Wellesley, Whitman and Williams.

Most of you graduated with Latin Honors, including a large number 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. We have an NIH Gates-Cambridge Scholar, a remarkable achievement. The awards that you have collectively won is a true testament to your academic prowess and we are humbled before your accomplishments. But in addition to these acknowledged awards, we recognize that you have had *even* more profound accomplishments many that don't come with certificates.

Your desire to deeply and meaningfully work in communities around you has led you to work in AmeriCorps, Teach for America and as Fogarty awardees. 45 % of you worked or learned in an overseas setting. From India to Sierra Leone, Peru to Copenhagen, Beijing to Guatemala, you have been impacted by what life looks like outside the confines of your hometowns and you are better for it. The University of Rochester *celebrates* your diversity 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 this school, it is a *must* that you worked outside your comfort zones; that you have shown heart and passion surpassing the average applicant. Many of you have worked with the agencies in our inner cities, tribal reservations, 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 programs, alternative summer breaks, health care brigades and other college or religious sponsored organizations, to make an impact on health and wellness of communities. If there is a hospital unit or clinic available, someone in this room has volunteered in it and more importantly, LOVED working within it. The Class of 2024 has reached out to those in need, regardless of pandemics, distance or personal hardship encountered.



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You have unique interests and accomplishments as well. To name *just a few*: you have delivered water in the desert by backpack to save the lives of hopeful immigrants, you have worked in legal aid clinics to support those who can not afford justice, you have been lead administrators of urban HIV clinics, you have created business models to clothe the homeless, been Slam Poets and have written books supporting religious and ethnic minorities. Your creative and innovative spark is the essence of how progress is made. The University of Rochester is fertile soil for your ideas to take root, don't lose the opportunity to harness the power of your class's talents and skills to be *collaborative* innovators.

Oh... and the class of 2024's previous lives are fascinating. Many of you are EMT trained. Dr. Rueckman will be delighted to know we can staff an entire squad of pre-hospital care providers. You have been professional audio-engineers, IT systems managers, architects, lawyers, fashion writers, Australian Football professionals, investment bankers, EPIC software designers, full time musicians and physical therapists. Most of you have had jobs and know the value of clocking in and clocking out and living paycheck to paycheck as office workers, baristas, research coordinators, food service workers, and nannies. Stop and think about the collective experience you come with. Harness this talent and skill to improve the house of medicine. For those of you who worked part time, full time and sometimes, don't forget the lessons of these jobs, they are true for your "job in medicine" - be on time, be prepared, be respectful and be respectable.

To relax you have a wide variety of interests, many common, but lots that are uncommon. I envy the time over the next 4 – 8 years you will have to learn about each other. Your class has a true love for dance! Bhangra, hip hop, swing, and jazzercise to name a few styles. Additionally, this is a class of bakers – sourdough, cookies, muffins, cakes, tarts... remember the Admission Office is your taste testing central. More than any other year, we have a full orchestra of musical talent. Not just 'quarantine talent' but professional talent. Your class talent show has the potential to rival the Eastman School of Music and "On Call" our med school acapella class owes Admissions a favor for this incoming class. What is fascinating, even



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your self described “relaxing activities” have not only soothed yourself, but others. In a city that is home to the Eastman School of Music, you have a unique opportunity to continue to play and appreciate some the best music in the world, I hope you take advantage of it.

Now bizarrely, this is a class of wrestlers and fencers, I’m not sure what that says about conflict negotiation for your future, but there it is. We have team members from Varsity D1-D3 athletics in sports such as baseball, basketball, soccer, lacrosse, swimming, diving and water polo. We have exceptional club athletes representing tennis, hockey, dance, triathlons, sailing and martial arts. Your personal activities abound in sports such as running, skiing, marathons, football and rock climbing and hiking. **DON’T STOP** taking care of your body in the upcoming years, it is vital to your long term success.

I am *particularly* proud of the overwhelming number of people concerned about the marginalized in their communities, combatting racism, sexism, misogyny, xenophobia, ableism and ageism; populations often easily ignored. This is a class overflowing with advocates and advocacy – the number of people who have worked as community organizers, in organized politics and on committees to make a change is breathtaking. From intimate partner violence, rape, suicide prevention, deportation and the bias against LGBTQ populations, you are there for your communities 24x7. **DO NOT DON’T STOP** caring for those who have no one to care for them.

All of you have shown deep curiosity and a need to answer your questions with rigor and patience. The sacrifice of Saturday football games 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 in the class of 2024. Most of you have done your work in the natural sciences but also in economics, humanities, sociology, and history. You have not only engaged in clinical, lab and bench work, but also qualitative work; but the universal theme in your class is quality work. Impressively, 39 of you have spent 1000 hours or greater in your research endeavors. Your interest in science is vast ranging from refugee populations data to genome data, food scarcity in Africa to behavioral modifications in zebra fish, prion disease to neuro engineering.



APP development to ion channels; you have spanned the range of macro to micro inquiry. I personally resonate with those of you that spoke of research as a lesson in humility and sometimes failure; yet you found a way to thrive despite that hard lesson. As research is a *key* pillar in our institution's mission we want to encourage you to **not STOP** being curious, it is 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, 29 of you have parents that are in medicine in some capacity. But 73 of you have no relatives in medicine. Your parents are mechanics, hairstylists, department store workers, construction workers, fire-fighters, cooks, artists, pilots, lawyers, teachers, taxi drivers, product sales specialists, counselors, and educators. As you can see, many of you have absolutely no *family* in which to model your patient care aspirations. However, for most of you, someone in your family is your inspiration, because they were there supporting you, believing in you and reminding you of the power in your potential.

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 2024, 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. Many of you have stated that "perfectionism" is your character flaw; I reject that as a flaw, your patients want you to strive for perfect. Channel it, harness it and use it to envision a remarkable future. Regardless of how you have arrived here, you have excelled and surpassed every milestone set before you. Class of 2024, you are about to transform yourselves. When this is over, you will have everything you came here with and **so much more**. So, in the next 1460 days, get to really know each other, for you are each other's resilience and wellness. Your individual talents and skills and capabilities have gotten you to the seat you are currently sitting in; however, it is time to look around this room and realize that it is your *collective* success that will change the lives of your future patients and communities forever.



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Welcome to the University of Rochester. Welcome Class of 2024. We stand in awe of your accomplishments, talent and potential... *Meliora!*