

Medical School Class of 2026: Their Journey into a Career in Medicine.

Congratulations to the graduating Class of 2026!

You are entering the health care workforce at a time when America needs you more than ever. Some of you will begin biomedical research training programs. Most of you will start your residency training on July 1 and will spend the next 3-7 years learning to practice in your chosen specialty.

Here are some interesting facts and statistics about this class that entered medical school in fall 2022.

You began applying to medical school in May 2021.

55,189
APPLICANTS

23,810
ACCEPTED

22,710
ENROLLED

84.6%

of class had at least one undergraduate research experience.

93.7%

of class had at least one undergraduate community service experience.

In 2021, the AAMC Fee Assistance Program awarded **\$18 million in total benefits to 12,927 students; 2,528 from the Class of 2026.**

66.9%

biological sciences, physical sciences, or math and statistics

33.1%

humanities, social sciences, specialized health sciences, or another major

27%

(6,137 students) of the class attended classes at a community college.

Mean Undergraduate GPA: 3.75

75%

of Class of 2026 hopefuls took the MCAT® exam during their **junior** or **senior** year of college.

MCAT® Scores

476

MIN

511.9

MEAN

528

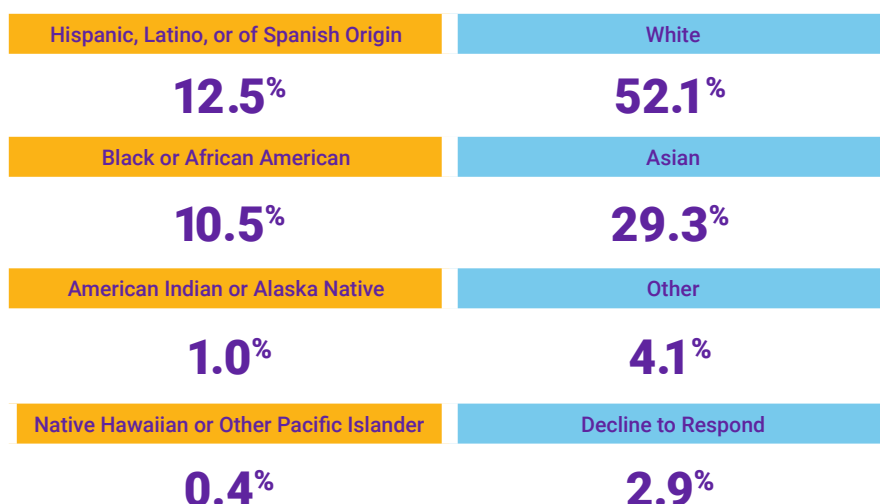
MAX

Most students in the Class of 2026 entered medical school in fall 2022.

That year **women** were the majority of...



At enrollment, the youngest member of the Class of 2026 was **17** years old. The oldest was **53**.



73.6% of the Class of 2026 speaks more than one language.

Maximum number of languages spoken

9

Median number of languages spoken

2

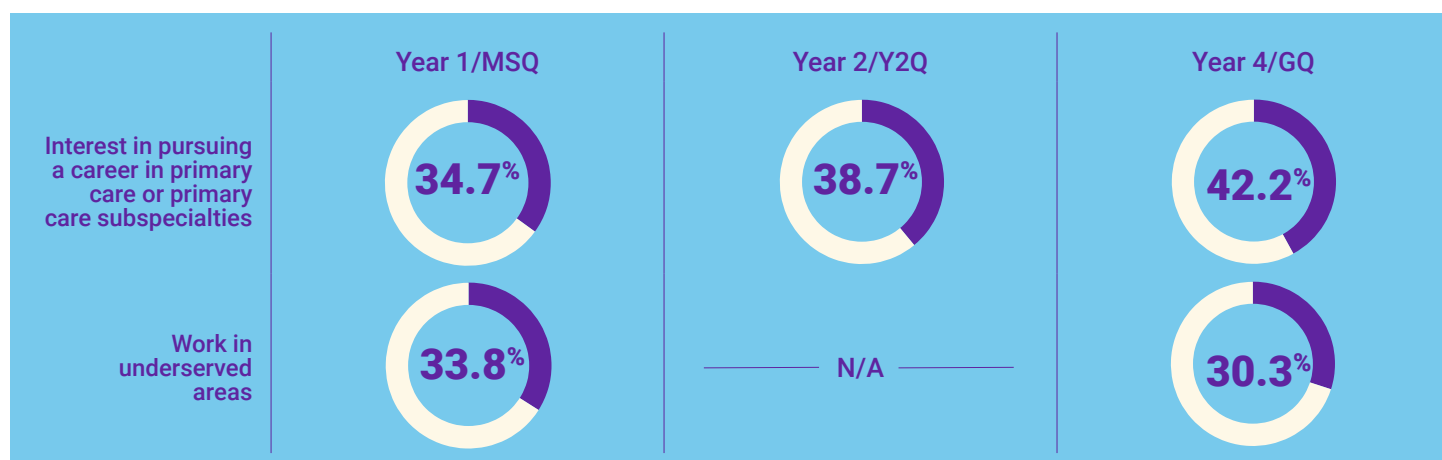
Percent of class that has a Native or Advanced Language that is not English

37.6%

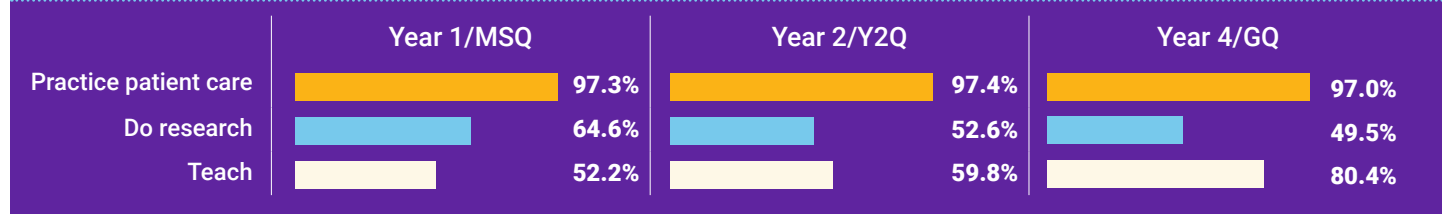


11.2% of the class are the first generation in their families to go to college.

The Class of 2026's choices of specialties, career paths, and practice locations changed throughout medical school.



They remained committed to practicing patient care. More wanted to teach and fewer to do research.



During Year Two (2023 Y2Q), when asked about their career path after medical school, "stable, secure future" was the top "essential" consideration.



of the Class of 2026 indicated they completed at least one clinical away rotation. Most students used their clerkship and away rotation experiences to finalize their decisions about career specialty.

Through the VSLO® program, many students in the Class of 2026 participated in at least one of the **16,530 away rotations** (unique electives + alternate date options) **in 140+ specialties and subspecialties.**

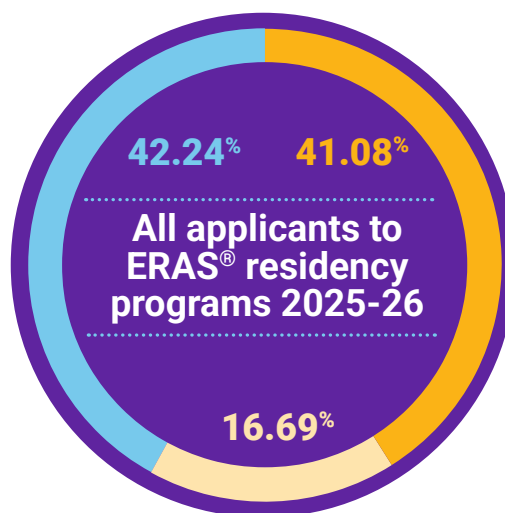
At graduation (2026 GQ), when asked about what influenced their choice of future medical specialty, "My personality, interests, and skills" was the top strong influence.



This class of 2026 was among the 52,010 who submitted residency applications in 2025.

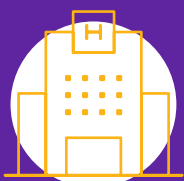
Number of Residency Applicants by Type

- US Medical School Graduates (Class of 2026) – 21,286
- International Medical School Graduates – 20,700
- Osteopathic School Graduates – 8,409



These new doctors will practice in one of **124 specialties and subspecialties** of medicine. US medical school graduates—including the Class of 2026—apply most to internal medicine, general surgery, psychiatry, radiology-diagnostic, and anesthesiology. Top choices differ for Osteopathic and International Medical Graduates.

40% of the Class of 2026 applied to more than one specialty.



In their residency applications, **45%** of the Class of 2026 said they wanted to practice in urban & suburban settings, and **2.3%** said they were interested in rural practice. More than **50%** had no preference.

3

Median number of peer-reviewed journal articles/abstracts authored:



In their medical school experiences, the skills they most frequently demonstrated were:

Teamwork
15.57%

Critical Thinking
14.05%



Most of their notable experiences were in these focus areas:

Volunteer/Services /Advocacy
19.95%

Research
16.33%

Work
15.71%

1,088

residency applicants from the Class of 2026 have

military experience.



3%

fewer applications submitted, on average, than the previous year, yet their match rates remained steady.



22,189

graduates in the Class of 2026.

2,121

graduated with a dual degree, including 722 MD-PhD graduates.

Good luck to the Class of 2026! We are so proud of who you are and what you've accomplished during your medical education journey.



Where did this data come from? The AAMC gathers data across the learner journey, from premed through residency. We are also the national source for data on faculty, biomedical research trainees, and physician workforce trends. AAMC data is readily available through aamc.org. Scan the QR code to find the data sources for this graphic.