



Welcome Week for the Class of 2026

By Mike McMullan, MD, and Bailey M. Anderson, M2



McMullan

The University of Mississippi School of Medicine welcomed a new class of 165 bright and ambitious students to campus on August 3, 2022, with Welcome Week. Most students have waited their entire lives to make it to this stage in their education, and the Student Affairs Office decided to make these three days of orientation an experience students will always remember.



Anderson

Over the summer leading up to Welcome Week, four virtual sessions were held to help guide incoming students through the process of approaching medical school. Various topics were discussed in the sessions to ensure students were on track with the onboarding process, as well as learning tips and tricks that would later be valuable to their experience on campus.

The night before students arrived on campus, they had an opportunity to attend a meet and greet party at Highball Lanes in Fondren. There, the students met the people that will accompany them on this medical journey for the next four years.

During the first Wednesday of August, students were eagerly bustling around their new home, discovering the best study spots, locating

the coffee shop for an afternoon “pick-me up,” and finding classrooms. In addition to learning the ropes as an M1, students were placed in a house with 20 other students, along with a physician mentor and several M2 students serving as prefects, to help foster a sense of community and provide additional encouragement to push them through the years ahead. On the second day of orientation, students and families attended the White Coat Ceremony at Thalia Mara Hall where they received their first coat, symbolizing their professional commitment to themselves and their future patients. Welcome Week ended on Friday afternoon with Field Day at McLain Lodge where students competed with their House, hoping to earn the honor of Field Day Champion.

The School of Medicine is thrilled to welcome the Class of 2026!

The Class of 2026

By Demondes Haynes, MD, Associate Dean for Admissions



Haynes

Greetings SOM faculty, students, staff, and friends!

I would like to introduce to you the UMMC School of Medicine Class of 2026. Joining us this month is a diverse, interesting, and excited group of 165 first-year medical students. The average age is 24 with the range of 21 to 45. They represent 36 different colleges/universities with 10 in-state and 26 out-of-state schools.

These students studied 55 different majors with Biology being the most common. They represent 45 different Mississippi counties. Females continue to outnumber the males consistent with the trend nationwide. Our M1 class is comprised of 54% females and 46% males. We continue to make great strides in our diversity efforts and exceed the national average for African American students. Ninety-six percent of the class are from underserved counties, and 40% are from rural counties. Our class continues to excel with great metrics with the average science GPA of 3.70 and average MCAT of 506. Welcome Class of 2026!



School of Medicine Mission Statement

The University of Mississippi School of Medicine is committed to training skilled and compassionate physicians to provide high quality and equitable health care particularly to the state’s residents, including diverse and underserved populations. The school prepares learners to provide excellent care through programs of innovative education, state-of-the-art research and comprehensive clinical practice.

Congratulations to Dr. Audra Schaefer!

Dr. Audra Schaefer was awarded the Medical Science Educator (MSE) 2022 Outstanding Reviewer Award. This award is an initiative of the Editorial Board of Medical Science Educator, the peer-reviewed journal of IAMSE. The award is presented annually to recognize one of the journal's reviewers for their outstanding peer review efforts over the past year. The recipients are selected based on several criteria including reviewer performance and delivering the reviews in a timely manner.



Schaefer

Coaching Resources

Recently, Dr. Michael McMullan presented on coaching in the SOM 2022 Faculty Development Series. He discussed the usefulness of coaching in medicine for physicians and for medical students. He also shared several resources on coaching. Here are a few of them that may enhance your coaching.

- Personal Best: Top athletes and singers have coaches. Should you? by Atul Gawande in the October 2, 2011 issue of Annals of Medicine
- Coaching in Medical Education: A Faculty Handbook, an AMA publication
- The Coaching Habit: Say Less, Ask More & Change the Way You Lead Forever by Michael Bungay Stanier
- Conscious Coaching: The Art & Science of Building Buy-In by Brett Bartholomew



FALL SESSIONS – SOM FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Identifying Unconscious Bias

Wednesday, September 14 | 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Presented by Dr. Caroline Compretta

Those engaged in health care and the education of medical students must have a dedication to providing high-quality and equitable educational opportunities to all students, including those from diverse and underserved populations. Combatting unconscious bias is critical to creating a diverse and inclusive learning environment, and identifying one's own unconscious bias is a first step. This session explores unconscious biases and how they manifest in interactions inside and outside of classroom.

Medical Education Research/Scholarship

Wednesday, October 12 | 12:00 – 1:00 pm

Presented by Erin Dehon

Academic medical centers, like the University of Mississippi Medical Center, often have interlocked missions of education, research, and health care. Even with these concurrent missions, scholarship in education can be pushed aside due to perceptions of lack of grant support and the demands of clinical practice. This presentation chronicles a clinician's one-year training in a medical education research grant academy highlighting the support received in the development of the concept paper and the grant proposal as well as the resources for funding education-based research.

NearPod: Increased Limits and Link Expiration Options

By Elizabeth Jacobs



Jacobs

Large student populations, such as our M1 and M2 course enrollments, make for a challenging setup for student interaction during class. However, NearPod is a valuable solution. NearPod Lessons have been defined as a period of learning or teaching using interactive activities to effectively gauge a student's comprehension and understanding. Sounds perfect, right?

The functionality is great, and difficulties with the live lessons have not been prevalent. However, the School of Medicine has encountered difficulties with self-paced lessons. Issues are generally related to the participant limit and link expiration settings.

Participation in a lesson is counted each time the link is used to access the lesson. If the same student accesses the lesson 10 times or 10 different

students access it once each, both situations equal 10 participants. To better accommodate the student populations and use case scenarios, the participant limit has been increased to 400 per lesson. This increase applies to live and self-paced lessons.

If students need to access the self-paced lesson again and again for content review, consider using multiple links and assign each to a small section of the course population. One suggestion is to use a letter range based on student's last names. Example: Last names beginning with A-D are assigned one link, E-J are assigned another, and so on. The smaller the group of students, the more access opportunities each will have.

To ensure the links continue to be accessible, be sure to adjust the link expiration settings when creating the self-paced lesson. The default is 30 days, but the range can be increased up to 365 days. Instructions are available here.

Hopefully, these adjustments will allow for a smooth experience