

News Release

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A Rite of Passage for Next Generation of Physicians

TTUHSC School of Medicine Students Receive First White Coat in Ceremony

Students in [Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center's \(TTUHSC\) School of Medicine](#) Class of 2028 received their first white coat and pledged their commitment to the medical profession at the White Coat Ceremony Friday (July 26) at the Buddy Holly Hall of Performing Arts and Sciences.

The white coat is one of the most visible symbols of the health care profession. At the ceremony, TTUHSC academic medical community members cloaked each of the 182 students with their first white coat. Students also recited a class-composed version of the ancient Oath of Hippocrates in which they pledged to lead lives of compassion, uprightness and honor.

John DeToledo, M.D., dean of the TTUHSC School of Medicine, said the ceremony is a significant milestone for first-year future doctors.

“The White Coat Ceremony is a special day for our new Class of 2028 medical students and a tradition celebrated by most medical schools across the nation,” DeToledo said. “This is the first step of their journey in the medical profession. When students put on their white coats, they are committing to their calling, the responsibilities and the professionalism of medicine that is expected of every future physician. It is a proud moment for these students, families, friends and the TTUHSC School of Medicine.”

This is the largest class ever for the TTUHSC School of Medicine. Felix G. Morales, M.D., associate dean of admissions, said the cohort also has further distinctions.

“We had one of the largest applicant pools ever, with nearly 5,000 applicants this past year,” Morales said. “Not only is it one of the academically strongest classes, but many of the students have a strong desire to help underserved communities. I am also excited that 87 students have deep West Texas ties, and many of them want to serve the region after they complete their training.”

This cohort includes 56 students who are alumni of Texas Tech University. The Class of 2028 includes graduates from 50 schools, including Yale University, Emory University, Brown University, the University of Texas at Austin and Baylor University.

Not all of the students are recent college graduates. Some students come from other jobs and professions, such as emergency medic

The average undergraduate grade point average f