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Applications now open for inaugural Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine class

New medical school combines academic excellence, early clinical experience, and comprehensive student support to prepare the next generation of physicians

NEW ORLEANS – A new chapter of medical education has begun in New Orleans. Applications are now open through the American Medical College Application Service® (AMCAS®) for the inaugural class of the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine, which will welcome its first class of students in 2027.

As the only HBCU college of medicine in the Gulf South and the fifth historically Black medical institution nationwide, the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine represents a landmark partnership between two of the South's most distinguished institutions, Xavier University of Louisiana and Ochsner Health. Together, the organizations are advancing excellence with purpose by creating a bold new model for medical education that combines academic rigor, early clinical immersion, innovation, service, and meaningful community engagement.

For more than a century, Xavier has built a distinguished legacy of preparing students for careers in medicine and the health sciences, serving as a national leader in sending Black graduates to complete medical school. Ochsner Health contributes more than 80 years of patient care excellence and more than 60 years of experience training physicians through resident and fellowship medical education programs, along with nationally recognized strengths in clinical care, research, and innovation.

The National Health Resources and Services Administration projects the United States could face a shortage of more than 141,000 physicians by 2038. The College of Medicine will help address physician shortages while creating new opportunities for students.

“The Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine represents an extraordinary opportunity to reimagine how we educate and prepare future physicians,” said Leonardo Seoane, M.D., president and founding dean of the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine. “By combining Xavier’s legacy of academic excellence and transformative education with Ochsner’s expertise in patient care, research, and medical education, we are creating a transformative learning environment that prepares compassionate physician leaders to serve communities and improve health outcomes.”

A student-centered experience designed for success

From their first year, students will engage in hands-on clinical and community-based experiences that connect classroom learning with healthcare delivery that reflects a commitment to compassionate care.

The curriculum emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration, technology, leadership development, and direct engagement with the communities our physicians will serve.

Students will also benefit from a comprehensive support system designed to help them thrive academically, personally, and professionally. A centralized Student Success Center will provide convenient access to academic assistance, advising, wellness resources, and other essential services.

Before classes begin, students will have the opportunity to participate in a Pre-Matriculation Program that helps ease the transition to medical school through:

- Immersion in the culture and community of New Orleans
- Orientation to College of Medicine resources and support services
- Academic assessments, study strategy development, and skills refreshers
- Meaningful connections with faculty, staff, and fellow students

Together, these experiences will help students build a strong foundation for success while fostering a deep commitment to service, leadership, and improving health outcomes.

Investing in New Orleans and the future of healthcare

Located in the heart of New Orleans' growing BioDistrict, the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine is expected to contribute significantly to the region's healthcare workforce and economic vitality. By 2040, projections estimate the College's operations could generate more than $152 million in economic impact across Louisiana and $122 million in New Orleans, supporting more than 1,185 jobs statewide.

To provide access for more students to enter careers in medicine, the College of Medicine will offer tuition assistance and scholarships. Once admitted, eligible students pursuing careers in primary care or psychiatry can apply for Ochsner Physician Scholars, which provides financial support for medical school expenses in exchange for a post-graduation employment commitment with Ochsner. The College of Medicine will also offer scholarships through a partnership with Humana and is actively pursuing other philanthropic support.

As applications open for its inaugural class, the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine is poised to shape the future of healthcare, cultivate the next generation of physician leaders, and strengthen the health of communities across Louisiana and beyond.

Prospective students can learn more about the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine and the application process at xula.edu/xocom.

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About the Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine

The Xavier Ochsner College of Medicine was formed in 2024 through a partnership between Xavier University of Louisiana, one of the nation's top HBCUs, and Ochsner Health, a leading academic medical center in the Gulf South. The College of Medicine combines Xavier's academic excellence and century-

long legacy in STEM and health sciences with a demonstrated commitment by Ochsner to patient care, research and physician training. Located in the New Orleans BioDistrict, the College of Medicine will prepare physician leaders through rigorous education, real-world training and a commitment to improving health outcomes for all. Learn more at xula.edu/xocom.