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## NEWS

# FSU Class of 2024 med students earn white coats in virtual ceremony

**Byron Dobson** Tallahassee Democrat

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The 120 members of Florida State University College of Medicine's Physician Class of 2024 will experience the time-honored tradition for first-year medical students Friday during a virtual White Coat Ceremony.

The White Coat Ceremony is considered a rite of passage for first-year medical students. A white coat is placed on each student's shoulders and the Hippocratic Oath is recited, signifying their entrance into the medical profession.

The students began taking classes at the college in May.

FSU College of Medicine Dean Dr. John P. Fogarty said the Class of 2024 began classes in May and completed its first semester all online without ever coming into the medical school building.

In August, the students began coming into the anatomy lab in small groups, wearing masks and practicing COVID-19 safety protocol.

"We are excited to watch this important transition in our students' lives and look forward to celebrating with their parents and loved ones with them in person or online," Fogarty said in an email. "These are truly interesting times and we greatly appreciate their flexibility, resilience and dedication to their studies, as well as our faculty's incredible response to make this happen."

The demographic profile of the class shows 115 are from Florida and 44 are graduates of FSU.

The class includes 68 women and 52 men, with 26 Hispanics, 12 black students and 27 representing Florida Panhandle counties.

Seven members of the Class of 2024 are from Leon County:

Gabriel P. Cenedella

Christian G. Cunningham

Rida S. Darji

Michael S. Hong

Jeremy Kuder

Caroline B. Menton

Rachel L. Strauss

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, the students were previously filmed receiving their white coats individually.

The ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. Friday and can be viewed at [med.fsu.edu/FSUWC2024](https://med.fsu.edu/FSUWC2024).

Guest speaker is Dr. Jonathan Salud, a 2015 graduate of the FSU College of Medicine. He is now a clinical instructor at the University of Washington and practices internal medicine.

During the event 15 members of the M.D. Class of 2021 and two faculty members will be recognized for their induction into the FSU Chapman Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

Among the 15 members of the Physician Class of 2021, are Ciara Grayson and MaKayla Smith, both of Tallahassee.

“These students rose to the top as true exemplars of humanism by receiving multiple nominations from faculty, staff and peers in every category demonstrating clinical excellence, service to others, patient-centered approach to care and compassion,” faculty advisors Dr. Daniel Van Durme and Dr. Suzanne Harrison wrote in an email announcing the winners.

Two faculty members, Dr. Robin Albritton (Class of 2007) and Dr. George Rust, also will be honored for their induction into the society.

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