



## First day of school for first class of WMU medical school students

WMed Class Phot 2014.jpg

The 54 students who comprise the first class of the WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine. (*WILL PANICH*)

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**KALAMAZOO, MI --** School is officially in session at the **Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine.**

Monday marked the first day of school for new medical school's inaugural class, WMed said in a press release.

The class of 54 students -- 24 women and 30 men -- come from 14 states, including 23 students from Michigan and 15 from California, WMed said. Students also hailed from Alaska, Florida, Texas, Idaho, Minnesota and Illinois.

The students were selected from among the 3,571 who applied to be part of the new medical school's first class. Their average GPA was 3.66 and the median MCAT score was 31, according to WMed.

Two students are recent Kalamazoo College graduates and three came from Western Michigan University. WMed has a preferential relationship with Kalamazoo-based institutions of higher learning.

The first class is 56 percent male and 44 percent female and their ages range from 21 to 33 years old. Eleven percent of the class comes from demographics under-represented in medicine, the medical school said.

The students will take part in the white coat ceremony on Sept. 17 at the end of the introductory coursework, according to the press release. The ceremony marks the students' transition to clinical health studies.

The white coat ceremony will be followed by the medical school grand opening celebration on Sept. 18, which will mark the first chance for the public to see inside the newly renovated downtown W.E. Upjohn M.D. Campus.

The 350,000-square-foot building, donated by MPI Research, underwent a \$68 million renovation and expansion project and opened in June 2014.