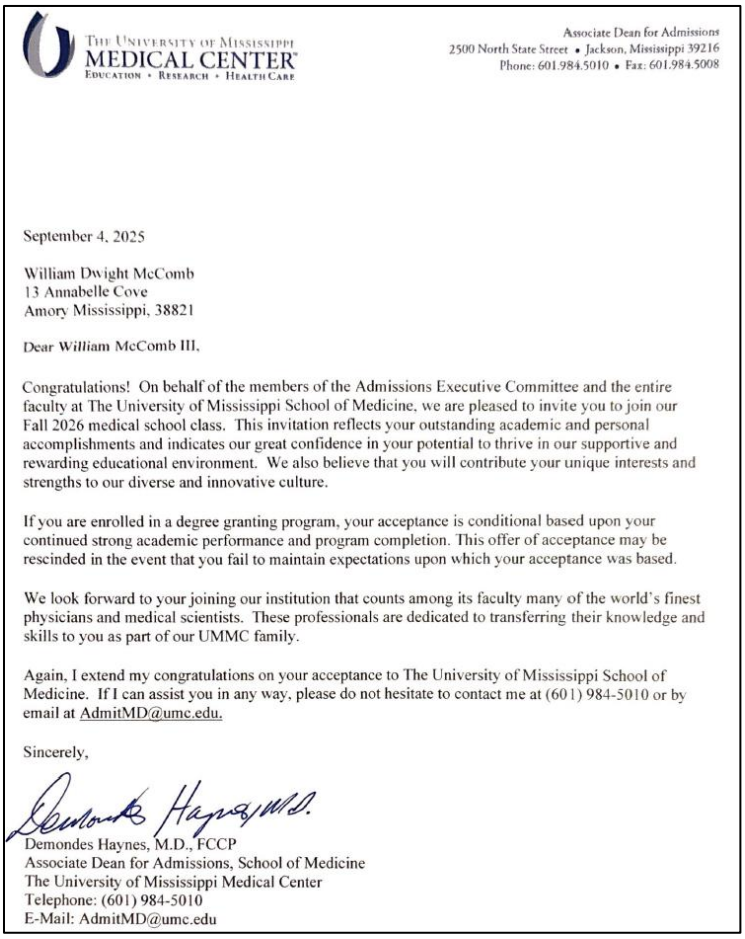
Student Success Beyond the Classroom

Every year, hundreds of students come through my classroom, each with their own goals, strengths, and stories. I routinely write more than fifty recommendation letters annually for students pursuing admission to medical, dental, veterinary, pharmacy, and other professional schools. It is always a privilege to support their journeys. Below are just a few highlights showcasing student success beyond the classroom (particularly from those who have excelled in and beyond my course) illustrating the hard work, resilience, and dedication that define our students' paths forward.

William "Will" McComb — Accepted to UMMC School of Medicine, Fall 2026



The University of Mississippi MEDICAL CENTER
Education • Research • Health Care

Associate Dean for Admissions
2500 North State Street • Jackson, Mississippi 39216
Phone: 601.984.5010 • Fax: 601.984.5008

September 4, 2025

William Dwight McComb
13 Annabelle Cove
Amory Mississippi, 38821

Dear William McComb III,

Congratulations! On behalf of the members of the Admissions Executive Committee and the entire faculty at The University of Mississippi School of Medicine, we are pleased to invite you to join our Fall 2026 medical school class. This invitation reflects your outstanding academic and personal accomplishments and indicates our great confidence in your potential to thrive in our supportive and rewarding educational environment. We also believe that you will contribute your unique interests and strengths to our diverse and innovative culture.

If you are enrolled in a degree granting program, your acceptance is conditional based upon your continued strong academic performance and program completion. This offer of acceptance may be rescinded in the event that you fail to maintain expectations upon which your acceptance was based.

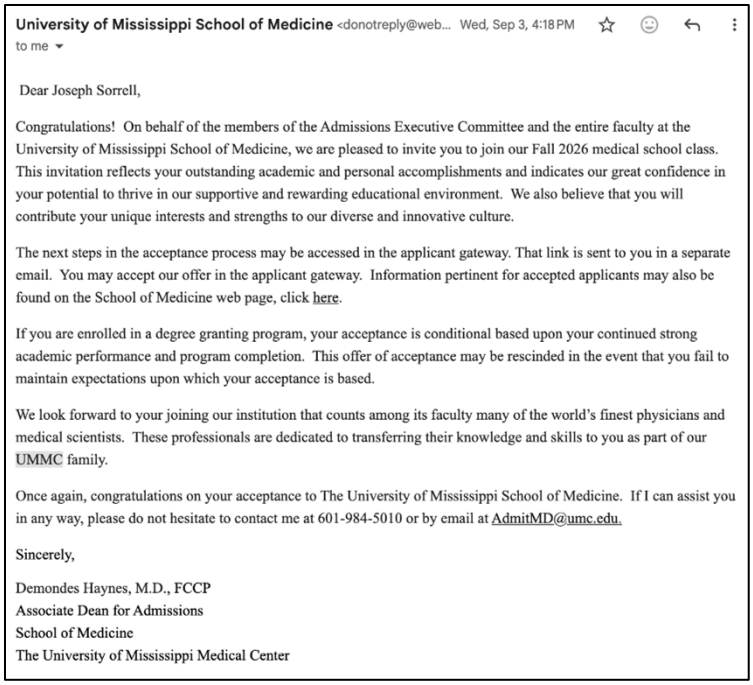
We look forward to your joining our institution that counts among its faculty many of the world's finest physicians and medical scientists. These professionals are dedicated to transferring their knowledge and skills to you as part of our UMMC family.

Again, I extend my congratulations on your acceptance to The University of Mississippi School of Medicine. If I can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me at (601) 984-5010 or by email at AdmitMD@umc.edu.

Sincerely,

Demondes Haynes, M.D., FCCP
Associate Dean for Admissions, School of Medicine
The University of Mississippi Medical Center
Telephone: (601) 984-5010
E-Mail: AdmitMD@umc.edu

Will McComb was a top student in my Organic Chemistry I and II courses during the 2023-2024 academic year. His strong mastery of complex mechanisms, independence, and intellectual maturity earned him a position as a preferred private tutor for my course, an honor reserved for only the most capable and communicative students. Beyond the classroom, his commitment to service, leadership, and compassionate patient care stood out significantly. Will exemplifies the qualities of a future physician, and I am proud to highlight his acceptance into the UMMC School of Medicine.



University of Mississippi School of Medicine <donotreply@web... Wed, Sep 3, 4:18 PM
to me

Dear Joseph Sorrell,

Congratulations! On behalf of the members of the Admissions Executive Committee and the entire faculty at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine, we are pleased to invite you to join our Fall 2026 medical school class. This invitation reflects your outstanding academic and personal accomplishments and indicates our great confidence in your potential to thrive in our supportive and rewarding educational environment. We also believe that you will contribute your unique interests and strengths to our diverse and innovative culture.

The next steps in the acceptance process may be accessed in the applicant gateway. That link is sent to you in a separate email. You may accept our offer in the applicant gateway. Information pertinent for accepted applicants may also be found on the School of Medicine web page, click here.

If you are enrolled in a degree granting program, your acceptance is conditional based upon your continued strong academic performance and program completion. This offer of acceptance may be rescinded in the event that you fail to maintain expectations upon which your acceptance is based.

We look forward to your joining our institution that counts among its faculty many of the world's finest physicians and medical scientists. These professionals are dedicated to transferring their knowledge and skills to you as part of our UMMC family.

Once again, congratulations on your acceptance to The University of Mississippi School of Medicine. If I can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me at 601-984-5010 or by email at AdmitMD@umc.edu.

Sincerely,

Demondes Haynes, M.D., FCCP
Associate Dean for Admissions
School of Medicine
The University of Mississippi Medical Center

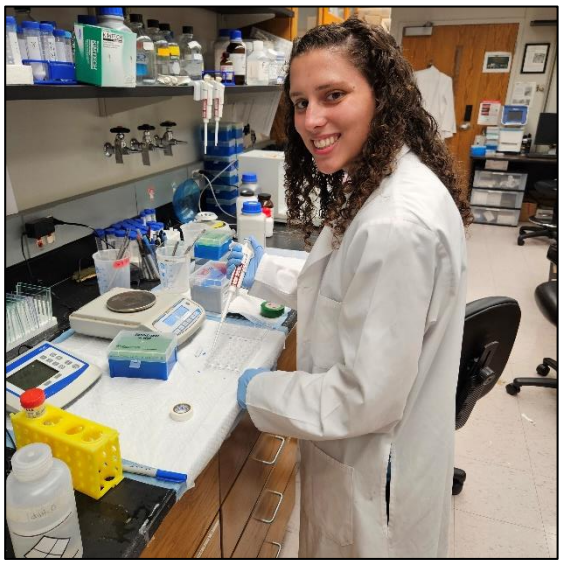
Joseph Sorrell — Accepted to UMMC School of Medicine, Fall 2026

Joseph was among the top performers in both Organic Chemistry I and II during the 2023-2024 academic year. His strong analytical ability, discipline, and deep conceptual understanding were evident in his thoughtful class participation and consistently outstanding work. Joseph's independence as a learner, paired with his extensive service experiences at the Jackson Free Clinic, Brickfire, and through mentoring, reflects a student with both intellectual rigor and genuine compassion. His acceptance into the UMMC School of Medicine is a testament to the strength of his character and academic excellence.

Emma Roden — Selected for the Campbell Clinic Foundation Orthopedic Summer Internship

Emma was one of the highest-performing students in my Organic Chemistry I & II course during the 2024-2025 academic year, earning one of the top spots in a rigorous, analytically demanding class. She continued her involvement with the course by serving as an Organic Chemistry II Supplemental Instruction leader, where she supported student learning and reinforced her own deep mastery of the material. She distinguished herself not only through her academic strength but through her intellectual curiosity, regularly attending office hours, asking insightful questions, and approaching the material with maturity and purpose. Emma also demonstrated natural leadership as a study group organizer, helping her peers succeed through clear explanations and collaborative guidance. Combined with her extensive clinical and research experience from telemetry work in the hospital to research roles at UAB and in the Priddy Lab. Emma's selection for this highly competitive orthopedic internship reflects her exceptional drive and readiness for a career in medicine.

Pictures of Emma at her internship.



John "Caden" McGarity — Accepted to the Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine at the University of South Alabama

Caden distinguished himself in both Organic Chemistry I and II during the 2023-2024 academic year, ranking among the top students in both classes of these large, demanding courses. His exceptional performance on the nationally standardized ACS exams showcases both his mastery of the material and extraordinary work ethic. Caden approached learning with rare curiosity and depth, often coming to my office with peers to dissect mechanisms and push beyond memorization into true conceptual understanding. His academic strength is further matched by his character, demonstrated through mission work in Uganda, leadership roles, and consistent service to others. His acceptance into the Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine reflects both his intellectual excellence and the compassion he brings to his future career.

From: Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine at the University of South Alabama <donotreply@webadmit.org>
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 10:56 AM
To: McGarity, John <jcm1286@msstate.edu>
Cc: Kelly Clarke <kellyclarke@southalabama.edu>
Subject: Whiddon College of Medicine Acceptance Offer

FREDERICK P. WHIDDON
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Dear John McGarity,
I am pleased to inform you that the Admissions Committee of the Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine has approved your Early Decision Program application for admission to the 2026 entering class.
Please sign and return the three (3) attached forms via email to kellyclarke@southalabama.edu or mail to the **Whiddon COM Office of Admissions, 5795 USA Dr. N, Room 339, Mobile, Alabama 36688-0002**, no later than **October 10, 2025**.
A $100.00 deposit, required to hold your place in the class, is due by **April 30, 2026**. Please follow this link to our payment store, https://secure.touchnet.net/C21704_ustores/web/store_main.jsp?STOREID=14&SINGLESTORE=true. This deposit will be applied toward your tuition at the time of registration.
I look forward to welcoming you to the Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine.
Sincerely,
Natalie Bauer, PhD
Assistant Dean for Admissions
Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine
University of South Alabama
5851 USA Drive North, Room 992
Mobile, AL 36688
251-460-6239
nbauer@southalabama.edu
cc: John Marymont, M.D., M.B.A., Dean and Vice President of Medical Affairs
cc: Deborah Fetherland, Director of Admissions WCOM
This electronic message contains information that may be legally confidential and/or privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of this information is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this electronic message in error, please reply immediately to the sender that you have received the message in error, and delete it.

Attachments
Acceptance Agreement.pdf
Financial Aid Release Statement Rev.pdf
Whiddon COM Tech Standards.pdf

Scott "Vic" Scoville — Accepted to the UT Health Science Center College of Dentistry

Vic performed in the top 20% of students in both Organic Chemistry I and II, two of the most demanding courses in the undergraduate curriculum, each enrolling well over 200 students every semester. He demonstrated a high level of independence and discipline, mastering complex material with minimal external support. In the classroom, Vic was consistently engaged and prepared, pairing quiet focus with strong interpersonal skills that fostered a sense of community among his peers. Beyond academics, his extensive shadowing and volunteer work (particularly with underserved children through The Brickfire Project) reflect a genuine commitment to patient-centered care. Vic's acceptance into the UT Health Science Center College of Dentistry is a testament to his academic strength, maturity, and compassion.

Dear Vic,

Congratulations again on your acceptance to the College of Dentistry for the Class of 2030. This action was based upon a careful and full assessment of your pre-dental academic record, pre-professional recommendations and other information provided in your application. You are now a member of a highly select group and will be entering the challenging study of dentistry.

This letter constitutes your tentative Certificate of Admission, being subject to the completion of all requirements as listed in our catalog, and all courses and or degrees entered as planned coursework. If you make any changes to your planned coursework or degree completion, please contact our office for approval. Your acceptance was based on all information included in your application and any unapproved changes could jeopardize your acceptance. The acceptance will remain tentative until the date of registration and orientation in early July.

You can find information on the enrollment process and secure or decline your seat by visiting your Slate Portal.

Part 1: Submit the Reply to Offer form (due 30 days after you are notified of acceptance). Students declining their offer only need to complete this step.

Part 2: Once you have received your NetID, create a password.

Part 3: Pay your Enrollment Deposit

Part 4: Follow the instructions on the portal to satisfy your Matriculation checklist. Please check this page often as new information will be added regularly.

The faculty of the College of Dentistry look forward to personally welcoming you to the UT Health Science Center. If there are matters with which our office can be of assistance, don't hesitate to get in touch with us. Welcome to the UTHSC College of Dentistry class of 2030!

Sincerely,

Kenneth Tilashalski, DMD, FAAOMP, DABOMP, FACD, FICD
Dean, College of Dentistry

Carlyn Vaughn — Accepted to UMMC School of Dentistry and the UT Health Science Center College of Dentistry

Carlyn was an exceptional performer in both Organic Chemistry I and II, consistently placing in the top 5% of large, rigorous course sections enrolling over 200 students. Her success was driven not only by academic strength but by persistence and a genuine desire to deeply understand challenging material, regularly attending office hours to work through complex concepts. Beyond the classroom, Carlyn contributed to research in the Emerson–Stokes group, where she quickly developed laboratory skills and adapted to an open-ended, inquiry-driven environment. Her combined record of academic excellence, research engagement, tutoring, and service reflects a well-rounded and highly motivated future dentist. Her dual acceptance into UMMC and UT Health Science Center Colleges of Dentistry speaks to both her intellectual capability and her commitment to compassionate patient care.

UMMC School of Dentistry

University of Mississippi Medical Center
Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry
Indication of Intent to Enroll in the Class Entering August 2026.

__X__ I hereby **agree** to accept the appointment offered to me for the class that will commence in August 2026. I understand that I must complete the course of study I have outlined in my application unless specific changes are approved by the admissions committee.

_____ I hereby **decline** the acceptance offered to me in the class of August 2026.

Please state the reason for withdrawal of acceptance:

By Mail: Return this letter of intent by mail or email to
University Mississippi Medical Center
Office of Admissions, D503-03
2500 N. State St.
Jackson, MS 39216
By email: ranthony@umc.edu

Signature

Carlyn Vaughn
Print Name

12/18/25
Date

Dear Carlyn,

Congratulations again on your acceptance to the College of Dentistry for the Class of 2030. This action was based upon a careful and full assessment of your pre-dental academic record, pre-professional recommendations and other information provided in your application. You are now a member of a highly select group and will be entering the challenging study of dentistry.

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The faculty of the College of Dentistry look forward to personally welcoming you to the UT Health Science Center. If there are matters with which our office can be of assistance, don't hesitate to get in touch with us. Welcome to the UTHSC College of Dentistry class of 2030!

Sincerely,

Kenneth Tilashalski, DMD, FAAOMP, DABOMP, FACD, FICD
Dean, College of Dentistry