

TABLE 3: 2026 Match for Louisiana Medical School Seniors: Residency Specialty Choices, In-State vs Out-of-State Residency, Future PC Practice Projection

DISCIPLINE (Potential PC fields in pink)	LSU-NO			LSU-S			Tulane			Ochsner			VCOM			ENTIRE STATE			% of ttl	Projected "In-La" PC MDs from cohort
	Matched In La	Matched Outst	TOTAL	Matched In La	Matched Outst	TOTAL	Matched In La	Matched Outst	TOTAL	Matched In La	Matched Outst	TOTAL	Matched In La	Matched Outst	TOTAL	Matched In La	Matched Outst	TOTAL		
1 Anesthesiology	6	4	10				1	6	7	3	2	5	1	3	4	11	15	26	4.27%	
2 Dermatology	2	0	2				2	3	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	4	8	1.31%	
3 Emergency Medicine	2	7	9				1	10	11	2	6	8	1	12	13	6	35	41	6.73%	
4 Emerg Med /FM	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	
5 Family Medicine	10	11	21				2	13	15	1	4	5	4	19	23	17	47	64	10.51%	29
6 Internal Medicine	13	24	37				4	30	34	3	11	14	11	33	44	31	98	129	21.18%	13
7 Int Med/Peds	2	0	2				0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	3	1	4	0.66%	1
8 Int Med Prim. Care	0	0	0				0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.16%	0
9 Int Med/Psych	0	0	0				0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.16%	
10 Int Med - Prelim	6	2	8				0	3	3	1	3	4	1	0	1	8	8	16	2.63%	
11 Neurology	2	2	4				0	7	7	0	2	2	0	2	2	2	13	15	2.46%	
12 Neurology - Child	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	2	0.33%	
13 Neurological Surgery	2	2	4	NO DATA			0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	7	1.15%	
14 OB/GYN	6	2	8	PROVIDED			0	11	11	0	2	2	0	5	5	6	20	26	4.27%	
15 Ophthalmology	2	1	3				1	2	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	4	7	1.15%	
16 Ortho - Surgery	2	4	6				2	5	7	1	0	1	0	0	0	5	9	14	2.30%	
17 OtoLaryn	2	3	5				0	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	5	8	1.31%	
18 P M & R	3	3	6				0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	3	6	9	1.48%	
19 Pathology	1	0	1				0	2	2	0	2	2	0	4	4	1	8	9	1.48%	
20 Pediatrics	6	9	15				1	19	20	1	7	8	2	18	20	10	53	63	10.34%	
21 Peds - Primary	1	0	1				0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	0.33%	
22 Psychiatry	9	7	16				3	13	16	2	2	4	4	5	9	18	27	45	7.39%	
23 Psychiatry - Prelim	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	
24 Psych- child	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	
25 Peds/Psych/Ch Psych	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	
26 Radiology - Dx	4	3	7				1	2	3	0	4	4	1	3	4	6	12	18	2.96%	
27 Radiology - Interventional	0	2	2				0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4	4	0.66%	
28 Radiation Oncology/Nucle	0	2	2				1	2	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	5	6	0.99%	
29 Surgery - General	4	1	5				3	10	13	1	0	1	2	6	8	10	17	27	4.43%	
30 Surgery - Prelim	4	2	6				2	8	10	0	5	5	0	0	0	6	15	21	3.45%	
31 Surgery- Plastics	1	1	2				0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0.49%	
32 Surgery - Vascular	0	1	1				0	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	4	4	0.66%	
33 Transitional	2	3	5				0	4	4	0	3	3	0	2	2	2	12	14	2.30%	
34 Urology	0	3	3				1	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	6	7	1.15%	
35 Oral Surgery/MD Program	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	
36 Research or Advncd degree	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.16%	
37 Outside Job	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	
38 No position (match or SOA)	0	0	3				0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	4	4	0.66%	
TOTALS ⁴	92	99	194				25	161	186	17	64	81	29	119	148	163	443	609		43
In State vs Out of State %'s	47.4%	51.0%		#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!		13.4%	86.6%		21.0%	79.0%		19.6%	80.4%		26.8%	72.7%			

Summary: in 2026, Louisiana's medical schools graduated 609 new physicians, of whom 163 (26.7%) remained in state for residency training, and 260 (34.6%) matched into the "potentially" Primary Care fields of FM, IM, Peds and Med/Peds. However, nationally published rates of "attrition from PC," especially in IM and Peds, show that a majority of residency grads today in the traditional PC fields of IM and Peds pursue subspecialty training and practice. As a result, less than 20% of IM and only some 50% of Peds and Med/Peds residency completers actually enter PC practice. Recent reports indicate the retention of IM grads for PC practice is much lower, with as few as 5-10% of IM residency graduates who pursue PC IM practice. Although FM has experienced some attrition due to factors such as hospitalist careers, FM remains the only field dedicated to PC, and 80-85% of its graduates enter PC practice. Despite graduating training a higher number of medical school students on a population per capital basis in Louisiana, we are falling short in in training physicians likely to enter primary care practice in state, arguably the greatest physician workforce need of the state, and the workforce intervention most likely to improve access to care and population health.

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Findings: Of the 609 medical school graduates in 2026, only 43, or 7.0%, are projected to enter primary care practice in Louisiana, largely due to the well documented path to subspecialization that characterizes graduates of IM, Peds and Med/Peds residencies today. Future family medicine physicians account for half of the primary care physicians expected from this cohort of graduates. Family physicians are the most flexible, adaptable PC practitioners and are most likely to locate in rural and other underserved areas when compared to other PC physician fields, but the numbers fall well short of the ability to grow the family medicine and primary care workforce. Any effort to develop a physician workforce strategy and enhance the pool of future PC doctors for Louisiana should focus on encouraging and facilitating medical school graduates to pursue FM careers.

Conclusion: Abundant national and international data has demonstrated the benefits to population health, access to care and to health system effectiveness that comes as a result of a robust primary care base. In most of the US's peer nations, 40-50% of the physician workforce are PC physicians, whereas it is 30% or less, and dropping, despite calls to build the PC base to 40% or more. Concerns over access to PC physicians and consequences to the population have been widely reported, and is a factors contributing to the US health ranking in the lowest quartile of the world's wealthy advanced nations. Louisiana is perpetually near the bottom of the State rankings for a host of reasons, and also is underperforming in producing and retaining primary care physicians of all disciplines, especially in Family Medicine. Already below the the national average for PC physicians per population, we project that only about 7% of these 2026 Louisiana medical school graduates (43 of 609) are likely to enter PC practice in La. This is similar to projects for the last several years, showing no improvement. Given the flexible and full spectrum ability of family medicine physician, and the well known propensity of FM physicians to both remain as PC practitioners and to locate in rural and other underserved areas when compared to other PC physician fields, any effort to enhance the pool of future PC doctors for Louisiana must focus on encouraging and facilitating medical schools to graduate more future Family Medicine physicians.

Notes:

- 1) NOTE: All data was not provided by LSU Shreveport for 2026 and prohibited the calculations to be made including their 2026 graduates. Requests for data was unanswered. Size of class was not reported nor included in any of the totals or calculations.
- 2) For students who matched with a preliminary year program AND a subsequent categorical residency program, only the categorical program, their eventual specialty and locale are reported above to avoid double counting graduates.
- 3) "Projected In-La PC MDs from Cohort" totals are in pink in the far right column. This is a projection of how many from each field are likely to practice as primary care physicians in Louisiana in 3-4 years after their residency training. The calculation first sums the numbers matching in that field across all med schools (eg, the rows noted with pink) indicating the "potential" PC physicians from that field. It then adjusts that total for "attrition from PC practice" based on published rates of retention in PC practice after residency in and IM, FM, Med/Peds. The rates for residents likely to be retained in and to practice PC that were used are: FM= 91%, IM=20%, Ped=44%, Med/Ped=50%. Recent reports suggest current rates for IM are considerably lower. (See note 5, and COGME 20th Report, Advancing Primary Care - www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/hrsa/advisory-committees/graduate-medical-edu/reports/2010.pdf) Finally, the final projection figures by discipline in the far right column (grads likely to enter PC practice) are derived from applying the estimated historical rate of 50% retention in La for La med school grads, whether they are doing a La or non-La residency. Projections for entering PC practice in LA are intended as an estimate at 3-4 years after this cohort completes 3 or 4 years of residency.
- 4) The graduates in row 35 thru 38 ("Oral Surgery/MD Program, Research, Advncd Degree, Outside Job, No Match or Scrambled Position"), are not included in 'In La' or 'Outst' subtotals, only in Totals.
- 5) Primary Care in this analysis includes FM, GenIM, GenPeds, and Med/Ped, consistent with HRSA and other federal definitions. Although published rates on "attrition from" or "retention in" PC practice were used, as noted above, recent reports suggest they likely over estimate the percentage of graduates, especially of IM and perhaps of Peds and Med/Peds programs, who will pursue PC practice.