



Information for the 2026-2027 Nursing Early Admissions Track

Who

Current high school juniors from SoMoTech's 13 sending schools are eligible to apply. They will be required to have the recommendation of their sending school. There are 16 total seats available. Applicants will be required to complete a pre-admission test, pre-admission faculty interview, have three references submit forms (somotech.edu/referenceform), and exhibit high levels of responsibility and motivation. While preference may be given to students who have completed a junior-level health science course, it is not required. An admissions committee made up of practical nursing faculty, industry representatives, and SoMoTech staff will make the final determination on acceptance.

What

The Nursing Early Admissions Track (NEAT) allows students to complete the training for a practical nursing credential (LPN) in an accelerated format. After being accepted, students will complete the first level of practical nursing training during their senior year. This includes fundamentals classes, several college classes through Missouri State University-West Plains (including Human Anatomy & Physiology I & II, and Psychology), as well as laboratory and clinical simulation time. Upon high school graduation, students will complete additional classes and a heavy clinical load until program completion in December following their high school graduation. The practical nursing program meets the required coursework from the Missouri State Board of Nursing to sit for the NCLEX exam for certification as a Licensed Practical Nurse.

Where

During the NEAT program, students will be bussed to SoMoTech in West Plains during the normal timeframe the other students from the same sending school attend (for example, a Gainesville student in the NEAT program will ride the same bus and attend during the same timeframe as the other Gainesville students attending other programs). **Following high school graduation, NEAT students will be considered adult students and, therefore, responsible for their own transportation to both SoMoTech for classes and to area clinical sites.**

When

The admissions committee will meet in late April 2026 to determine the first round of accepted students. If there are spots remaining, a second application window may be opened. If there are more applicants than spots, the admissions committee may name applicants as alternates in the event a space opens. The date of first consideration is March 31, 2026. Applications received prior to this date will receive first consideration of the admissions committee. Applications received after this date will be considered if space is still available.

The program will begin in August 2026. Students will attend the normal half-day block at SoMoTech. Students will complete Level 1 at the end of their senior year and immediately merge with the adult practical nursing classes. The entire Practical Nursing program will be completed in December 2027 allowing the student to sit for the NCLEX approximately eight months after high school graduation.

How

Through a grant from the Missouri State Board of Nursing, SoMoTech has been able to establish this program. **The sending school will pay the tuition for the senior year class. However, upon high school graduation, students will be responsible for the remaining prorated tuition.** Currently, that amount is approximately \$10,000. Students will have access to any funding source they may qualify for including the Missouri A+ Scholarship, Pell grants, student loans, etc. Additionally, SoMoTech is working with local healthcare institutions to provide scholarships in exchange for work commitments. The cost of the program includes tuition, fees, books, a laptop, and many supplies.

Why

The NEAT program dramatically reduced the amount of time from high school graduation to Practical Nursing program completion. Before this program, a high school graduate would be approximately 22 months from graduation to sitting for the NCLEX. With NEAT, that time is reduced to about eight months. **For more information including a link to the application, see your high school counselor.**

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