

NJMS Accelerated BS/MD Program FAQs

What is the NJIT/NJMS Accelerated 7 year BS/MD Program?

For over 25 years, the Albert Dorman Honors College (ADHC) at NJIT has maintained the longest standing articulation agreement with Rutgers (formerly UMDNJ) New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) in which top high school seniors are offered admission to medical school at NJMS during their senior year in high school. These students will enroll in the Albert Dorman Honors College at NJIT for three years, followed by four additional years at NJMS (7 years total). Unless a student has completed all undergraduate credit requirements prior to starting at NJMS (which is possible), the bachelor's degree is awarded following successful completion of the first year of medical school.

Why should I choose the Albert Dorman Honors College at NJIT for this program?

NJIT is one of the nation's leading public polytechnic universities. NJIT offer the resources of a major public research university (our research expenditures are in excess of \$140M/yr.) and a small- campus intimacy with a student-centered faculty. The NJIT strategic *2020 Vision* plan is committed to supporting the life sciences and engineering research projects that appeal to our pre-health students. NJIT faculty members are currently receiving close to \$20M in research funding from the National Institutes of Health. As an ADHC scholar, you have the opportunity to participate in high-impact research projects from your first day on campus. Our faculty members go to great lengths to include ADHC scholars in their labs, publications, and presentations. The faculty and staff of the Albert Dorman Honors College are here to assist in connecting faculty with interested Honors students. In addition to the academic year, about fifty Dorman scholars participated in paid research projects at NJIT in the summer of 2018.

In addition, the close proximity of our campus to the NJMS campus (~5 min. walk) affords Dorman scholars the opportunity to join research projects on the NJMS campus, and our NJIT-NJMS accelerated BS/MD program students are invited to participate in the NJMS Summer Student Research Program (intended for first- and second-year medical students) while still an undergraduate at NJIT.

Can you provide a breakdown of this program "by the numbers"?

Each year, we receive hundreds of applications from students interested in this program. Below is information on the number of students in the various stages of the application process in 2017/2018:

Total Applicants	329
Invited for Interview with ADHC Committee	110
Selected by NJMS Committee for Interview	48
Offered admission to BS/MD program by NJMS	19
Enrolled in NJIT BS/MD Program with NJMS for Fall 2018	13

What are the minimum requirements for consideration?

To be considered, an applicant must have a minimum composite SAT score of 1490 OR composite ACT score of 33. These scores MUST be from one test date ("super-score" will not be considered). There are no exceptions to these mandatory minimum scores. These are the minimum requirements and, on average, those students admitted to the program have scores well above these minimums. The average scores of a recent cohort of admitted students was a composite SAT score around 1570 and a composite ACT score between 35 and 36.

Are my test scores and high school GPA the only things considered?

No. While strong prior academic performance as measured by standardized tests and GPA is a factor, it is by no means the only factor considered. We seek applicants who have a demonstrated serving their community as well as broader engagement with clubs, varsity sports, or other extracurricular activities. Observations from previous years' admissions decisions also suggest that some form of clinical experience (physician shadowing, hospital volunteering, EMT, etc.) is an important component to the application.

What is the admissions process?

1. Interested students with the prerequisite academic credentials apply to the NJIT/NJMS BS/MD program through [the Common Application](#); there is no longer a paper application. NOTE: On the Common Application, students must first complete the application to the Albert Dorman Honors College in order to apply to the accelerated programs.
2. Once the common application is submitted (by the application deadline of Nov. 15), we evaluate the applicants and invite eligible applicants to interview with members of the pre-health committee at the Albert Dorman Honors College. Following the interviews, if we will forward competitive application packages and the results of our interviews to the NJMS Office of Admissions. We will inform you of our decision.
3. From that point, all admissions decisions are made exclusively by NJMS. Once the Admissions Committee at NJMS receives the application, they perform an initial evaluation of the application and then invite a percentage of applicants for an in-person interview. If NJMS declines to interview an applicant, their application package is returned to NJIT and the student can subsequently be considered for another of our accelerated programs, if they so choose. NJMS interviews generally occur in January through March of each year.
4. Following their interviews, the NJMS admissions committee makes the final admissions decisions, which are then forwarded to NJIT by April 1. Once we receive the list of admitted students, we will notify applicants of their statuses.

What is the application deadline?

Without exception, the deadline is **November 15** of the year preceding entry into the program. In general, this deadline means that student will apply in the fall of their Senior year in high school.

If am not admitted, can I appeal?

No. Because all admissions decisions are made by NJMS exclusively, there is not an appeals process. There is no "wait list" for this program.

Can I transfer into this program?

No. This program is ONLY open to high school seniors. There are no exceptions to this rule.

If I am not admitted, can I apply to one of NJIT's other BS/MD programs?

Yes. When completing the Common Application, there is a field to select your second and third choice BS/MD programs. We currently have programs with three other medical schools:

1. Ponce Health Science University in Ponce, Puerto Rico is a domestic (U.S.) medical education program that has been accredited by the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME) since the 1970's.
2. Saint George's University in Grenada is one of the most well-known and successful offshore ("Caribbean") medical education programs.
3. American University of Antigua is also a well-known and successful offshore ("Caribbean") medical education programs.

Does this program "guarantee" my admission to medical school at NJMS?

Yes, if the student fulfills all academic requirements (see below), he/she will automatically be "promoted" to the medical school phase of the program after three years at NJIT.

What are the academic requirements that I must achieve while at NJIT in order to remain in the program?

In order to be eligible for entry into the medical school phase of the program, students must achieve a grade of B or better in all premedical courses and maintain an overall grade point average of at least 3.5 each semester. The student must also take the MCAT and is expected to score "competitively." Additionally, students in this program must fulfill all the requirements of the Albert Dorman Honors College prior to matriculation at NJMS

I am an out-of-state student, can I apply?

Yes. This program is open to all U.S. citizens and permanent residents regardless of their state (or country of residence) at the time of application. There is no preference given to in-state students.

I am an international student, can I apply?

Only if you are a permanent resident at the time of application. All applicants must either be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident at the time of application.

Will I receive financial aid for this program?

Yes. While all Honors scholars receive a generous financial aid package, students in this program receive our most generous financial aid packages. Generally, this means a full scholarship for the three years at NJIT. Additionally, there are several opportunities on campus for students to earn a stipend for research and other activities. Please note: we only provide financial aid for the undergraduate portion of the program. The [office of Student Financial Aid Services](#) will provide full details on scholarship awards.

If admitted to this program, do I have to pick a certain major?

No. With a few exceptions (such as architecture) students in the NJMS program can choose whatever major interests them the most and allows them to transition to the medical school phase of the program in three year. In fact, we do not necessarily endorse one major over another for this program. The most common majors for accelerated pre-medical students have been Biology; Bio-Informatics; Science, Technology, and Society; and Biomedical Engineering.

If I need more than three years to complete the undergraduate phase, is that a problem?

Students MUST complete the requisite undergraduate coursework and be eligible to move on to the NJMS phase of the program after three years. If a student requires more time to complete the undergraduate requirements, NJMS may remove that student from the program. Many of our students have a plethora of passions and are interested in pursuing a double major, studying abroad, etc. While we certainly encourage students to pursue their dreams and passions while at NJIT, we cannot endorse any activity that may require the student to be at NJIT for more than three years. The possibility of taking part in some of our experiential learning experiences (such as study abroad or research programs) while in this program is encouraged but depends on several individual factors (major, AP credits, etc.), and must be discussed with academic and Honors/accelerated program advisors. As an Honors scholar, you will work with advisors to complete a Personal Education Plan (PEP) in your first weeks at NJIT. The PEP will serve as a "roadmap" to your promotion to medical school and will help students realize where there may be an opportunity to take part in a learning experience while still staying on track for entry into NJMS.

I have taken AP/IB and/or college credit-bearing courses as a high school student; can I use those credits towards my undergraduate degree?

Yes, but with certain restrictions and the applicability of those exams will vary by your chosen major. Final determination can only be made after the student matriculates and their transcript has been reviewed by their academic advisor. Some important considerations include: first, the AP/IB course and exam score must qualify the student to receive NJIT credit (Policies for awarding AP credit may be found at http://www.njit.edu/admissions/docs/NJIT_AP_CREDIT_POLICY.pdf. Policies for awarding IB credit may be found at http://www.njit.edu/sites/default/files/NJIT_IB_CREDIT_POLICY.pdf). Second, the course credit must be applicable to your chosen NJIT major. Third, you must take an upper-level course within the same department as the AP course. In general, this upper level course will be either counted towards the major course work requirements or applied as an elective. Discuss with your academic advisor to see which courses are applicable to your degree requirements.

Which school grants which degree?

Following successful completion of the first year of medical school (at the latest), the bachelor's degree (Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts, depending upon the major) is conferred by NJIT. Following completion of the seventh total year in the program, the Medical Doctor (M.D.) degree is conferred by Rutgers New Jersey Medical School.

Is it practical to complete the undergraduate phase at NJIT in three years without the need to take summer courses?

In your first weeks at NJIT, you will work with your major and Honors advisors to develop a Personal Education Plan (PEP) that will serve as your "roadmap" to medical school and lay out which courses should be taken in which semester. The answer to this question is very student-specific as a variety of factors (major, AP credits, etc.) must be considered. Most majors' accelerated curricula require a few courses to be taken over the summer term. However, these curricula all assume that a student has no AP, IB or college credits prior to enrolling at NJIT. In reality, many of our students in this program have earned significant credit prior to enrolling at NJIT and, thus, are not required to take summer courses. We have even had students finish all requirements for their NJIT degree in less than three years!

If I am part of this program, will I still have the opportunity to get involved with research projects mentored by a faculty member?

Yes! In fact, the faculty and staff of the Albert Dorman Honors College firmly believe that early involvement in high impact research is a vital component of an honors education. Research experiences and publications are an important consideration for some competitive residencies. Therefore, we encourage students to get involved with research as early as possible (as early as your first week on campus). We offer additional funding to support our scholars' research throughout the year, and funded positions in our Honors Summer Research Institute. In addition, NJIT has an Undergraduate Research and Innovation program that offers top students the opportunity to immerse themselves in research on campus.

You can read about the Honors Summer Research Institute here: <http://honors.njit.edu/summer-research-institute/> and here: <https://news.njit.edu/honors-college-debuts-program-promoting-undergraduate-research/>

For more information about the Undergraduate Research and Innovation program and the opportunities it offers, please [visit this site](#).

Whom can I contact for additional information regarding this program or my application?

For inquiries and additional information, please email honors@njit.edu or consider [attending an open house](#) where you can meet our staff. We look forward to hearing from you!