

New Jersey Medical School SMART

Summer Program FAQs

Q: When will the SMART Summer Program be held in 2025?

A: The 2025 Summer Program will be held Monday through Friday, June 30th – July 25th, 2025, 9:00a.m. –2:00p.m.

Classes **will be hybrid with four days a week online and one day in-person.**

Q: Who can attend the Summer SMART Program?

A: New Jersey resident students who will be in 7th - 12th grade by September are eligible to apply. Preference is given to students from the city of Newark and Essex County.

Q: How can my child participate in the Summer SMART Program?

A: Your child can participate in the Summer SMART program by paying the \$25 application fee, completing an application, submitting a teacher's recommendation, transcript, and a student essay by the specified deadline.

Q: Once the application is submitted, what is the selection process?

A: The application is reviewed using a holistic approach to review applications, ensuring every student has an equal opportunity to participate. We accept students on a rolling basis (as they come in) for a limited number of seats in each class. Because of this, seats may be full before the deadline, and qualified students who apply later in the cycle may be placed on the waitlist.

Q: What can my child expect to learn from the program?

A: Your child will be exposed to important topics in the medical sciences and learn from experts in the field. They will be able to learn from medical or graduate biomedical students and state-certified science teachers. Students will be able to gather the skills needed to enhance their science knowledge. Some of the program content may be familiar to students. However, the combined activities and presentations will challenge their past assumptions and engage their interest in the science field.

Q: Is financial aid available?

A: There is no financial aid available for the SMART program.

Q: Does my child have to have a specific Grade Point Average (GPA) to be eligible to attend the program?

A: There are no specific GPA guidelines. We seek students with the greatest potential for development in health sciences.

Q: How are students placed in their classes?

A: Students are placed according to grade level with no exceptions.

Q: Who are the SMART Program Teachers?

A: The SMART Program instructors are NJ-certified science teachers, New Jersey Medical School Faculty, Medical, Dental, and Graduate students.

Q: Are parents/guardians involved in any of the SMART Program events?

A: Yes, parent involvement is essential to us. Parent involvement is the most consistent predictor of a student's academic achievement and social adjustment. SMART hosts events which enable parents to engage in activities with and celebrate their children's successes.

Q: What are the non-classroom educational experiences?

A: Students are exposed to a host of speakers from many scientific disciplines and field trips in the summer.

Q: Can my child attend the SMART Program for multiple years?

A: Yes, each class's curriculum is customized. Students who are in good standing are encouraged to re-apply. Please note that the applicant pool changes year to year, and previous participation does not guarantee readmission due to the limited number of seats in each class.

Q: Are there other programs my child can enter once they have completed the 12th grade and are no longer eligible for the SMART Program?

A: There are no programs for students who have completed 12th grade and are entering college; however, there are programs available once students have completed the first year of college. Links to the New Jersey Medical School college program websites are below.

- I. Summer Health Professions Education Program (SHPEP) Program. Visit www.shpep.org for more information
- II. Northeast Regional Alliance Medprep Scholars Program (NERA). Visit www.neramedprep.org for more information