

NEET 2026 Eligibility Criteria

National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate)

Conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA)

Introduction

The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2026 is a national-level entrance examination conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admission to undergraduate medical courses such as MBBS, BDS, BAMS, BUMS, BHMS, and B.Sc. (Hons) Nursing in government and private medical colleges across India. The following document outlines the eligibility criteria for NEET 2026, covering nationality, age, educational qualifications, and number of attempts, based on the latest guidelines from the NTA and the National Medical Commission (NMC).

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for NEET 2026, candidates must meet the following requirements as set by the NTA and NMC:

1. Nationality

Candidates must belong to one of the following categories:

- Indian Nationals
- Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)
- Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs)
- Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs)
- Foreign Nationals

Note: NRIs, OCIs, PIOs, and Foreign Nationals must provide a certificate from the concerned Indian Diplomatic Mission in their country of residence to support their claim, along with the NEET 2026 application form. Admission is subject to rules and regulations framed by respective State Governments, institutions, and the Government of India.

2. Age Limit

- **Minimum Age:** Candidates must be at least 17 years old by December 31, 2026 (born on or before December 31, 2009).
- **Maximum Age:** There is no upper age limit for NEET 2026, as per the latest NMC guidelines and Supreme Court judgment.

Note: Candidates must ensure their date of birth matches across all official documents (e.g., Class 10 certificate, Aadhaar card, passport).

3. Educational Qualifications

Candidates must meet the following academic requirements:

- **Qualifying Examination:** Candidates must have passed or be appearing for the 10+2 or equivalent examination from a recognized board (e.g., CBSE, ICSE, NIOS, or state boards) with the following core subjects:
 - Physics
 - Chemistry
 - Biology/Biotechnology
 - English
- **Minimum Marks:**
 - General Category: Minimum 50% aggregate in Physics, Chemistry, and Biology/Biotechnology.
 - SC/ST/OBC: Minimum 40% aggregate in Physics, Chemistry, and Biology/Biotechnology.
 - Persons with Disabilities (PWD): Minimum 45% aggregate in Physics, Chemistry, and Biology/Biotechnology for General-PWD; 40% for SC/ST/OBC-PWD.
- Candidates must have passed each of the core subjects (Physics, Chemistry, Biology/Biotechnology, and English) individually.
- Candidates who have completed their 10+2 from abroad must submit a Certificate of Equivalence, confirming that their education is equivalent to the Indian 10+2 system with the required subjects.

Note: Candidates appearing for their Class 12 board exams in 2026 are eligible to apply, provided they meet the required criteria by the time of admission.

4. Number of Attempts

- There is no restriction on the number of attempts for NEET 2026. Candidates can appear for the exam multiple times, provided they meet all other eligibility criteria.

5. Domicile and Reservation

- Candidates seeking admission under state quota seats (85% of seats) must fulfill state-specific domicile requirements, which vary by state.
- All India Quota (AIQ) seats (15% of seats in government medical and dental colleges) have reservation criteria as follows:
 - SC: 15%
 - ST: 7.5%
 - OBC-NCL: 27%
 - EWS: 10%
 - PWD: 5% (horizontal reservation across categories)