

# Academic All-Stars: Abby Elsholtz



Jen Zettel, USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin 7:24 p.m. CDT May 20, 2016

The road to nursing began during Abby Elsholtz's sophomore year at New London High School, during a principles of biomedical sciences course.

Her interest blossomed, and she enrolled in more: human body systems, medical interventions, biomedical Innovations and the certified nursing assistant course.

"After completing the class I soon started working as CNA at a local nursing home, which solidified by growing interest in the field of nursing," she said.

Elsholtz's interest in nursing extended beyond the classroom into her service work and extracurricular activities.



(Photo: Courtesy of Abby Elsholtz)

Her hard work has paid off so far: She is one of only 25 students out of 300 applicants to be accepted into the University of Wisconsin-Madison's freshman direct admission nursing program. It's one of the accomplishments she's most proud of.

**Other defining moments:** Elsholtz is also proud of her academic record, for which she is salutatorian of her graduating class.

Other accomplishments that mean a lot to her include being part of the 2013 State Champion New London Softball team, winning a U18 National Softball Championship and being named first team all-conference and a member of The Post-Crescent's All-Area Softball Team; taking first at state and twice qualifying for HOSA nationals; finishing in the top 10 at the international DECA competition; receiving a Kimberly-Clark Bright Futures Scholarship; and earning the Barbara James Service Award for completing more than 200 volunteer hours.

**Learning highlights:** 4 AP courses, 3.9 grade-point-average, 27 ACT Composite.

**At New London High School:** National Honor Society, president; HOSA, president, national qualifier, first-place finisher at state competition; DECA, state and national qualifier; student council, vice president; Bringing Exceptional Students Together; math league; Spanish Honor Society;

varsity softball, captain, first- and second-team all-conference honors; varsity volleyball, captain, MVP, all-conference honorable mention.

**In the community:** Lace It Up To Fitness, coordinator; Ruby's Food Pantry volunteer; United Way Fox Cities Youth Board; Building for Kids volunteer; Harbor House Domestic Abuse Services volunteer; Mosquito Hill Nature Center volunteer; Keller's Lake Camp volunteer; Boys and Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley volunteer; works at St. Joseph Residence as a certified nursing assistant and at Jolly Roger's Pizzeria as a waitress and manager.

**Future plans:** Elsholtz will attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison to study nursing.