

2017 PSAT/NMSQT Fact Sheet

WHAT

- **A comprehensive assessment program:** Measures college and career readiness and gives students tools for planning their future.
- **Measures skills in three academic areas:** reading, writing and language, and math.
- **Developed and reviewed by experts:** Ensure that test questions are fair for all students.
- **Part of the SAT® Suite of Assessments:** An integrated series of tests on a common score scale that also includes the SAT for 11th and 12th graders, PSAT™ 10 for 10th graders, and PSAT™ 8/9 for 8th and 9th graders.
- **Used by National Merit Scholarship Corporation:** Identifies candidates for the National Merit® Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and college scholarships.
- **A low-cost approach:** Helps schools and districts measure performance, get feedback related to standards, and build a college-going culture.

WHY

- **Improves teaching and learning:** An easy-to-use online reporting portal lets educators analyze data and visualize results across the SAT Suite and intervene when students are behind. Scores in specific content areas are tied to state standards, and benchmarks help teachers and students track student progress.
- **Increases participation in the Advanced Placement Program® (AP®):** The online AP Potential™ tool identifies students likely to succeed in AP, helping educators expand access to challenging courses.
- **Supports college and career planning:** Students get an interactive score report with answer explanations, their projected SAT score, and feedback on their readiness for 20+ AP courses.* And, they're connected to resources they can use to search for colleges and explore majors and careers.
- **Provides free Official SAT Practice powered by Khan Academy®:** Students can get a personalized SAT study plan based on their PSAT/NMSQT® performance by linking their College Board and Khan Academy accounts. Khan Academy practice can also help students prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10 because of the close alignment of the tests (satpractice.org).
- **Connects to scholarship programs:** The National Merit Scholarship Program and other scholarship and recognition programs use the PSAT/NMSQT to find qualified students.

HOW

- **Ordering:** Each school identifies a PSAT/NMSQT coordinator to order tests online at collegeboard.org/school.
- **Fees:** The 2017 test fee is \$16 per student. Fee waivers are available for eligible juniors. The school's PSAT/NMSQT coordinator should request the fee waivers by June 30 at collegeboard.org/school. Some schools and districts choose to cover part or all of the student fees.
- **Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD):** The College Board offers testing accommodations to students who need them. Approval is required prior to testing. Visit collegeboard.org/ssd.
- **Administration:** The test is administered annually in schools and takes approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes (plus 10 minutes for breaks and 45–50 minutes for administration activities).

WHEN

- **2017 test dates:**
 - ♦ Wednesday, Oct. 11 (primary test day)
 - ♦ Saturday, Oct. 14 (Saturday test day)
 - ♦ Wednesday, Oct. 25 (alternate test day)

WHO

- **Approximately 3.8 million students**, primarily 10th and 11th graders, take the PSAT/NMSQT each fall.
- **Students must test in their 3rd year of high school** (usually 11th grade) to be eligible to enter the National Merit Scholarship Program. Testing in the 10th grade provides early feedback while there's still time to plan and prepare.