

PSAT/NMSQT 2021 INFORMATION SHEET

Every year, millions of students take the PSAT/NMSQT - The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test - but many students and parents are unaware of the benefits of this exam. The PSAT/NMSQT is more than just a test you take at school: It opens the door to scholarships, information from colleges, AP classes, and free practice for the SAT.

As this year's sophomores and juniors get ready to take the PSAT/NMSQT in October, here are five important things to know about the test:

1. **It helps students prepare for the SAT**, which, like the PSAT/NMSQT, was redesigned to measure the skills and knowledge that matter most for college and career success to better reflect what students are learning in class. The PSAT/NMSQT is closely aligned, both in content and format, to the SAT. This means that students will get excellent practice for the SAT - an important part of the college admissions process.
2. **Today's students can take advantage of free practice tools** that used to not be available. The College Board and Khan Academy are now offering personalized, online practice for the SAT at no cost to students. And because the SAT and PSAT/NMSQT are so closely aligned, these tools are useful for both tests. Once students get their PSAT/NMSQT test scores, they'll be able to link them to Khan Academy for additional personalized practice recommendations.
3. **It provides valuable information about students' progress toward college readiness.** The PSAT/NMSQT is one in a series of assessments that measure the same skills and knowledge at different grade levels. These assessments are scored on a common scale, so it's easy to see the progress students are making from year to year. And when teachers have a baseline measurement of academic strengths and weaknesses before students reach 12th grade, they are better equipped to provide the individual support students need to graduate ready to succeed in college and career.
4. **It alerts students to their potential to succeed in college-level AP courses.** When students receive their PSAT/NMSQT results beginning in December, the score report will let them, their teachers, and their counselors know which specific AP courses are a good match for them. Research shows that all students who take AP Exams are more likely to graduate from college on time in four years. And, students who score a 3 or higher on AP Exams can save time and money by earning college credit.
5. **It connects students to scholarships.** When students take the PSAT/NMSQT, they are automatically screened for the National Merit Scholarship Program, an academic competition for recognition and scholarships. Students who choose to participate in the Student Search Service are connected with many other scholarship partners, including the American Indian Graduate Center, Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund, Hispanic Scholarship Fund, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, and United Negro College Fund.

There are so many reasons to take the PSAT/NMSQT. Mayfield High School will be administering the PSAT/NMSQT on October 13th, 2021. All 10th graders are offered the test free of charge and no sign-up is required. 11th graders are offered the test if they signed up and paid for the test by September 3, 2021.