
The **PSAT/NMSQT** and **PSAT 10**: The Parent Perspective

Location: _____ Date/Time: _____

Cost: _____ For more information, contact: _____

Frequently Asked Questions

WHY SHOULD STUDENTS TAKE THE PSAT/NMSQT OR THE PSAT 10?

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) and the PSAT™ 10 offer great preparation for the SAT®, a globally recognized test that can help students stand out to colleges. Historically, students who took the PSAT/NMSQT scored higher on the SAT, on average, than those who didn't take the test. The PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10 not only help measure students' individual progress, but they also connect students to valuable scholarships and college readiness resources. Students who take the PSAT/NMSQT or the PSAT 10 will get an online score report at studentscores.collegeboard.org. They will receive an overall test score (320–1520) as well as individual section scores, test scores, cross-test scores, and subscores. Students will also get information on how to improve their academic skills.

Students who take the PSAT/NMSQT in their third year of high school (11th grade) and meet other program entry requirements may enter the National Merit® Scholarship Program conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®). (For more information, visit NMSC's website at www.nationalmerit.org).

Students may also qualify for other programs such as the National Hispanic Recognition Program. For more information, see your school counselor.

WHO SHOULD TAKE THE PSAT/NMSQT?

Typically, students take the PSAT/NMSQT in grades 10 and 11. Taking the test allows them to start improving skills and knowledge needed for success in college and career. Students can take the test only once a year, but there is no limit to how many years a student may participate. It's important that 11th-grade students take the PSAT/NMSQT to enter the National Merit Scholarship Program and to get SAT practice.

HOW SHOULD STUDENTS PREPARE FOR THE TEST?

The best way students can prepare is by taking challenging courses and becoming familiar with the test and its format. Students should review the *PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide* or *PSAT 10 Student Guide*, along with a practice test for the test they are taking, to better understand all the directions and become familiar with the question types. Students who take the test can go to satpractice.org for free, personalized practice from Khan Academy® to help them score their very best. They can use this practice to prepare for the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, or PSAT 10.

WHAT IS STUDENT SEARCH SERVICE, AND SHOULD STUDENTS CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE?

When students take the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10, they're asked if they would like to participate in Student Search Service®, a service that helps high school students hear from colleges and scholarship programs that may be a good match. If students choose to participate, they allow colleges, universities, scholarship programs, and educational opportunity organizations to send information about the educational and financial aid opportunities they offer. Students who opt in to Student Search Service

will increase their access to millions of dollars in combined annual scholarship awards. The service is free to the student, but colleges and other educational organizations pay College Board a license fee to use the service. College Board uses these license fees to support its mission-driven work. Student information is strictly monitored and secure, and individual test scores are never shared with any outside entity.

WHEN WILL STUDENTS RECEIVE SCORES?

Score reports will be available online for educators and students in December for the PSAT/NMSQT. For the PSAT 10, online scores will be available in April or May.

	PSAT/NMSQT Dates	Important Reminders
2021	September	Students should review the <i>PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide</i> and take the practice test inside. At satpractice.org , students can access free, personalized, online practice that can be used to prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT and the PSAT 10.
	October	PSAT/NMSQT administration: October 13, 16, or 26. Make sure your student eats breakfast and brings No. 2 pencils, an acceptable calculator, a watch (with no audible alarm), and their email address to the test administration. On test day, encourage your student to choose “Yes” for Student Search Service on the answer sheet to increase their access to millions of dollars in combined annual scholarship awards and to get information from colleges, universities, and scholarship programs.
	November	Talk with your student about programs of study that interest them. Students in grade 11 should research colleges and universities. Visit collegeboard.org to help your student search for scholarships and learn more about paying for college.
	December	Student score reports are available at studentscores.collegeboard.org . Visit psat.org/scores to access more information that will aid you in helping your student use their score report.
2022	January	Encourage your student to use free resources in the score reporting portal at studentscores.collegeboard.org .
	February	Students in grade 11 should consider registering for the SAT in the spring.
	March	Students should select four, preferably five, solid academic courses for next year. They should check with their counselor about potential participation in AP® courses. Review your student's AP Potential™ feedback at studentscores.collegeboard.org .
	April	Check with counselors about college summer programs designed to introduce high school students to college success.
	May/June	Have your student request a summer reading list from their English teacher.