

College Board Assessments

What is PSAT/NMSAT: (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test & National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)

- A “Practice SAT”
- The National Merit Semi-Final Qualifying Exam (first step to becoming an National Merit Scholar)
- Administered in the fall to 11th graders
- Allows 11th graders to “opt-in” for scholarship opportunities that will be based on their responses to the background questionnaire that accompanies the PSAT/ NMSQT.
- Upon receiving your PSAT score, students should link their College Board Account to a FREE Kahn Academy Student Account for individualized practice plans

What is the SAT: (Scholastic Aptitude Test)

- The new SAT test and scoring as of March 2016:
 - Highest score is 1600 (800 for math + 800 for Evidence Based Reading and Writing)
 - Average is predicted to be around 1000
 - 75th percentile is around 1200
 - 25th percentile is around 840
- No penalty for guessing
- Parts of the test include:(3 hours 50 minutes)
 - Reading test
 - Writing & Language test
 - Math test
 - SAT essay (optional, but taken at Jacobs). This is scored separately.

Important Dates:

- **October 19: PSAT/NMSQT** for all juniors
 - This test will be taken at Jacobs in place of a regular instructional day
- **April 5: SAT test**
 - This test will be taken at Jacobs in place of a regular instructional day
 - Juniors will also take the optional essay portion of the SAT (some colleges require this for admission and others may recommend it)
- **May 1-May 17: AP tests**
 - AP tests will be scheduled during these dates

Frequently Asked Questions

1) Do I have to pay for the SAT?

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will cover the cost for all students in a public high school during the 2016-17 school year. This will cover the SAT and the writing portion that is administered at Jacobs on April 5th, 2017.

2) Do universities want the SAT or ACT for admission?

While both the SAT and ACT are widely accepted by most colleges and universities, it is encouraged to check with each interested school to see which admissions exams are accepted.

3) How many times can I re-take the SAT?

The College Board (the people who make the SAT) place no restrictions on how often you can take the exam. There are 7 SAT test dates per year. Only the most recent 6 scores will stay on file at a time. It is recommended to take it 2-3 times at most. Often schools may see all of your scores, so if you use an official SAT testing date to practice, this may go in your file to the school.

4) How much does the SAT cost if I want to re-take it?

SAT \$45, SAT with Essay \$57

*SAT fee waivers let low-income students test for free. See school counselor for details.

5) Should I also take the ACT?

This is up to you. If you do, you will do this outside of school and will need to register on your own. Again, while both the SAT and ACT are widely accepted by most colleges and universities, it is encouraged to check with each interested school to see which admissions exams are accepted.

Here's how to compare them: <https://www.kaptest.com/college-prep/test-information/sat-vs-act>

6) How much does the ACT cost?

ACT no writing \$42.50; ACT with writing \$48.50

7) How do I register for the ACT if I'm taking it on my own?

Visit act.org, create an account, and register on your own at <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/register.html>

8) How many times can I take the ACT?

12 times is the maximum

9) Will the redesigned SAT be easier or harder than the ACT?

There is no research to validate that any group of students perform "better" or "worse" on one college entrance exam over another. Like its competitor, the ACT, the redesigned SAT is an achievement test, but what makes the redesigned SAT unique is its focus on what research shows is most essential for college and career readiness and success. The ACT test measures skills across a large domain while the redesigned SAT will measure fewer things much more deeply.

FREE Online Resources for Test Prep & Additional Info:

PSAT Prep Live: KAPLAN is providing an opportunity to tune in LIVE online and it's free! All students need to do is register and virtually attend prep class online!

https://www.kaptest.com/psat/pages/psat-prep-live?utm_source=various-sources&utm_medium=video&utm_term=pre-college&utm_content=video-press-releases&utm_campaign=pc-psat-psatprelive-2016

CollegeBoard Info & Test Prep: The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT and the Advanced Placement Program. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators and schools.

<https://www.collegeboard.org/>

Khan Academy SAT Prep: Khan Academy offers practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalized learning dashboard that empower learners to study at their own pace in and outside of the classroom. They tackle math, science, computer programming, history, art history, economics, and more. Their math missions guide learners from kindergarten to calculus using state-of-the-art, adaptive technology that identifies strengths and learning gaps. They have also partnered with institutions like NASA, The Museum of Modern Art, The California Academy of Sciences, and MIT to offer specialized content.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

SAT/ACT Prep Classes:

1. Jacobs High School – register in the Counseling Office for Spring SAT prep class
2. Kaplan – local classes in Schaumburg/St. Charles, www.kaptest.com
3. Learning Centers – Sylvan, Huntington – call the local center for more information
Sylvan 847-915-6160, Huntington 847-852-4650
4. Local Community Colleges – ECC 847-697-1000, MCC 815-455-3700
5. Local Library – classes and prep books, Main Library on Harnish 847-458-6060, East branch on Eastgate Dr. 847-658-4343
6. SAT/ACT Prep online – www.actstudent.org, www.collegereadines.collegeboard.org/sat/practice
7. Bookstores – Buy ACT or SAT Prep Books