

Please note that the following information comes directly from the College Board website www.collegeboard.com. College Board is the company that produces PSAT. Further information regarding PSAT can be found at the College Board website.

About PSAT/NMSQT

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is a program cosponsored by the College Board and [National Merit Scholarship Corporation \(NMSC\)](http://www.nmsc.org). It's a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT[®]. It also gives you a chance to enter NMSC scholarship programs and gain access to college and career planning tools.

The PSAT/NMSQT measures:

- Critical reading skills
- Math problem-solving skills
- Writing skills

You have developed these skills over many years, both in and out of school. This test doesn't require you to recall specific facts from your classes.

The most common reasons for taking the PSAT/NMSQT are to:

- Receive feedback on your strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for college study. You can then focus your preparation on those areas that could most benefit from additional study or practice.
- See how your performance on an admissions test might compare with that of others applying to college.
- Enter the competition for scholarships from NMSC (grade 11).
- Help prepare for the SAT. You can become familiar with the kinds of questions and the exact directions you will see on the SAT.
- Receive information from colleges when you check "yes" to Student Search Service.

What's on the Test

The PSAT/NMSQT includes five sections:

Two 25-minute critical reading sections
Two 25-minute math sections
One 30-minute writing skills section

The whole test requires two hours and 10 minutes.

Critical Reading

Two 25-minute critical reading sections = 48 questions

- 13 [Sentence completions](#)
- 35 [Critical reading](#) questions

Math

Two 25-minute math sections = 38 questions

- 28 [multiple-choice math questions](#)
- 10 Student-produced responses or [grid-ins](#)

Students are advised to bring a calculator with which they are comfortable. Students should have basic knowledge of 4 math categories:

- Numbers and Operation
- Algebra and Functions (but not 3rd year level math that may appear on the new SAT)
- Geometry and Measurement
- Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability

Writing Skills

One 30-minute writing section = 39 questions

- 14 [Identifying sentence errors](#)
- 20 [Improving sentences](#)
- 5 [Improving paragraph](#) questions

These multiple-choice questions on writing skills measure a student's ability to express ideas effectively in standard-written English, to recognize faults in usage and structure, and to use language with sensitivity to meaning.

Scholarships & Recognition

By taking the PSAT/NMSQT, you may qualify to enter the competitions for prestigious scholarships and participate in recognition programs.

(As cosponsor of the PSAT/NMSQT, NMSC receives all students' scores. If you do not want your scores released to other recognition programs, contact us.)

- [The National Hispanic Recognition Program \(NHRP\)](#)
- [National Scholarship Service](#)
- [The Telluride Association](#)

National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC)

Students in the eleventh grade of high school enter NMSC competitions by taking the PSAT/NMSQT, which serves as an initial screen of approximately 1.5 million entrants each year, and by meeting published program entry and/or participation requirements. NMSC uses the Selection Index score (CR + M + W) on the PSAT/NMSQT as an initial screen of program entrants and to designate groups of students to be honored in the competitions it conducts.

For more information about NMSC, visit www.nationalmerit.org.

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National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP)

Our National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) was initiated in 1983 to identify outstanding Hispanic/Latino high school students and to share information about you with interested colleges and

universities. In order to be eligible, you must be at least one-quarter Hispanic/Latino as defined by the NHRP, meet the minimum PSAT/NMSQT cutoff score for your state, and achieve a minimum grade point average (GPA) requirement.

Each year, the NHRP identifies nearly 5,000 of the highest-scoring students (from a nationwide total of more than 200,000 juniors) in the United States and U.S. Territories who take the PSAT/NMSQT and designate themselves as Hispanic/Latino. Approximately 150 of the top scoring PAA™ students from Puerto Rico are also listed. [Learn more about qualifying for the NHRP and how it can help you get into college.](#)

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National Scholarship Service (NSSFNS)

The NSSFNS offers a free college advisory and referral service for students who plan to attend two-year or four-year colleges. Scores are sent for students in eleventh grade who indicate that they are African American. (Note: This program is not conducted by NMSC.)

For more information, write to:

National Scholarship Service
980 Martin Luther King Drive, SW, PO Box 11409
Atlanta, GA 30310

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The Telluride Association

The Telluride Association offers scholarships to gifted juniors for summer seminars in the humanities and social sciences. (This program is not conducted by NMSC.)

For more information, visit www.tellurideassociation.org or write to:

Telluride Association
217 West Avenue
Ithaca, NY 14850