

## PSAT Q & A

Date: October 13, 2021 (Wednesday)  
Cost: \$20.00 (cash or check to building bookkeeper or online in Infinite Campus)  
Fee waivers available for students with financial need. Please see your counselor.  
Sign Ups: Online using Google Form  
Registration ends on September 15, 2021 (unless all available spots are filled before that date)

**Q** What is the PSAT?

A The **Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT)** is a standardized test given in all states across the **United States**. Approximately 3.5 million students take the PSAT/NMSQT each year. The scores from the PSAT/NMSQT are used to determine eligibility and qualification for many scholarship programs, including the National Merit Scholarship Program, the National Hispanic Recognition Program and the National Scholarship Service for African-American Students.

**Q** What skills does the PSAT assess?

A The PSAT assesses the critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills needed for college and beyond. After the test, students receive feedback on how ready they are for college and access to tools that help them improve in each area.

**Q** What is the structure of the test?

A Critical reading consists of one 60-minute section comprised of sentence completion and passage based-reading type questions. Math consists of two sections (25 minutes with no calculator & 45 minutes with calculator) comprised of student response and multiple-choice questions. Writing and language skills consists of one 35-minute section comprised of improving sentences, identifying sentence errors and improving paragraphs.

**Q** What are the benefits of taking the PSAT?

A In addition to assessing your students reading, math and writing skills, the PSAT connects students to scholarships and personalized online college planning tools. Also, when students take the PSAT/NMSQT, they have the option to participate in The College Board's Student Search Service, which makes their names and information available to colleges and scholarship programs looking for students like them.

**Q** When will scores be made available to my student?

A Score reports for students are available to students in January. Paper score reports are sent to schools, which distribute them to students at the end of January. Students also receive access to online scores and tools through My College Quickstart™ and MyRoad™.

**Q** How are PSAT results used?

A The PSAT/NMSQT can be used to identify students who have the potential to be successful in AP coursework. College Board research indicates that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically experience greater academic success in college and are more likely to earn a college degree on time than non-AP students. Both educators and students can see if students' PSAT/NMSQT scores indicate that they are likely to succeed in AP. Counselors will use PSAT/MNSQT scores to help students make appropriate plans of study and enrollment decisions.

More information can be found at the following website: <https://www.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt>