

**Congratulations! You have been identified as a student who may be eligible to earn academic recognition and possibly scholarship opportunities** if you achieve an outstanding score on the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). You were identified because your tenth grade PSAT results, unweighted grade point average and/or FSA ELA score indicate you could earn a qualifying score when you take the PSAT/NMSQT as a junior. To learn more about the scholarship opportunities, refer to the back of this page.

### **About PSAT/NMSQT**

**The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is a program co-sponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). It is a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT. It also gives 11<sup>th</sup> grade students a chance to enter NMSC scholarship programs, be identified and invited to apply for other scholarship opportunities and gain access to college and career planning tools.**

The PSAT/NMSQT measures evidence-based reading and writing skills, math skills, and problem-solving skills. You have developed these skills over many years, both in and out of school. This test does **not** 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, which allows you to focus your preparation on those areas that could most benefit from additional study or practice.
- Gain access to personalized SAT Prep through Khan Academy at no cost. Your PSAT results will be uploaded into their SAT Prep platform so that you can login to receive practice that is tailored to your areas of need.
- See how your performance on an admissions test might compare with that of others applying to college. Enter the competition for scholarships from National Merit Scholarship Corporation and the Telluride Association, as well as many others.
- Become familiar with the kinds of questions and the exact directions you will see on the SAT.
- Use the College and Career Planning tools MyRoad and BigFuture. MyRoad offers a personality profiler to help students explore majors and careers. BigFuture helps students further explore majors and find colleges that are right for them.
- **Receive information from colleges when you check “yes” to Student Search Services.**

### **2016 PSAT/NMSQT Test Date: Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**

The cost of the PSAT/NMSQT is \$15.00 and will be collected from each student during the first month of school. Students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch are eligible to receive a fee waiver for the PSAT/NMSQT, which means there would be no cost to sit for the test. Only students who sign up for the test this month are eligible for the fee waiver in October 2016.

### **Anticipated SAT Test Dates for the 2016-17 School Year**

- **October 1, 2016**                      **December 3, 2016**                      **March 11, 2017**                      **June 3, 2017**
- **November 5, 2016**                      **January 21, 2017**                      **May 6, 2017**

## PSAT/NMSQT Scholarships and Recognition Opportunities

### Bank on Skills

Scholarship and recognition programs are looking for students with skills like yours. These two simple steps could mean money for college:

1. Take the PSAT/NMSQT
2. Say “yes” to Student Search Service® when you fill out your answer sheet on test day.

### National Merit Scholarship Program

When you take the PSAT/NMSQT, you’re automatically screened for the [National Merit® Scholarship Program](#), an academic competition for recognition and scholarships.

For more information, visit [NMSC's website](#) [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org) or see the *Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT* or the *Guide to the National Merit® Scholarship Program* (for educators). The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) is a cosponsor of the PSAT/NMSQT.

### New Scholarships

The College Board’s new scholarship partners provide millions of dollars to qualified, low-income and minority students — and they use the PSAT/NMSQT to help find them.

- Juniors: You’ll be invited to apply if you opt in to Student Search Service and you’re qualified.
- Sophomores: If you opt in and qualify, you’ll be contacted in 11th or 12th grade.

#### New Scholarship Partners

- [American Indian Graduate Center](#) [www.aigcs.org](http://www.aigcs.org)
- [Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund](#) [www.apiasf.org](http://www.apiasf.org)
- [Hispanic Scholarship Fund](#) <https://hsf.net>
- [Jack Kent Cooke Foundation](#) [www.jkcf.org](http://www.jkcf.org)
- [United Negro College Fund \(UNCF\)](#) [www.uncf.org](http://www.uncf.org)

### National Hispanic Recognition Program

The College Board recognizes academically outstanding Hispanic/Latino U.S. juniors who take the PSAT/NMSQT. Learn more about the [National Hispanic Recognition Program](#). <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org>

### Other Programs

These programs use PSAT/NMSQT scores to find eligible juniors.

**National Scholarship Service:** offers a free college advisory and referral service for 11th-grade African American students. For more information, write to:

*National Scholarship Service*  
980 Martin Luther King Drive SW, P.O. Box 11409  
Atlanta, GA 30310

**Telluride Seminar Scholarships:** The [Telluride Association](#) [www.tellurideassociation.org](http://www.tellurideassociation.org) offers scholarships to gifted 11th-grade students for their six-week summer program in the humanities and social sciences.