

## 2016 PSAT/NMSQT<sup>®</sup> Fact Sheet

### What

- ▶ **A comprehensive assessment program** that measures college and career readiness and provides students with the tools they need to start planning for the future.
- ▶ **Used by National Merit Scholarship Corporation** as an initial screening of entrants in its annual competitions for recognition and college scholarships (typically, entrants are in their third year of high school).
- ▶ **Measures skills in three academic areas:** reading, writing and language, and math.
- ▶ **Rigorously developed and reviewed** by experts and content specialists to ensure that test questions are fair for all students.
- ▶ **An integral component of the SAT Suite of Assessments**, a series of assessments that also includes the SAT<sup>®</sup> for 11th- and 12th-graders, PSAT<sup>™</sup> 10 for 10th-graders, and PSAT<sup>™</sup> 8/9 for eighth- and ninth-graders.
- ▶ **A low-cost solution** for schools and districts interested in measuring performance, improving outcomes, and building a college-going culture.

### Why

- ▶ **Improves teaching and learning:** A clear, easy-to-use online reporting portal allows educators to analyze data and visualize results across the entire SAT Suite of Assessments and prescribe interventions when students are ahead or behind. Scores in specific content areas are tied to state standards. Also included are benchmarks that indicate whether students are on target for college.
- ▶ **Increases participation in the Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup> (AP<sup>®</sup>):** The online AP Potential<sup>™</sup> tool identifies students likely to succeed in AP, helping educators expand access to challenging courses.
- ▶ **Supports college and career planning:** Students receive an interactive score report with answer explanations, their projected SAT score, and feedback on their readiness for 20+ AP courses.\*They are also connected to resources that allow them to search for colleges and explore majors and careers.
- ▶ **Khan Academy<sup>®</sup>:** Students get free Official SAT Practice powered by **Khan Academy**. After receiving their PSAT/NMSQT scores, they will receive a unique SAT study plan based on their performance by linking their College Board and Khan Academy Account. Khan Academy practice can be used to prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT and PSAT 10 because of the close alignment of the tests ([satpractice.org](http://satpractice.org)).
- ▶ **Provides entry into scholarship programs:** The PSAT/NMSQT provides entry into the National Merit<sup>®</sup> Scholarship Program conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation and increased access to other scholarship and recognition programs.

### How

- ▶ **Ordering:** Each school identifies a PSAT/NMSQT Coordinator to order tests online at [collegeboard.org/school](http://collegeboard.org/school). **New for 2016:** Domestic schools that order PSAT/NMSQT materials by Aug. 31 may choose to receive their answer sheets and *Supervisor Manuals* by Sept. 14 to conduct a preadministration session prior to test day.
- ▶ **Fees:** The 2016 test fee is \$15 per student. Fee waivers are available for eligible juniors. The school's PSAT/NMSQT Coordinator should request the fee waivers by June 30 at [collegeboard.org/school](http://collegeboard.org/school). Some schools and districts may choose to cover part or all of the student fees.
- ▶ **Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD):** The College Board offers appropriate testing accommodations to students who need them. Approval is required prior to testing. Visit [collegeboard.org/ssd](http://collegeboard.org/ssd).
- ▶ **Administration:** The test is administered annually in schools, and takes approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes (plus 45–50 minutes for administration activities).

### When

- ▶ 2016 test dates are **Wednesday, Oct. 19 (Primary Test Date)**, **Saturday, Oct. 15 (Saturday Test Date)**, and **Wednesday, Nov. 2 (Alternate Test Date)**.

### Who

- ▶ Approximately 3.8 million students, primarily 10th- and 11th-graders, take the PSAT/NMSQT each fall.
- ▶ Students must test in their 3rd year of high school (usually 11th grade) to be eligible to enter the National Merit<sup>®</sup> Scholarship Program. Testing in the 10th grade provides early feedback while there is still time to plan and prepare.

\*Feedback is not available for eighth-grade and younger students. Feedback for ninth-grade students is only provided for AP European History and AP World History.