Maximizing Academic Potential and College and Career Readiness

The Preliminary SAT®/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is a comprehensive assessment program that measures core skills and provides valuable tools to maximize academic potential and increase student college and career readiness.

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PSAT/NMSQT®:
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What Is the PSAT/NMSQT®?

The burgeoning demand for globally competitive graduates is making college and career readiness more critical than ever before. As students face the increasingly complex challenges of the 21st century, it is imperative for them to develop and sharpen the critical-thinking and problem-solving skills necessary to navigate the path to success — in college and beyond.

The PSAT/NMSQT® is the primary assessment used in preparing for the SAT, which measures a student’s college readiness and success potential upon graduation from high school. A rigorous, established national assessment, the PSAT/NMSQT assesses core skills in critical reading, math, problem solving and writing — providing actionable feedback on areas requiring improvement to help students increase their college readiness.

The PSAT/NMSQT Strengthens College and Career Readiness

Benefits for Students and Educators

The PSAT/NMSQT helps students and educators by providing:

- **AP Potential™**
  Identifies students with the potential to score a 3 or better on an AP® Exam
- **Practice for the SAT**
  Familiarizes students with the content and format they will find on the SAT
- **My College QuickStart™**
  Helps students explore majors and careers and learn about their AP potential
- **Scholarship Opportunities**
  Provides entry into National Merit Scholarship Corporation competitions as well as other scholarship and recognition programs
- **Summary of Answers and Skills (SOAS)**
  Delivers valuable school performance data to help adjust curricula and improve instruction
- **Score Report Plus**
  Provides detailed feedback on each student’s academic skills to help them prepare for college

Maximizing AP Potential™

AP Potential™ is a data-driven tool developed by the College Board that uses scores from the PSAT/NMSQT to identify students who are likely to succeed in AP. The PSAT/NMSQT helps educators expand access to AP courses — ensuring that no student with potential is overlooked. AP Potential can:

- Identify students with hidden talents and untapped academic aptitudes
- Provide valuable insights into student strengths to help determine which AP courses to offer at your school

Alignment to Common Core State Standards

The aim of the College Board is to become the national leader in assessment that is deeply aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Recent alignment studies confirm that the College Board’s College and Career Readiness Pathway assessments are equally or more aligned to the Common Core than any other large-scale assessment available today.