

Delivering Opportunity and the Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT®

On March 5, 2014, the College Board announced a renewed commitment to delivering opportunity for all students.

A key component of this effort is a redesigned SAT® focused on the few things that evidence shows matter most for college and career readiness.

A redesigned PSAT/NMSQT®, aligned with the redesigned SAT, will launch in October 2015. The redesigned PSAT/NMSQT will measure many of the same skills as the current test.

The current PSAT/NMSQT continues to serve students in the class of 2016 and younger:

A Path to College Readiness

- ▶ **Help students improve college and career skills:** The PSAT/NMSQT tests the skills necessary for college and career readiness and provides resources to help students improve those skills.
- ▶ **Raise student awareness about college planning:** By taking the PSAT/NMSQT, students start exploring college opportunities and learn how their skills align with next steps in their journey to college.
- ▶ **Monitor student performance and adjust curriculum:** Summary of Answers and Skills is a unique resource that provides important information about whether students are on track to be college ready, allowing educators an opportunity to modify curriculum and instruction as needed.
- ▶ **Relate scores on current and redesigned exams:** The College Board is preparing concordance tables so students and educators will be able to relate scores on the current PSAT/NMSQT to scores on the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT.

Student and Educator Resources

- ▶ **Support access to AP®:** **AP Potential™** identifies students who are likely to succeed in AP courses and on exams, helping educators ensure students make the most of the opportunities they have earned.
- ▶ **Prepare and plan for college:** PSAT/NMSQT takers can opt into Student Search Service® allowing colleges and universities to communicate with students. Students also have exclusive access to **My College QuickStart™**, a Web-based resource offering personalized feedback on college readiness alongside college planning information.

In addition, the PSAT/NMSQT will continue to help students in the 11th grade prepare for the SAT and enter the competition for scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

About the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT

The redesigned PSAT/NMSQT will mirror all the benefits of the redesigned SAT. Some of the key changes will:

- Require students to demonstrate their command of evidence found in a wide range of sources.
- Ask students to interpret the meaning of words based on context, while eliminating the need to memorize obscure words.
- Allow students to focus in depth on the math skills that matter most for college and career success.
- Improve students' test-taking experience by removing the penalty for wrong answers.

Scores reported on the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT will be on the same scale and have the same subscores, or Insight Scores, as the redesigned SAT, providing added insight for students. The redesigned PSAT/NMSQT will be part of a system of assessments that provides information schools can use to monitor students' progress toward college readiness.

All reporting information and supporting tools are being reimagined to help students connect to practice, leverage instructional resources, access scholarships, and succeed in college.

We will share further details about the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT and the related system of assessments soon. In the meantime, sign up for updates and read about the changes to the SAT at deliveringopportunity.org.

Upcoming:

- Visit collegeboard.org/school to order the PSAT/NMSQT. Order by June 30, 2014, to ensure delivery of Student Guides by September and the availability of fee waivers.
- Get more information about the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT at our upcoming Counselor Workshops. Visit counselorworkshops.collegeboard.org.