

	PSAT	PreACT	SAT	ACT
Stands for:	Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.	Preliminary ACT.	Scholastic Aptitude Test.	American College Testing.
What it means:	Provides practice for the SAT Reasoning Test and gives you the chance to enter the National Merit Scholarship Corporation scholarship program.	Precursor to the ACT so you can familiarize yourself with the test.	College admission test.	That “other” major college admissions test.
What it measures:	Critical reading, math problem solving and writing skills.	Your aptitude and comprehension in English, Math, Reading and Science.	Critical thinking abilities necessary for academic success at the university level. Tests verbal and math reasoning capacities along with writing through multiple-choice questions and a short essay.	A multiple-choice evaluation of your competency in English, Math, Reading, Science and Writing through an optional essay. ACT questions are curriculum- based, and more directly related to what you're taught.
Reasons to take it:	Usually required for all high school juniors. Necessary to enter competition for the National Merit scholarships, but also a great preliminary indicator of the real SAT.	Prepares you for the ACT and gives an estimate of your potential score on the actual exam.	Necessary for college admission. More than two million students take the test every year, since almost every college in America accepts this exam in the admissions process.	You must submit scores from the ACT or SAT to enter college. Counselors recommend taking both tests and sending the highest score. Certain states require all high school juniors to take the ACT.
When to take it:	October of junior year.	Usually administered by your high school in the fall of sophomore year.	Multiple times, starting your junior year and as late as senior year fall.	Beginning your junior year until the fall of your senior year, you can take the ACT multiple times until you are satisfied with your score.
How to score:	Scores are reported on a scale of 320 to 1520.	An average of your scores for each section determines your overall score, with scores reported between a 1 and 32.	Scores range from 400 to 1600.	Composite score is the average (ranging from 1 to 36) of the scores you received from each test score (Math, English, Reading, Science).
Sign-up dates:	Registration occurs at your high school, so if you're not automatically signed up and you're interested in taking the test, visit your counselor.	Registration occurs at your high school, so if you're not automatically signed up and you're interested in taking the test, visit your counselor.	Registration deadlines are about a month before you take the test. The test costs \$60.	Registration deadlines are about a month before you take the test with late registration options available at a higher cost.