

# A Parent Tutorial for Understanding 2013 PSAT/NMSQT® Results

## PSAT/NMSQT Score Report Plus

Take a look at your student's PSAT/NMSQT® Score Report. Notice that each section of the test — critical reading, mathematics and writing skills — has its own column. Within each section is a great deal of information that provides a thorough review of performance.

### 1 Your Scores:

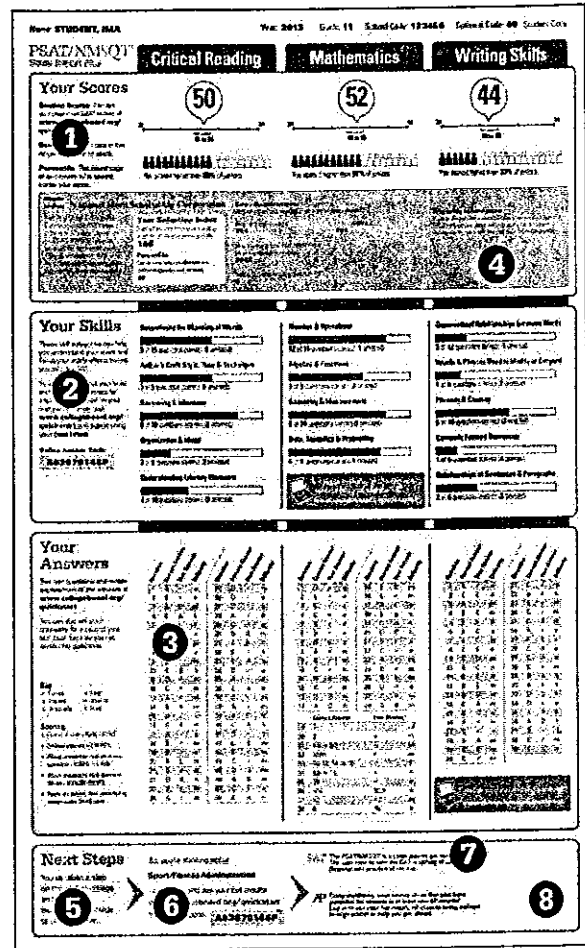
- Each PSAT/NMSQT score — critical reading, mathematics and writing skills — is based on a scale of 20 to 80.
- The **score ranges** show how much scores might vary if students were to take the PSAT/NMSQT repeatedly without learning additional skills. In other words, the scores within this range are considered "equal" statistically.
- **Percentiles** compare your student's performance with that of other students. Eleventh-graders are compared to all 11th-graders who took the test last year, 10th-graders and younger students are compared to all 10th-graders who took the test last year.

**2 Your Skills:** Students can see how they performed on each of the skills measured by the PSAT/NMSQT. After reviewing this section, students can then go online and log in to My College QuickStart™ to access suggestions for improving each of these skills and also sample questions to use for additional practice. Share this information with teachers, as these skills affect classroom performance and are important for success in college.

**3 Your Answers:** This section shows the correct answer, the student's response and the difficulty level of the question. Students should have received their test book along with their score report. Encourage your child to go over questions she or he got wrong. Did she or he really not know the answer? Make a careless error? Guess instead of leaving the question blank? My College QuickStart provides complete answer explanations to help students learn from their mistakes.

**4 National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) Programs:** NMSC cosponsors the PSAT/NMSQT, which stands for Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. High school students enter NMSC programs, usually as 11th-graders, by taking the PSAT/NMSQT and meeting other published entry requirements. NMSC uses the Selection Index score — the sum of the critical reading, mathematics and writing skills scores — as an initial screen of students who enter its programs and to designate groups of students to be honored. If the Selection Index has an asterisk, refer to the NMSC section on the back of the score report. NMSC will notify principals of students whose Selection Index scores qualify them for recognition. For more information about NMSC scholarship programs, visit [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org).

**5 Next Steps:** On test day, each student provided the college major she or he is considering pursuing. In My College QuickStart, the College Board provides important information about the indicated major, including recommended high school courses that will help prepare students for college-level work.



**6 Information About My College QuickStart.** See the reverse side to learn about this free online resource.

**7 Helpful tips about when to take the SAT.** The best time for students to take the SAT is during the spring of junior year. To register and practice, visit [sat.collegeboard.org](http://sat.collegeboard.org).

**8 Your Student's AP potential.** Based on his or her PSAT/NMSQT scores, there may be AP courses that your student is ready to take now. Full details can be found in My College QuickStart.

Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test  
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## My College QuickStart™

My College QuickStart is an online college- and career-planning tool available free of charge to all students who take the PSAT/NMSQT. It is powered by their responses to the test and provides personalized information that helps students take their next steps toward college:

- **My Online Score Report** — an enhanced score report that allows students to review each test question, their answers and the correct answers with answer explanations
- **My SAT Study Plan™** — a customized SAT® study plan based on students' PSAT/NMSQT test performance, highlighting skills for review and practice
- **My Personality** — a detailed personality test that helps students learn about themselves and discover majors and careers that fit their strengths and interests
- **My Major & Career Matches** — extensive information about majors and careers, including insights about what to expect and what courses to take now
- **My College Matches** — a starter list of colleges based on students' home state and indicated choice of major
- **My AP Potential** — a report that shows students' level of potential for different AP courses as well as which AP courses were offered at their school the previous year (based on AP Exams offered).

Students can sign in to My College QuickStart with the access code printed on their paper score report. The tool is available in mid-December and can be used throughout high school.

## Use [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) to help your student reach his or her education and career goals:

Visiting [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) makes it easier for you to help your student have a successful experience preparing for and applying to college. You'll find expert advice to keep you informed throughout the college planning process, including:

- Ways to encourage your student to start thinking about life after high school
- Strategies for financing your student's education
- Help with curriculum planning to realize your student's specific career goals
- Information and resources you need to help your student prepare to perform his or her best on the SAT
- Practical advice and online tools to find the right college for your student's needs and goals

## What happens now?

With the help of teachers and counselors, students should use the information provided on the PSAT/NMSQT Score Report *Plus* and in My College QuickStart to improve their academic skills and plan for their postsecondary goals. Here are some other suggestions for students:

- Review high school transcripts and select courses for upcoming semesters that will prepare for education and career goals.
- Take challenging courses: Consider honors and AP® courses.
- Tenth-graders and younger students should take the PSAT/NMSQT again in 11th grade to enter competitions conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation.
- Eleventh-graders should register for the SAT, and possibly SAT Subject Tests™, this spring. (Online at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) or "express register" in My College QuickStart.)
- Get involved in extracurricular and community activities. College admission officials look for academic competence and preparation (types/levels of academic courses taken and grades received), and they also look for how a student will contribute to the college community. What do students do outside of the school day? Are they involved in music, art, athletics, student government, volunteer work, employment, etc.? The quality of students' involvement is important. What is the depth of their commitment? Are they assuming leadership roles? Are they making a contribution to the school or community?

# Understanding 2013 PSAT/NMSQT® Scores

## Who takes the PSAT/NMSQT?

More than 3.5 million students take the test each year. Approximately 1.5 million of those students are high school juniors (11th graders), and the remainder are students in the tenth grade (sophomores) or younger. Nearly all students who take the test indicate they plan to attend college.

The over 23,000 high schools that test-takers attend vary greatly in size, curricula, standards, grading systems, populations served and sources of support. For students who take the PSAT/NMSQT®, the score report provides a standardized view of their scholastic skills, regardless of the school attended, and helps them compare their performance to other college-bound students nationwide.

## What does the PSAT/NMSQT measure?

The PSAT/NMSQT measures skills in three basic academic areas important for success in college.

- **Critical reading** questions assess students' abilities to draw inferences, synthesize information, distinguish between main and supporting ideas, and understand vocabulary as it is used in context.
- **Mathematics problem-solving** questions deal with numbers and operations; algebra and functions; geometry and measurement; and data analysis, statistics, and probability.
- **Writing skills** questions measure the ability to identify appropriate expressions in standard written English, detect faults in usage and structure, choose effective revisions to sentences and paragraphs, and recognize appropriate writing strategies.

## How is the PSAT/NMSQT scored?

First, a raw score is computed. Students receive one point for each correct answer (regardless of difficulty). For incorrect answers to multiple-choice questions, a quarter (1/4) of a point is deducted. Nothing is deducted for unanswered questions or for incorrect answers to student-produced response (grid-in) questions.

Next, the raw score is adjusted for differences in difficulty between various forms, or editions, of the test. Finally, the raw score is converted to a score on the PSAT/NMSQT scale of 20 to 80. The statistical procedures used to arrive at these final scores, called equating and scaling, allow one to compare the scores of students who have taken different editions of the test, including in different years.

Student score reports show a numerical score for each area measured, as well as a range that extends from a few points below the student's score to a few points above. This range shows the extent to which a student's score might differ with repeated testing, assuming that the student's skill level remains constant.

## Do PSAT/NMSQT scores fairly reflect students' skills?

Concern for fairness is an integral part of the development of the PSAT/NMSQT. Comprehensive reviews and analyses ensure that questions and tests are fair for different groups of students. Although differences in test performance may be the result of many factors, long-term educational preparation is the primary cause. The test itself reflects such differences.

## How does the PSAT/NMSQT report on skills?

The PSAT/NMSQT reports on the same set of college readiness skills as SAT® and ReadStep™ (the College Board's assessment for middle grade students). Aligned to both state standards and the College Board Standards for College Success, these skills reflect the essential knowledge and skills students need for success in college. To learn more, visit [www.collegeboard.org/psatreports](http://www.collegeboard.org/psatreports).

## What is PSAT/NMSQT Skills Insight™?

Using hundreds of skill descriptions and practice questions, the PSAT/NMSQT Skills Insight tool demonstrates the link between student PSAT/NMSQT scores and college readiness skills — the same skills measured on the SAT — and provides actionable suggestions for improvement. Visit Skills Insight at [www.collegeboard.org/psatskills](http://www.collegeboard.org/psatskills).

## What are the PSAT/NMSQT College and Career Readiness Benchmarks?

The PSAT/NMSQT College and Career Readiness Benchmarks are the scores that students should meet or exceed to be considered on track to be college ready. The benchmarks are included in several PSAT/NMSQT reports for educators, including the Summary of Answers and Skills (SOAS) Report and the optional Student Data File CD. The College and Career Readiness Benchmarks are not included on reports for students and should never be used to discourage students from pursuing college or for preventing enrollment in rigorous coursework.

## How are the benchmarks calculated?

The methodology for calculating the PSAT/NMSQT benchmarks mirrors the calculation of the SAT benchmarks. The current benchmarks are the 10th- or 11th-grade PSAT/NMSQT scores that predict, with a 65 percent probability, a first year college grade point average of 2.67 or higher.

To learn more, visit [www.collegeboard.org/psatreports](http://www.collegeboard.org/psatreports).

PSAT/NMSQT COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS BENCHMARKS				
	Critical Reading	Mathematics	Writing	PSAT/NMSQT Composite*
11th grade PSAT/NMSQT	45	47	45	142
10th grade PSAT/NMSQT	42	44	42	133

\*Composite score benchmark was computed independently of individual section score benchmarks.

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# PSAT/NMSQT Percentiles and Mean Scores

can be used to compare a student's performance with that of juniors and sophomores.

JUNIORS				SOPHOMORES			
Score	Percentiles			Score	Percentiles		
	Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills		Critical Reading	Math	Writing Skills
80	99+	99	99+	80	99+	99+	99+
79	99+	99	99+	79	99+	99+	99+
78	99	99	99+	78	99+	99+	99+
77	99	99	99	77	99+	99+	99+
76	99	99	99	76	99+	99+	99+
75	99	99	99	75	99+	99+	99+
74	99	99	99	74	99+	99+	99+
73	98	98	99	73	99+	99	99+
72	98	98	98	72	99+	99	99+
71	97	97	98	71	99	99	99
70	96	97	97	70	99	99	99
69	96	96	97	69	99	98	99
68	95	95	95	68	98	98	98
67	94	93	95	67	98	97	98
66	93	93	94	66	97	97	98
65	93	91	94	65	97	96	98
64	92	89	92	64	97	96	97
63	90	89	90	63	96	95	96
62	88	86	89	62	95	94	95
61	87	84	87	61	94	93	94
60	85	84	87	60	93	93	94
59	83	81	84	59	92	91	93
58	81	78	81	58	91	89	91
57	78	75	80	57	89	87	90
56	77	72	78	56	88	85	88
55	74	72	77	55	86	85	88
54	70	68	74	54	83	82	86
53	67	64	71	53	81	79	83
52	66	61	67	52	80	77	81
51	63	57	65	51	78	73	79
50	60	53	61	50	76	70	76
49	57	52	61	49	73	70	76
48	54	48	57	48	71	66	73
47	49	45	53	47	66	63	69
46	46	41	52	46	63	59	69
45	42	37	47	45	60	55	63
44	39	33	42	44	57	51	59
43	36	30	38	43	54	48	55
42	30	27	37	42	47	44	54
41	27	24	33	41	43	40	49
40	23	21	28	40	39	36	44
39	21	18	27	39	36	32	42
38	18	18	23	38	32	32	37
37	15	15	19	37	28	27	32
36	13	12	16	36	24	24	27
35	10	10	13	35	19	20	23
34	9	9	11	34	17	17	21
33	7	9	9	33	14	17	17
32	5	7	9	32	10	13	17
31	4	5	7	31	7	10	13
30	2	5	6	30	5	10	13
29	2	3	5	29	4	7	9
28	2	3	3	28	4	7	7
27	1	2	3	27	2	5	6
26	1	2	3	26	2	5	6
25	1	2	2	25	1	4	4
24	1	2	2	24	1	4	4
23	1	1	2	23	1	2	4
22	1	1	1	22	1	2	2
21	1	1	1	21	1	1	2
20	1	1	1	20	1	1	1
Mean score	47.7	48.6	46.5	Mean score	43.1	43.6	41.8
Standard deviation	10.9	11.4	11.4	Standard deviation	10.1	10.9	10.6
Number of juniors	1,551,095	1,551,095	1,551,095	Number of sophomores	1,585,611	1,585,611	1,585,611

## Points to note

- Percentiles indicate the percentage of students whose scores fall below each specified score.
- On the score report, percentiles for juniors compare their performance with that of other juniors who took the test last year. For sophomores or younger students, percentiles compare their performance with that of sophomores who took the test last year.
- Percentiles are based on the critical reading, mathematics and writing skills scores earned by college-bound juniors or sophomores who took the PSAT/NMSQT in the previous year.
- The *mean* score is the statistic that describes the *average* performance of a group.
- The *standard deviation* is a measure of the variability of a set of scores around their mean. If the test scores cluster tightly around the mean score, as they do when the group tested is relatively homogeneous, the standard deviation is smaller than it would be for a more diverse group.

**Reliability**  
shows how consistently a student would earn similar scores in repeated testings.

	Reliability Coefficient	Average SEM
Critical Reading	0.88	3.7
Mathematics	0.89	3.7
Writing Skills	0.85	4.2

## Points to note

Data are based on a sample of sophomores and juniors who took the PSAT/NMSQT in 2012 (all test forms).

- A *reliability coefficient* helps to show expected fluctuation in scores if a student takes a test more than once. The higher the reliability coefficient, the smaller the fluctuation of scores across repeated testings. A reliability coefficient of 1.00 would indicate perfect reliability, or no expected fluctuation.
- PSAT/NMSQT scores should be interpreted as ranges rather than points. The *standard error of measurement* (SEM) in the table above indicates that a student who took different forms of the test under identical conditions would be likely to earn scores within 4 points of one another.

# Score Change from PSAT/NMSQT to SAT

shows how scores change for students who take the PSAT/NMSQT in October and the SAT the following spring.

## Points to note

- The PSAT/NMSQT reports scores on a scale from 20 to 80. Scores on the SAT are reported on a 200- to 800-point scale in 10-point increments.
- The left-hand column of this table groups juniors by score ranges on the PSAT/NMSQT. Columns to the right show the percentage of students who gained or lost points when they took the SAT the following spring. The far right column shows the average SAT score for the group of juniors in each score range.
- On average, juniors taking the PSAT/NMSQT in October and the SAT the following spring have SAT scores that are 17 points higher in critical reading, 16 points higher in math, and 22 points higher in writing (equivalent to 1.7, 1.6, and 2.2 points, respectively, on the PSAT/NMSQT scale).
- Of the PSAT/NMSQT test-takers who took the SAT in the spring, 60% had SAT critical reading scores that were higher, 7% had scores that stayed the same, and 33% had lower scores; 58% had SAT math scores that were higher, 8% had scores that stayed the same, and 34% had lower scores; 62% had SAT writing scores that were higher, 6% had scores that stayed the same, and 32% had scores that were lower than their corresponding PSAT/NMSQT scores.
- Relatively low PSAT/NMSQT scores are followed by larger average gains than are relatively high PSAT/NMSQT scores.
- Several factors can influence the amount that scores will change, such as a student's academic course work and outside reading.

Percentage of Junior-Year Students with a Score Gain or Loss Between the PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT

### CRITICAL READING

Junior-Year PSAT/NMSQT Scores	-140 & below	-110 to -130	-80 to -100	-50 to -70	-20 to -40	+10 to +10	+20 to +40	+50 to +70	+80 to +100	+110 to +130	+140 & above	Average of Junior-Year SAT Scores
68-72	1	1	4	11	22	24	22	10	5	-1		694
63-67				9	13	27	20	11	5			652
58-62	1	1	3	8	17	24	23	15	6	2	1	609
53-57				4	7	15	23	24	16	8	2	563
48-52			1	3	7	15	22	24	17	8	3	515
43-47						11	22	23	17	9		469
38-42			1	2	5	11	20	23	20	11	5	429
33-37						16	22	21	13			386
28-32			1	3	3	7	12	17	22	18	10	352

### MATHEMATICS

Junior-Year PSAT/NMSQT Scores	-140 & below	-110 to -130	-80 to -100	-50 to -70	-20 to -40	+10 to +10	+20 to +40	+50 to +70	+80 to +100	+110 to +130	+140 & above	Average of Junior-Year SAT Scores
68-72	1	1	4	11	22	24	19	11	6	1		700
63-67				10	16	27	22	12	5			656
58-62	1	1	3	9	16	23	23	16	6	2	1	611
53-57				8	15	21	22	16	3			566
48-52			3	7	15	23	22	16	9	4		522
43-47				6	13	21	24	18	9			475
38-42			1	2	5	13	21	25	18	10	4	426
33-37				6	11	16	21	20	13			380
28-32			1	4	5	9	16	18	20	15	8	341

### WRITING

Junior-Year PSAT/NMSQT Scores	-140 & below	-110 to -130	-80 to -100	-50 to -70	-20 to -40	+10 to +10	+20 to +40	+50 to +70	+80 to +100	+110 to +130	+140 & above	Average of Junior-Year SAT Scores
68-72	2	4	9	15	19	20	15	9	5	2		680
63-67			2	13	19	20	18	11	7	1		643
58-62	1	1	4	9	16	21	20	14	6	3	2	607
53-57				9	15	20	21	16	3	5		569
48-52			1	3	7	13	19	21	17	11	5	525
43-47				2	6	12	19	21	18	11	6	482
38-42			1	2	5	11	18	21	19	13	7	435
33-37				2	4	9	16	21	20	14	6	393
28-32			1	2	3	7	12	19	20	17	10	360

Data are based on 585,947 students who took the PSAT/NMSQT as juniors in October 2007 and the SAT as juniors in spring 2008. The first SAT score from either the March, May, or June 2008 administration was used.

## Can PSAT/NMSQT scores be used to estimate SAT scores?

PSAT/NMSQT critical reading, mathematics and writing skills questions are designed to be the same type as those on the SAT. This is deliberate, as the PSAT/NMSQT questions are intended to be reliable preparation for the same types of questions on the SAT. The PSAT/NMSQT scale of 20 to 80 is comparable to the SAT scale of 200 to 800.

Students can see estimated SAT score ranges on their supplemental online score reports in My College QuickStart™. Two times out of three, students earn SAT scores within these ranges, but actual scores may be higher (or lower) than these estimates. (As SAT writing scores also include an essay, there will be more variability in the estimates of those scores.) Higher-than-estimated SAT scores may result from intervening activities, such as:

- developing skills through rigorous academic courses;
- extensive, quality reading and/or writing outside of school;
- following the personalized advice in My SAT Study Plan™ in My College QuickStart; and
- taking a practice test and becoming more familiar with test directions, types of questions and pacing.

Estimated SAT scores assume the SAT is taken within a year of the PSAT/NMSQT. Juniors frequently take the SAT six or seven months after taking the PSAT/NMSQT. Students who take the PSAT/NMSQT as sophomores may not take the SAT for another 18 months, providing a greater opportunity for intervening activities to influence their SAT scores.

## What PSAT/NMSQT reports do schools receive?

The following standard reports are provided to all schools:

- **PSAT/NMSQT Score Report Plus** for each student tested (one copy for the student and one for the school)
- **Score Labels**, summarizing the basic score information (one set of labels)
- **Roster of Student Scores and Plans**, listing student-reported information, scores and My College QuickStart access codes for each student, as well as educator access codes for online tools and reports
- **School Summary Report**, summarizing score statistics and student-reported information (provided automatically if at least 50 of a school's juniors or sophomores tested at the school). Schools that test fewer than 50 eleventh graders/tenth graders, but at least 25 of their own students of the same sex and grade level, receive Summary Statistics.

The following tools and reports are available online at [www.collegeboard.org/reports](http://www.collegeboard.org/reports).

- **AP Potential™**, a tool that helps educators identify students who may be ready for the challenge and rigor of AP®
- **Summary of Answers and Skills (SOAS)**, aggregating student responses to each test question and providing information on skills that need improvement
- **PSAT/NMSQT Summary Reports: National, Regional, and State Data**, providing score statistics and student-reported

information for juniors and sophomores, including final mean scores. Reports for 2013 will be available in the spring of 2014.

The following optional reports are available for a small fee. To order, visit [www.collegeboard.org/school](http://www.collegeboard.org/school).

- **School Summary Report**, summarizing score data for schools that test fewer than 50 juniors/50 sophomores, or for schools that have some juniors or sophomores who tested elsewhere. Schools that test 50 or more of their juniors/sophomores automatically receive this report.
- **Student Data File**, including all student-provided data as well as scores, skills, and students' My College QuickStart access codes. The data file also includes an AP Potential Indicator for each AP subject for which a given student has a 40 percent likelihood of scoring a 3 or higher on the AP Exam. (Available in either Excel-ready or ASCII format.)

**My College QuickStart**  
[www.collegeboard.org/quickstart](http://www.collegeboard.org/quickstart)

My College QuickStart is an easy-to-use, online, personalized college and career planning kit for all students who take the PSAT/NMSQT. This useful tool incorporates responses students provided when they took the test and presents personalized information in six main parts: My Online Score Report, My SAT Study Plan, My Personality, My Major & Career Matches, My College Matches and My AP Potential. Students can sign in to My College QuickStart starting in mid-December using the access code printed on their score reports. They can continue to use the tool throughout high school.

## How should schools use PSAT/NMSQT score reports?

The PSAT/NMSQT is intended to help students evaluate skill levels in three critical academic areas; prepare for the SAT; compare their readiness for college-level work with that of their peers; and enter scholarship competitions. Score reports should be used for counseling students about educational plans.

PSAT/NMSQT scores are not for use by colleges as part of their admission criteria. Do not include scores on student transcripts that will be reproduced and sent to colleges unless the student (age 18 or older) or parent/guardian has granted permission. Inform students of their right to withhold these scores from admission or athletic offices, even when requested.

## Questions?

Visit [www.collegeboard.org/counselors/psat](http://www.collegeboard.org/counselors/psat) for additional data relevant to the test. Or contact the PSAT/NMSQT program at:

**Mail:** P.O. Box 6720, Princeton, NJ 08541-6720  
**Phone:** 888-477-PSAT (7728) (for educators only)  
609-771-7070  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET  
**Fax:** 610-290-8979  
**Email:** [psat@info.collegeboard.org](mailto:psat@info.collegeboard.org)

**Plan ahead for 2014 PSAT/NMSQT dates**  
**Wednesday, October 15, 2014 • Saturday, October 18, 2014**

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Top North Carolina Colleges SAT Scores (mid 50%) (Learn what these numbers mean)						
	Reading		Math		Writing	
	25%	75%	25%	75%	25%	75%
<u>Appalachian State</u>	520	610	530	620	500	590
<u>Davidson College</u>	620	720	640	720	620	720
<u>Duke University</u>	660	750	690	780	670	770
<u>Elon University</u>	570	660	560	660	570	670
<u>Guilford College</u>	480	620	490	660	460	600
<u>High Point University</u>	497	589	507	609	487	589
<u>Meredith College</u>	450	560	460	560	-	-
<u>NC State</u>	530	620	560	660	510	610
<u>Salem College</u>	510	620	490	590	-	-
<u>UNC Asheville</u>	540	640	530	620	510	630
<u>UNC Chapel Hill</u>	590	700	610	700	590	690
<u>UNC School of the Arts</u>	510	630	470	600	500	600
<u>UNC Wilmington</u>	540	620	550	630	520	600
<u>Wake Forest</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Warren Wilson</u>	500	650	480	590	510	620

Top North Carolina Colleges ACT Scores (mid 50%) (Learn what these numbers mean)						
	Composite		English		Math	
	25%	75%	25%	75%	25%	75%
<u>Appalachian State</u>	22	26	21	27	22	26
<u>Davidson College</u>	29	32	-	-	-	-
<u>Duke University</u>	30	34	31	35	30	35
<u>Elon University</u>	25	29	25	31	24	29
<u>Guilford College</u>	21	26	-	-	-	-
<u>High Point University</u>	22	26	21	26	20	26
<u>Meredith College</u>	19	25	19	25	18	24
<u>NC State</u>	23	28	22	28	24	29
<u>Salem College</u>	21	27	21	29	19	26
<u>UNC Asheville</u>	24	28	23	30	23	27
<u>UNC Chapel Hill</u>	27	32	26	33	26	32
<u>UNC School of the Arts</u>	22	26	23	29	22	26
<u>UNC Wilmington</u>	22	27	21	27	22	26
<u>Wake Forest</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Warren Wilson</u>	23	28	-	-	-	-



# 2013 PSAT/NMSQT® Score Report Tutorial for 9th- and 10th-Grade Students

You've already taken the first step toward college!

By taking the PSAT/NMSQT® in ninth or 10th grade, you took your first step on the path to college. The test shows you firsthand the kinds of reading, mathematics and writing skills you'll need to succeed in college. It also prepares you for college admission tests like the SAT®.

If the test seemed hard, remember — it's aimed at students in the 11th grade.

If you took the PSAT/NMSQT before 11th grade, don't feel discouraged if your scores seem low. Look at your percentiles to see how well you did compared to 10th-graders who have taken the test. Your PSAT/NMSQT results will improve the longer you're in school, the more courses you take and the harder you work.

### How developed are your academic skills?

Use your score report to identify skills you need to develop. First take a close look at the "Your Answers" section. Find the questions you got wrong. Then look at your test book.

- Did the questions cover material you still need to learn?
- Did you get the easy questions right and leave the harder ones blank?
- Did you guess when you didn't know the answer?
- Did you get stuck on a couple of hard questions and run out of time?

The best way to review your test results is to go online at [www.collegeboard.org/quickstart](http://www.collegeboard.org/quickstart) and use your interactive score report. When you choose a question to review,

## How Did I Do?

Are you in ninth or 10th grade? Yes? Then relax. The PSAT/NMSQT shows skills you've learned and skills you may still need to work on before you go to college. It does not expect you to perform as well as students in 11th grade, and you still have time to learn and improve.

the score report will display the question plus a thorough answer explanation so you can improve your skills.

### Learn how to guess wisely.

Because you lose ¼ point for each wrong answer, how you guess on multiple-choice questions can affect your score. When you don't know the answer, do you make wild guesses or educated guesses? Guessing wildly means that you pick any answer. Educated guessing means that you eliminate answer choices you know are wrong and guess from those remaining. With educated guessing, you improve your chances of picking the right answer with each choice you can eliminate. Try it.

### Prepare for the next time you take the PSAT/NMSQT.

Once you've zeroed in on your own strengths and weaknesses, the best way to get ready for the test is to work hard in your regular classes and read as much as possible. Before taking the test again, read the *PSAT/NMSQT Official Student Guide*. Review all the directions and sample questions, study the test-taking tips and strategies, and **take the practice test**.

### Use My College QuickStart™ to get ready for college.

By taking the PSAT/NMSQT, you receive free access to My College QuickStart™, an easy-to-use, online, personalized college and career planning tool that includes:

- My Online Score Report — an enhanced score report that lets you review each test question, your answers and the correct answers with answer explanations
- My SAT Study Plan™ — a customized SAT study plan based on your PSAT/NMSQT test performance, highlighting skills for review and practice
- My Personality — a detailed personality test that helps you learn about yourself and discover majors and careers that fit your strengths and interests
- My Major & Career Matches — extensive information about majors and careers, including insights about what to expect and what courses to take now
- My College Matches — a starter list of colleges based on your home state and indicated choice of major
- My AP Potential — a report that shows you which AP courses you may be ready for now, as well as which AP courses were offered at your

school last year (based on AP Exams offered).

Visit [www.collegeboard.org/quickstart](http://www.collegeboard.org/quickstart) to get your My College QuickStart planning tool. Use the access code provided on your score report.

### What happens now?

Use the information provided on your score report and in My College QuickStart to improve your academic skills and to plan for college and beyond. Here are some suggestions:

- Meet with your counselor to review your PSAT/NMSQT performance and course selections relevant to your future plans.
- Consider taking honors and/or AP® courses.
- Review your online score report and SAT study plan in My College QuickStart.
- Retake the PSAT/NMSQT.
- Get involved in extracurricular and community activities.
- Research majors, colleges and careers using My College QuickStart.
- Visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) often to get more information to help you plan for college.

### Important Reminder:

To qualify for scholarship consideration, you must take the test again in grade 11.

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AP feedback for ninth-grade students is only provided for AP European History and AP World History.

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)