

COLLEGE PREP/POST-SECONDARY ASSESSMENT TERMINOLOGY

- ACT** The letters do not stand for anything anymore; the ACT was formerly known as the American College Testing program; this test has four components (English, math, reading and science) and an optional writing test. The score range is from 1 to 36, with 36 being the top score.
- ACT Writing Test: 30 minute essay that provides two additional scores—Writing subscore (2-12 scale; two readers who rate the essay from 1 [low] to 6 [high] and English/Writing subscore (1-36 scale) which is calculated from two-thirds of the English test and one-third from the writing test.
- EXPLORE** This is an achievement exam typically administered to 8th and/or 9th grade students to assess college readiness. Like the ACT, there are four sections: English, Math, Reading and Science. Each subject area is scored on a scale from 1-25. A composite score is also provided with a prediction for the student's probable PLAN score in 10th grade.
- PLAN** This is an achievement exam typically administered to 10th grade students to assess college readiness. Like the ACT, there are four sections: English, math, Reading and Science. Each subject area is scored on a scale from 1-32. A composite score is also provided with a prediction for the student's probable ACT score in 11th or 12th grade.
-

CollegeBoard this is the not-for-profit association whose mission is to “connect students to college success and opportunity”; CollegeBoard manages the ReadStep, PSAT, SAT, SAT Subject Tests, AP, CLEP, and CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE programs

SAT SAT Reasoning Test (formerly known as Scholastic Aptitude Test and Scholastic Assessment Test); the test consists of math, critical reading and writing; it is scored 200-800 per section (top score is 2400)

CR (SAT) Critical Reading (part of the SAT test, as well as Math and Writing)
M (SAT) Math test
W (SAT) Writing test

SAT II SAT Subject Tests (formerly called SAT II's); the subject tests are required by many top colleges; they are scored 200-800 per section, with 800 being the top score; there are several subjects available for SAT II's; many colleges ask for one math test and one humanities

Tests available (as of Spring, 2012):

English – Literature	Spanish
Biology E/M (Ecological/Molecular)	Modern Hebrew
Chemistry	Italian
Physics	Latin
U.S. History	French w/listening
World History	German w/listening
Mathematics Level 1	Spanish w/listening
Mathematics Level 2	Chinese w/listening
French	Japanese w/listening
German	

PSAT/NMSQT Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test ; see **National Merit**

National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT)

Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT); the year that “counts” is 11th grade; sections include: critical reading, math and writing; scoring is in a range from 20 to 80, with 80 being the highest score; Selection Index for National Merit ranges from 60 to 240

There are various categories for students who perform at high levels on the PSAT test during their junior year:

National Merit Commended: these students did not qualify as semi-finalists, but performed at a high level on the PSAT; although the selection index varies annually, it is typically a combined total of around 202 or more on the three parts of the PSAT

National Merit Semifinalist: these students performed at the highest level on the PSAT and are then considered for Finalist status based on school recommendation, test scores, and academic record; the qualifying scores annually vary by state; students must complete an application for consideration for Finalist status and to be considered for Scholar awards

National Merit Finalist: these students are the ones who have advanced from semifinalist status to finalist status based on their applications

National Merit Scholar: top finalists are considered for either \$2500 awards, or college/corporate awards; some awards are only available through the employment place of the parents or the schools to which an applicant has applied

National Achievement: this is a program for outstanding Black students (See: **Selection Index**)

Selection Index This refers to scores used by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) to determine students who are honored in their scholarship programs (e.g., National Merit Finalists, National Achievement Scholarship Program); cut-off’s for these programs vary *by state and by year*; NMSC does not publicize the cut-off’s, but many people are able to learn them by going to sites such as *College Confidential* (a college-bound community site).

Past Ohio selection indices:

2003	211	2008	211	Commended:	202 in 2012
2004	212	2009	213		
2005	214	2010	211		
2006	215	2011	212		
2007	215	2012	214		

ReadiStep A middle school assessment that serves as a mini-SAT in that it has three sections: Critical Reading, Writing and Mathematics. Designed for 8th graders; scored on a 2 to 8 scale; no penalty for incorrect answers; administered in the Fall and Spring

AP Advanced Placement tests offered by CollegeBoard; students do not have to take the courses in order to register for the tests.

Tests are scored 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest score. Some colleges accept all AP scores for credit while other may accept none. Always check what your potential colleges will accept.

Current AP tests offered through CollegeBoard:

Art History	Comparative Government & Politics
Biology	U.S. Government & Politics
Calculus AB	Human Geography
Calculus BC	Italian Language & Culture
Chemistry	Japanese Language & Culture
Chinese Language & Culture	Latin: Vergil
Computer Science A	Music Theory
Macroeconomics	Physics B
Microeconomics	Physics C
English Language	Psychology
English Literature	Spanish Language
Environmental Science	Spanish Literature
European History	Statistics
French Language & Culture	Studio Art
German Language & Culture	U.S. History
	World History

AP Awards: There are various categories of the AP awards given by *CollegeBoard*:

AP Scholar

Granted to students who receive grades of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

AP Scholar with Honor

Granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

AP Scholar with Distinction

Granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

State AP Scholar

Granted to the one male and one female student in each U.S. state and the District of Columbia with grades of 3 or higher on the greatest number of AP Exams, and then the highest average grade (at least 3.5) on all AP Exams taken.

National AP Scholar

Granted to students in the United States who receive an average grade of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

MISCELLANEOUS

ASVAB

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. This assessment is a multiple-choice assessment administered by the Military Entrance Processing Command for students considering careers in the armed forces. The ASVAB is typically given to anyone in 10th-12th grade although anyone who is eligible for military duty may take the ASVAB. There are nine sections on the ASVAB: word knowledge, arithmetic reasoning, mechanical comprehension, automotive and shop information, electronics information, mathematics knowledge, general science, paragraph comprehension, and assembling objects. Examinees also receive a score on what is called the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT). AFQT scores are computed using the Standard Scores from four ASVAB subtests: Arithmetic Reasoning (AR), Mathematics Knowledge (MK), Paragraph Comprehension (PC), and Word Knowledge (WK). AFQT scores are reported as percentiles between 1-99. The test takes approximately three hours. Scores needed for various armed forces may be found on the recruiting sites.

CEEB College Entrance Examination Board (code numbers are used when registering for SAT/ACT tests); codes are used to insure that records are sent to the correct high school See: “Test Dates > Code Search” on CollegeBoard’s website or ACT’s website under “Registration > High School Codes”; it is a six-digit number

MIDPARK HS: 361326 BEREAS HS: 360435

CLEP College-Level Examination Program; a series of exams offered by CollegeBoard that may count for credit at some colleges

Credit by Examination The awarding of college credit based on exams offered either at the college on-site or via AP or CLEP programs.

Equating The process of putting two or more essentially parallel tests on a common scale. Equating is a process used to make test scores across **different forms of the same test** interchangeable. When test forms are created to be similar in content and difficulty, *equating* adjusts for differences in difficulty. For example, the raw score on the PSAT is converted to a score on the PSAT/NMQT scale of 20 to 80. This statistical procedure, called equating, adjusts for differences in difficulty between various forms, or editions, of the test. Equating makes it possible to compare the scores of students who have taken different editions of the test. The goal of equating is to produce scores that are exchangeable. A June SAT I should be exchangeable with a January SAT I. An ACT is not exchangeable with a SAT since they are measuring different constructs.

IB International Baccalaureate; college-level exams and full-diploma program offered by many high schools across the country

Percentile The percentage of other test-takers with lower scores, plus half the percent with exactly that score. For example, a junior who earns a score of 65 on the PSAT writing test did better than 95% of the other test-takers.

Percentiles are based on the most recent scores earned by students in the previous year's graduating class who took the SAT during high school. For the SAT, you will see percentiles both for the total group of test-takers and for your state. Your percentile changes depending on the group with which your scores are compared. Because the total group is larger and more diverse than the state group, your total and state percentiles may differ.

PSEO Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (some colleges grant credit while others do not)

Raw Score The total number of correct responses.

Reliability Reliability refers to the consistency of a measure. A test is considered reliable if we get the same result repeatedly. For example, if a test is designed to measure a trait (such as introversion), then each time the test is administered to a subject, the results should be approximately the same. Synonym: Precision.

Scaled Score A score to which raw scores are converted by numerical transformation. A score computed from the raw score; it usually includes an adjustment for difficulty. It is usually expressed on a different scale to avoid confusion with the raw score.

Score Choice The practice of allowing students to choose the best score set from multiple testings (i.e., SAT/ACT) rather than requiring that all test scores be submitted. Score Choice is a trademark term that CollegeBoard uses. ACT has always allowed students to submit one set of scores from multiple test sessions.

Superscore The practice of taking the best scores from multiple tests (ACT/SAT) and using the best scores for consideration on the application. For example:

ACT 2/2011: E 29, M 36, R 36, Sci 36 Comp. 34

ACT 6/2011 E 35, M 34, R 34, Sci 35 Comp. 35

Superscore: E 35, M 36, R 36, Sci 36

Validity Validity is the extent to which a test measures what it claims to measure. It is vital for a test to be valid in order for the results to be accurately applied and interpreted. Validity isn't determined by a single statistic, but by a body of research that demonstrates the relationship between the test and the behavior it is intended to measure. There are three types of validity: content, criterion-related and construct.