



PSAT SCORE INTERPRETATION NIGHT

Hoboken High School
January 19, 2023

HOW TO ACCESS SCORES

- Visit **studentscores.collegeboard.org**
 - Sign in with your current CollegeBoard account
 - If you do not have an account, click “sign up”
- Once logged in, your scores will be immediately visible
- “I don’t see my scores. What do I do?!”
 - You may need to update your account information
 - Click the “Matching Tool” to find out what needs to be updated



WHAT DOES THE PSAT MEASURE?



- The PSAT measures the skills and knowledge that research shows are the most important for success in college and career.
- The Reading Test measures comprehension and reasoning skills and focuses on close reading of passages in a wide array of subject areas.
- The Writing and Language Test measures a range of skills, including command of evidence, expression of ideas, and the use of standard English conventions in grammar and punctuation.
- The Math Test covers a range of math practices, with an emphasis on problem-solving, modeling, using tools strategically, and using algebraic structure.



PSAT 8/9

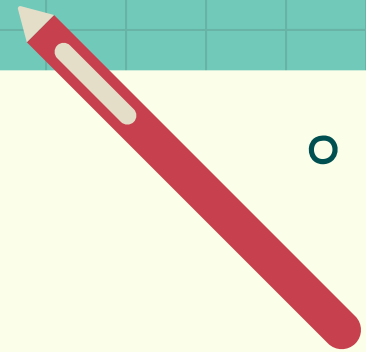
- Provided to students in either 8th or 9th grade
- Measures the skills and knowledge at the level of content and skill appropriate for 8th and 9th grades that research shows *could* be an indicator of success in college and career.
- Score range 240-1440 (120-720 per section)
- The difference in range allows the accurate measurement of growth from test to test
 - For example, a 500 on PSAT 9 for math should equate to 500 on PSAT for math the following year



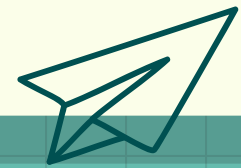
BENCHMARKS

- The SAT Suite offers grade-level benchmarks that can be used to gauge whether students are on track for becoming college ready each year in grades 8-12
 - Green = meets/exceeds benchmark
 - Yellow = within one year's academic growth of benchmark
 - Red = below the benchmark by more than one year's academic growth





CASE STUDY



NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS



- The National Merit Scholarship Program is an annual competition for high school students planning to attend college. Students need to take the PSAT/NMSQT in their Junior year to be eligible for scholarships and recognition through program
- Recognition does not necessarily mean scholarship money but still is a bonus on a college application
- Scholarship is a one time \$2,500 towards a student's first year of college
- More information on National Merit Scholarship here [National Merit Program Student Guide](#)

WHAT ARE THE ACT'S?

- ACT (American College Testing) is another college entrance exam used by most colleges and universities to make admissions decisions.
- Sections of the ACT include
 - English
 - Math
 - Reading
 - Science
 - Writing (optional)



THE SAT VS THE ACT

- Fewer Geometry Questions
- More Time per Question
- No-calculator Math Section

KEY Differences

- Lots of Geometry
- Faster Paced
- Tough Science Section



Overall Time

TIMING & SCORING

Overall Time



Reading	65m	} 200 - 800 points
Writing	35m	
Math (No Calculator)	25m	} 200 - 800 points
Math (Calculator)	55m	

1-36	35m	Reading
1-36	45m	English
1-36	60m	Math
1-36	35m	Science

Total Points | 400 - 1600

1 - 36 | Total Points

Time per Question	75s	48s	83s
	Reading	Writing	Math

Time per Question	53s	36s	60s
	Reading	English	Math

WHICH TEST IS BEST FOR ME?

- Go with the test you are strongest and most comfortable with!
- Recommendation is to take ACT or SAT two or three times
 - You typically see a significant score increase from test one to test two with only a marginal increase from two to three
 - Most (not all) colleges will superscore meaning they will take into account your highest section scores across all the dates you took a test
- Students should test whenever is best for their schedule, factoring in AP testing dates, final exams, or personal commitments such as jobs or sports
 - Spring of junior year is generally a good time to test



TEST OPTIONAL

- Schools that do not require standardized tests to be taken or submitted as part of their application. They choose to value other factors in making an admission decision.
- This is an excellent option for students who feel standardized test scores are not representative of who they are as students!
- To see schools that are test optional → [fairtest.org](https://www.fairtest.org)
- Check college websites frequently, as many are still deciding year by year.
- More selective schools may still want to see scores even if they are 'test optional'. Often students with higher scores will be eligible for more institutional scholarship money



CONSIDERING “FIT”

- A college that is a good “Fit” = A college that matches a student across several dimensions: intellectual, social, geographical, professional, and financial, to name a few.
- Consider the fact that you are not only going to be there to take classes; for most students it will become their home for at least 10 months of the year!



Academic & Testing Admission	Social & Academic	Financial
<i>Determined by the college</i> Do your scores and grades fit the school profile?	<i>Determined by the student</i> Does the school have your major? Interests? Social life?	<i>Determined by the Family</i> Be aware of sticker price vs. actual cost

BUILDING A HEALTHY LIST

- It is important to manage admission expectations by building a list that includes a range of likely, target, and reach schools. The number of each category of school will vary, depending on your situation and your ability to visit the colleges on your list.
- **Target Schools**
 - Students meets most of the criteria and falls within acceptable ranges of test scores, GPA, activities, etc
- **Likely Schools**
 - Student has a high chance of admission because criteria falls on high end for test scores, GPA, activities, etc
- **Reach Schools**
 - Student is on the low end or does not meet certain requirements
 - It is advisable to have about 1-2 schools in this category on your list



ASK YOURSELF...

01

Does the college offer programs of study that match your interests?

02

Does the college provide academic rigor that matches your aptitude?

03

Does the college provide instruction that matches your learning style?

04

Does the college offer a community that feels like home?

05

Does the college feel like an environment that will value you?

06

Does the college provide financial aid or grants depending on your needs?



TELLING YOUR STORY







English	4 Years
Math	3-4 Years (Competitive schools and programs will want to see pre-calc and/or Calc)
Lab Science	3-4 Years
Social Studies/History	3-4 Years
World Language (consecutive)	2-3 Years (Competitive schools and programs will want to see 3 or more)
Phys Ed/Health	4 Years
Electives	3 or more from the subjects above





COLLEGES CONSIDER...



- Application
 - Transcript
 - Standardized Tests
 - Letters of Recommendation
 - Personal Essay
 - Extracurricular Resume
 - If applicable...Interview, Audition, or Portfolio
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LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION



- Most colleges request 2 letters of recommendation from people who know you in and out of the classroom. Keep in mind, some colleges no longer use letters of recommendation as part of their review.
- It is the student's responsibility to know which schools require letters of recommendation.*
- **Who writes letters?**
 - School counselor, Teacher, Coaches, Bosses, etc
- **Who should I choose?**
 - Individuals who know you as a person and as a student
 - You do not have to choose teachers in classes you earned an A
 - Choose recent teachers and avoid 9th grade teachers
 - Choose teachers who can speak to your strengths and work ethic

COLLEGE VISITS



- Visiting a college indicates **Demonstrated Interest**
 - Some schools will track your engagement with the school in order to confirm your interest in the school.
- Additional tips for your visit
 - Connect with Admissions Counselors that cover our area and get their contact info
 - Take advantage of Open Houses in the spring and fall
 - Utilize school breaks for visits but keep in mind the summer may be more quiet on campus
 - Visit local schools even if they aren't your top choices as they can provide insight into templates for different campus types (i.e. big schools vs small schools, etc)

Formal Visits

Campus Tour
Interview with admission officer
Group Info Session
Sit in on a class
Talk to a professor
Talk to a coach
Participate in an overnight

Informal Visits

Eat in a dining hall
Read the Student Newspaper
Talk to Students
Explore the surrounding area
Stay in the area overnight

Can't make it to a College? Try a virtual tour!

<https://www.youvisit.com/collegesearch>

<https://www.campustours.com/>

<http://www.ecampustours.com/>

<https://www.campusreel.org/>



QUESTIONS?

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