



Requirements and Instructions for Semifinalists in the 2012 National Achievement® Scholarship Program

REQUIREMENTS FOR BECOMING A FINALIST

As a Semifinalist named in the fall of 2011, you must advance to Finalist standing before you can be considered for an Achievement Scholarship® award to be offered in 2012. You must meet all specified requirements and deadlines, or you will be withdrawn from the competition. To qualify as a Finalist you must:

1. Continue to meet all program entry requirements (published in the 2010 *Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT*®).
2. Be enrolled in the last year of high school and be planning to enroll full time in college in the fall of 2012 **or** be enrolled in the first year of college, if grades 9 through 12 were completed in three years or less.
3. Be a black student who is a citizen of the United States; or be a black student who is a U.S. lawful permanent resident (or have applied for permanent residence, the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. If you have not yet become a U.S. citizen, see box below.
4. Be fully endorsed for Finalist standing and recommended for a National Achievement Scholarship by your high school principal (or school official designated by the principal).
5. Have a record of consistently high academic performance in **all** of grades 9 through 12 and in any college course work taken. Your school must provide a complete record of high school courses you have taken, grades earned, and course work you will take in grade 12. The school should also notify the National Achievement Scholarship Program of any noticeable decline in your academic performance during the current year. If you are now in college, high academic performance must continue and must be documented by an official transcript of your record (see instructions on page 2 of this document).
6. Submit the completed application to your high school official as soon as possible. The school official will complete the school's sections of the application for final submission to National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) by October 14, 2011.
7. Take the *current* SAT® and earn scores that confirm your 2010 PSAT/NMSQT performance. You must take (or have taken) a national administration of the SAT between October 2009 and December 2011. Also, **it is your responsibility** to file a request with the College Board SAT Program to have an official report of your SAT scores sent to the National Achievement Scholarship Program (**code 0300**). See page 2 of this document for detailed information about authorized SAT administrations and score reporting.
8. Provide any additional documentation and information that the National Achievement Program requests.

If you have not yet become a U.S. citizen, you must submit with your completed *National Achievement Scholarship Application*:

- A letter signed by you explaining your plans for becoming a citizen, including the date on which you expect to be eligible and will apply for U.S. citizenship.

AND

- **If you are a U.S. lawful permanent resident**, a copy of your Permanent Resident Card (Green Card); **or** a copy of your passport including the identity/biographical page and the "I-551" stamp showing that you have been granted lawful permanent resident status.

OR

- **If you have applied for U.S. lawful permanent residence**, a copy of the Form I-797 Receipt Notice from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) that verifies you filed the "Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status" (Form I-485). *Note: Form I-797 Receipt Notice must be received by the National Achievement Program on or before January 31, 2012.*

TAKING THE SAT AND HAVING YOUR SCORES REPORTED

To become a Finalist, you must confirm your PSAT/NMSQT performance with scores on the SAT.

It is **your sole responsibility** to:

1. take the SAT on a date authorized by the National Achievement Program; and
2. request that the College Board SAT Program send an official report of your SAT scores to the National Achievement Scholarship Program (**code 0300**).

You can register for the SAT **online** at www.collegeboard.org or by mail. To register by mail, you need an *SAT Paper Registration Guide* which is available at your school counselor's office. If your high school does not have a copy, telephone the SAT Program to request one at (866) 756-7346 Domestic or (212) 713-7789 International.

The SAT Program will **not** report your scores to the National Achievement Scholarship Program unless you request it, and you cannot substitute a photocopy of the score report sent to you or your school for the official report. Send all testing and score reporting fees directly to the SAT Program.

- **Authorized SAT administrations**

Scores earned on national administrations of the SAT **from October 2009 through December 2011** will be considered by the National Achievement Scholarship Program. Scores from a national SAT administration taken earlier than October 2009 or later than December 2011 will not be accepted. Your critical reading score, math score, and writing multiple-choice subscore [CR + M + W(mc)] will be the basis for determining whether you meet the confirming score requirement.

- **If you have not yet taken the SAT**

Register NOW to take the SAT on one of the following dates in 2011 and request that scores be sent to the National Achievement Scholarship Program (**code 0300**):

- October 1
- November 5
- December 3

We urge you to take the SAT no later than November 5 and not wait until the December administration.

- **If you have already taken an authorized administration of the SAT**

IMMEDIATELY request that an official score report be sent to the National Achievement Scholarship Program (**code 0300**) by using one of the following services:

1. View and Send Scores at <http://sat.collegeboard.org>

OR

2. Automated Telephone Service at (866) 756-7346 Domestic or (212) 713-7789 International

- **Be sure the National Achievement Scholarship Program is to be sent a report of your SAT scores**

Look at the score report sent to you by the SAT Program to be certain it shows the National Achievement Scholarship Program (**code 0300**) as a recipient. If it is not listed, immediately use one of the two methods listed above to request that a score report be sent. This is very important because you will be withdrawn from further consideration in the competition if the National Achievement Program does not receive a timely report of your scores from an authorized SAT administration.

SEMIFINALISTS NOW ENROLLED FULL TIME IN COLLEGE

As instructed in the *National Achievement Scholarship Application*, submit the completed application to the school official (high school you last attended), who will complete the school's sections of the application for final submission to NMSC by October 14, 2011.

To be considered for Finalist standing, you must meet all requirements specified on page 1 and, immediately after the end of the current term, arrange to have your college send an **official transcript** of all college course work you have taken to the National Achievement Program.

COLLEGE CHOICE

College choice is not considered in determining whether a Semifinalist qualifies as a Finalist. However, it is requested because National Achievement Scholarships can only be used for attendance at a college or university in the United States that holds accredited status with a regional accrediting commission on higher education. All Achievement Scholarship awards **are transferable** from one regionally accredited college or university in the United States to another.

You are asked to report your first-choice college (to which you are applying for admission) on your *National Achievement Scholarship Application*. However, if you are unsure, indicate “undecided” on your application and report a college choice to the National Achievement Scholarship Program as soon as possible. To report your college choice or a change in your choice go to www.nationalmerit.org/forms.php to access the *College Choice: Report or Change* form. Fill out this form and mail a copy to NMSC or fax it to (847) 866-5113. It is your responsibility to apply and be admitted to the college you plan to attend.

Schedule and Deadlines for the 2012 Achievement Scholarship® Competition

2011

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| September 28 | Names of 1,600 National Achievement Program Semifinalists are released to news media by NMSC |
| October 1 | SAT administration date |
| October 14 | Schools submit completed <i>National Achievement Scholarship Applications</i> to the National Achievement Program |
| November 5 | SAT administration date
Semifinalists who took an earlier authorized administration of the SAT should have requested the SAT Program to report scores to the National Achievement Program (code 0300) |
| December 3 | Last date for Semifinalists to take SAT |

2012

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| January 16 | Selection committees begin choosing Achievement Scholarship award winners |
| January 20 | National Achievement Program notifies principals of their Semifinalists who have become Finalists; a <i>Certificate of Achievement</i> is provided for each Finalist |
| January 27 | National Achievement Program notifies Finalists of their status at their home addresses |
| February 24 | National Achievement Program begins mailing scholarship offers to winners at their home addresses; their principals are also notified |
| April 4 | Names of Achievement Scholarship winners are released to news media by NMSC |
| April 18 | Finalists who are not selected to receive a scholarship are notified at their home addresses |

If you have questions, contact: National Achievement Scholarship Program
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