PSAT/NMSQT®

CollegeBoard / NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

Fall 2026

PSAT/NMSQT®

Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

Student Guide

- Preparation and Practice
- Test Day Information
- Scores and Scholarships

About College Board

College Board reaches more than 7 million students a year, helping them navigate the path from high school to college and career. Our not-for-profit membership organization was founded more than 120 years ago. We pioneered programs like the SAT® and AP® to expand opportunities for students and help them develop the skills they need. Our BigFuture® program helps students plan for college, pay for college, and explore careers. Learn more at **cb.org**.

About National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC)

NMSC® is an independent, not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance. NMSC conducts the National Merit® Scholarship Program, an annual academic competition for recognition and college scholarships. The PSAT/NMSQT® is the screening test for high school students who wish to participate in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

If you have questions about any aspect of the National Merit Scholarship Program, including student participation requirements, the selection process, and awards offered, see the NMSC section of this publication.

The PSAT/NMSQT

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is cosponsored by College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Contact customer service if you have suggestions, questions, or comments about exam setup, administration, or score reports. If you wish to report test administration irregularities, you must notify your test coordinator or the PSAT/NMSQT office immediately.

PSAT/NMSQT Customer Service

PHONE: 866-630-9305

INTERNATIONAL: +1-212-713-8000

EMAIL: **psathelp@info.collegeboard.org**

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Contents

College Board

2 **Test-Taking Information**
2 Using This Guide
2 How the PSAT/NMSQT Is Organized
3 Bluebook Digital Testing

4 **Before You Test**
5 Away Students
5 Special Considerations
6 Test Dates and Fee
6 Testing Devices
6 If You Need Testing Accommodations
8 English Learner Support
8 Privacy Policies
8 Telemarketing Scams
8 Test Question Inquiries
8 Additional Information on the SAT Suite of Assessments

9 **Prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT**
9 Test Preview
9 Full-Length Adaptive PSAT/NMSQT Practice Tests
10 Official SAT Prep on Khan Academy
10 Student Question Bank
10 Question of the Day
10 Paper-Based Practice Tests
10 The Official SAT Study Guide
11 What the Reading and Writing Section Is Like
12 What the Math Section Is Like

13 **Information You'll Need on Test Day for Digital Testing**
13 Test Day Items
13 Test Day Steps
14 Submitting Your Answers

15 **After the Test**
15 How the PSAT/NMSQT Is Scored
15 Retesting
16 BigFuture School and Connections
19 Getting Your Scores
19 Explore Career Options
19 College Board National Recognition Program
20 Scholarship Programs

21 **PSAT/NMSQT Testing Rules**

National Merit Scholarship Program

23 **Overview**

24 **Steps in the 2028 National Merit Scholarship Competition**

25 **The 2028 Competition Begins in 2026**

25 **Entry Requirements**
26 When to Take the Test
27 Eligibility Verification

28 **Program Recognition**
28 NMSC Selection Index
28 Commended Students
28 Semifinalists
29 Finalists

29 **Choosing Scholarship Winners**

30 **Types of Scholarships**
30 National Merit $2500 Scholarships
31 Corporate-sponsored Scholarships
31 College-sponsored Merit Scholarships

32 **Scholarship Sponsors**
32 Corporations, Business Organizations, and Individual Donors
39 Colleges and Universities

PART 1

College Board

Test-Taking Information

Using This Guide

Taking the PSAT/NMSQT® is a great way to find out how prepared you are for college and career. The PSAT/NMSQT is the qualifying test for entry to the National Merit® Scholarship Program (described in the second part of this guide). The test also connects you to College Board programs and services that can propel you to opportunities you've earned. We've created this guide to help you:

- Become familiar with the test and the Bluebook™ testing application so you know what to expect on test day.
- Learn about the structure of the test, how to prepare for it, and how it is scored.
- Preview the PSAT/NMSQT Testing Rules, which are available at **cb.org/pn-rules**. **You will be required to review and agree to the Testing Rules in Bluebook before testing.**

IMPORTANT: You will be bound by the Testing Rules as they exist on test day. Prior to testing, you must review any updates to these Testing Rules, which are available at **cb.org/pn-rules**.

How the PSAT/NMSQT Is Organized

The PSAT/NMSQT measures the knowledge and skills that you are learning in school and that matter most for college and career readiness. There are 2 sections of the PSAT/NMSQT—(1) Reading and Writing and (2) Math. The PSAT/NMSQT is scored on a 320–1520 scale. The PSAT/NMSQT takes about 2 hours and 14 minutes to complete.

The PSAT/NMSQT, and all tests in the SAT® Suite of Assessments, use multistage adaptive testing. Each test section (Reading and Writing, Math) is divided into two equal-length, separately timed parts, called modules. You answer a set of questions in the first module before moving on to the next. The questions that you are given in the second module depend on how you performed on the first module.

This type of adaptive testing allows for a much shorter, but just as reliable, assessment that delivers accurate scores more efficiently.

The test breaks down like this:

TEST ORGANIZATION

Section	Time Allotted (min.)	Number of Questions
Reading and Writing	64	54
Math	70	44

The PSAT/NMSQT follows the same timing as all other tests in the SAT Suite.

You must complete all sections of the test. If you leave before dismissal, your test may be considered incomplete and your scores may be ineligible for scholarship consideration or may be subject to cancellation. Do not close your laptop lid or cover or turn off your tablet screen at any point until you are dismissed. If you are approved for extended time, see If You Need Testing Accommodations on page 6 for more information.

Bluebook Digital Testing

Bluebook is our custom-built application you'll use to take the PSAT/NMSQT. Ask your school how to download and access Bluebook. They will provide you with a sign-in ticket. You may be able to familiarize yourself with key aspects of the app before the test during your school's student readiness activities. For more information about readiness, please see Before You Test on page 4.

If you want to preview Bluebook, you can download the application to your personal device.

Bluebook Tools

Bluebook includes plenty of test tools. Here are some examples:

- **Mark for review:** You can flag and return to any question within a given test module that you want to come back to later.
- **Testing timer:** A clock counts down the time remaining in each module. You can hide the timer, and you get an alert when 5 minutes remain in the module. When there are only 5 minutes remaining, the clock can no longer be hidden.
- **Calculator:** A built-in Desmos calculator is available for the entire Math section. You can toggle between the scientific and graphing Desmos calculators at any point during the Math section. The calculator is provided in the Bluebook practice test to allow you to practice with it before the test. (You can also bring your own acceptable calculator; please see **PSAT/NMSQT Calculator Policy** for more information.)
- **Line reader:** Use this tool to focus as you read test content.
- **Reference sheet:** In the Math section, you have access to a list of common formulas.
- **Highlights & Notes:** On non-math questions, you can highlight any part of a passage and leave yourself a note. You can change the highlight color, add an underline, make a note, or delete the highlight. A Windows tablet must have an external keyboard in order for students to use the Highlights & Notes tool in Bluebook.
- **Option eliminator:** If you think an answer option is wrong, you can cross it out.
- **Question menu:** Students can see which questions they skipped or marked for review and navigate to any question in the module.

You can use keyboard shortcuts on laptops or pinch and zoom on tablets to get a closer look at any part of the question, and you can set up your device before testing to use color contrast.

Digital Testing Disruptions

An internet connection is required to start the test, but Bluebook will keep running even if your connection drops momentarily. At the end of the test, if you're still offline, work with your school to make sure your answers are submitted once internet access resumes. If your device battery runs down, you can simply plug in, restart your device, and pick up where you left off—all your work will be saved, and you won't lose testing time.

If the app crashes during your exam, just relaunch it and click **Resume Testing**. Raise your hand so the proctor can approve your re-entry, and you'll return to the question you were on. The testing timer will be paused until you resume testing.

Before You Test

If you plan to take the PSAT/NMSQT at the school you normally attend, your school or district will register you and let you know if you need to bring your own testing device, a school-issued testing device, or if one will be provided for you on test day. School staff will also provide you with sign-in information that is unique to you.

Before you test, staff at your school may hold a student readiness check. In this session, you'll sign in to Bluebook with a sign-in ticket that's unique to you, run a quick device check, complete exam setup, and try out a test preview. During exam setup, which will happen either during the student readiness check or right before the test, you'll have the chance to confirm your personal information and you'll be required to review and agree to the PSAT/NMSQT Testing Rules. You should review them now, but certainly before testing at **cb.org/pn-rules**. It's important to confirm your personal information is correct after you sign in to the testing application with your sign-in ticket. If your information is incorrect or you received someone else's sign-in ticket, tell school staff immediately.

During exam setup, you'll also have the opportunity to answer questions about yourself, your educational experience, and your plans for after you graduate high school. All questions are optional. If any of your answers differ from answers you have given us on previous in-school tests, we'll use your latest information.

College Board may use the information you provide:

- To verify your identity
- To administer the test, including with any necessary third parties
- To provide your score information
- To maintain the fairness and validity of our tests
- For test security purposes
- For test accommodations purposes
- On a de-identified basis, for psychometric and educational research purposes, to demonstrate the effectiveness of our programs and services, and to maintain, develop, support, improve, and diagnose our services and applications
- To disclose as required by law, when we believe in good faith that it's necessary to protect our rights, protect an individual's safety or the safety of others, investigate fraud, or respond to a government request

Your high school, school district, and state may receive your responses. Institutions that receive your information are required to keep it confidential and to follow College Board guidelines for using this information.

College Board sends information you provide to our cosponsor, National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®), for it to consider your eligibility for the National Merit Scholarship Program (see the second part of this guide).

If you choose to use the BigFuture® School mobile application, we'll use your information to provide you with educational information and insights about college and career options. If you opt in to Connections™, we'll use your information to match you with nonprofit colleges and universities, nonprofit scholarship providers, and government agencies running educational programs that are looking for students like you. Note: Your school, district, or state may choose to not provide access to Connections for its students.

More information about the BigFuture School mobile app and Connections can be found in BigFuture School and Connections on page 16.

See the PSAT/NMSQT Testing Rules for more information on use and disclosure of the information you may choose to provide.

Away Students

If you are a homeschooled student or plan to take the PSAT/NMSQT at a school that's different from the school you attend, you'll need to complete the following steps before the deadline:

- Use our **in-school assessment search tool** to find a testing institution near you.
- Reach out to staff at the testing institution 4 weeks before the testing window begins to request to be included in their registration file. (Check the administering school district website for applicable deadlines. Some districts may need this step completed earlier.)

  Provide the following information for registration:

  - Legal first and last name.
  - Date of birth.
  - Name/School code for the school you normally attend and student ID (if you're homeschooled, you'll only need to share that you are homeschooled). Ask your school counselor if you do not know your school code or student ID.
  - Gender.
  - Your Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) number if you are approved to test with accommodations.
- Confirm whether the testing institution will provide you with a device or if you need to bring a testing device on test day.

If you're homeschooled and qualify for recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program, NMSC will mail notification of your recognition to the address you provide during exam setup.

If you would like to find out more about testing at a school you do not normally attend, visit our **Homeschooled and Away Students** webpage. Some states may not allow Away students.

> **IMPORTANT:** Away Students must bring a valid photo ID with them for check-in on test day. Please see the PSAT/NMSQT Testing Rules at **cb.org/pn-rules** for information about acceptable photo identification.

Special Considerations

Here are some situations you may need to prepare for.

If you know in advance that you cannot take the test when your school offers it: Tell your counselor as soon as possible that you have a conflict, such as a religious observance. You may be able to take the test later in the month (during the testing window, which is defined as the period of time the test can be administered at your school) or as an Away Student (see previous section) at a nearby school that has selected a different test date. When you reach out to the school you don't normally attend to register, be prepared to provide your school code and student ID, which you can get from your counselor. Be sure to bring your acceptable photo ID with you on the day of the test. You'll need to keep your ID with you at all times, especially if you leave the testing room.

If you are homeschooled and want to take the PSAT/NMSQT: Make arrangements in advance with your local school or another nearby school that is administering the test. Contact PSAT/NMSQT customer service (see page ii) if you need help finding a school in your area that's giving the test. Visit our **Homeschooled and Away Students** webpage for more information.

You will be studying in another country when the test is given: Use the **in-school assessment search tool** and include the country where you'll be in your search. You'll need to contact the test coordinator at that school with the information listed above to request registration at least four weeks before the testing window begins.

You missed the test but want to enter the National Merit Scholarship Program:
For information about another route of entry to the National Merit Scholarship Program, see Unable to Take the PSAT/NMSQT? on page 27.

Test Dates and Fee

The PSAT/NMSQT testing window is October 1–30, 2026. Ask your counselor or principal when you will test. While different students from your school may test on different days, each student can only obtain one valid score during the testing window. If an irregularity occurs that warrants a retest, you have up to two opportunities to retest to obtain a valid score.

The fee for the 2026 PSAT/NMSQT is $18, but you might not have to pay it—some districts and schools cover all or part of the cost for their students. Schools sometimes charge an additional fee for administrative costs.

Testing Devices

Most schools participating in the PSAT/NMSQT will use school-managed devices for testing. In those cases, the school staff will have downloaded Bluebook and made sure that the testing device is charged and ready for testing. It is good practice for you to review your device's battery life and notify staff if it's not fully charged.

If your school allows you to test on a personal device, you must download the exam app onto your device before testing. (A personal device is one that you bring for your use in testing and that is not provided by your school. Personal Chromebooks cannot be used for testing.) Your device must also be able to connect to Wi-Fi and be charged enough to stay on for roughly 3 hours. We recommend you bring a power cord or portable charger, but we can't guarantee you'll have access to an outlet. You're permitted to bring an external mouse for your device and an external keyboard if your device is a tablet. You can't use detachable device privacy screens. All other applications and programs must be closed during the test.

If you are bringing a personal device for testing, visit **Approved Testing Devices** for more information about device requirements.

If You Need Testing Accommodations

If you have a disability that requires accommodations such as a screen reader, extra breaks, or permission to test blood sugar, be sure to have your school request College Board approval at least seven weeks before the test date you need the accommodations for. Requests for accommodations are handled by the College Board SSD office. For more information about requesting accommodations and timing, visit our **Advice for Students and Families** webpage.

Most students with accommodations test digitally, and many accommodations are provided right in Bluebook. For example, if you're approved for extended time, you'll receive a digital exam enabled with your approved amount of extended time per section. If you need large print, you can use zoom. If you need assistance with reading, you might be approved for Text-to-Speech (Embedded) or Screen Reader (Non-Embedded).

Check your accommodations in the **Accommodations & Supports Dashboard** prior to testing to ensure you know what accommodation you've been approved for. Some accommodations may be administered differently on the PSAT/NMSQT than in the classroom. Speak to your SSD coordinator if your accommodation is not what you need. Visit the **Using Accommodations** webpage for more information about digital accommodations.

When considering accommodations, note the following:

- The quickest and most efficient way to request accommodations is to work with your school. Your SSD coordinator, counselor, or other appropriate school staff can help determine the most suitable accommodations for you and submit a request online.
- Talk to your SSD coordinator to confirm what accommodations you're approved for and any additional information you need for testing.
- If you are homeschooled or want to request accommodations without your school, download and submit a Student Eligibility Form from the **Requesting Without Going Through the School** webpage.

- Once approved for accommodations, with some exceptions, you remain approved and do not have to apply again when taking another College Board test.
- If you move to a new school after you've been approved for accommodations, inform your new school of your accommodations and provide them with your SSD number, if you have it.
- If you're interested in participating in the National Merit Scholarship Program, make sure you request your approved accommodations in time to test. If you won't receive them in time, your test should be rescheduled. If you take the test without your approved accommodations, your test coordinator should complete an Irregularity Report. You may need to retest. If you do not take the test and wish to enter the National Merit Scholarship Program, see Unable to Take the PSAT/NMSQT? on page 27.
- The **Accommodations & Supports Dashboard** is a student portal where you can see your decision letters and accommodations. Make sure that your school's SSD coordinator has your email address so that you'll be able to access the dashboard easily.
- For students approved for extended time, text-to-speech, or screen reader:
  - If you're approved for extended time, text-to-speech, or screen reader for math only, you'll only get those accommodations for the Math section; but if you're approved for any of those accommodations for reading, you'll get them for the whole test.
  - If you are approved for text-to-speech (embedded in Bluebook, with no configuration needed) or screen reader (non-embedded), be sure to practice with your accommodation ahead of test day to ensure you understand how it will work with the digital test.
  - If you're approved for extended time, once the standard time has elapsed for a module, you can move on when you're ready rather than having to wait until your approved time is up. We encourage you to use your full allotted time and you should only move ahead if you have completed the module. As always, at the end of the test, wait until testing staff have confirmed that your test has been submitted before closing the lid to your laptop, turning off your tablet screen, closing Bluebook, or shutting down your device. Please visit **accommodations.collegeboard.org/how-accommodations-work/about-accommodations/extended-time** for more information.

The PSAT/NMSQT is accessible to students approved to use assistive technology, including a screen reader and text-to-speech. If you are approved for text-to-speech (embedded), you'll use the tool built into Bluebook. No setup is needed. If you are approved for a screen reader, you'll use your own assistive technology software or the software that is part of the operating system on your testing device. For screen readers or other assistive technology, you'll need to open and start the assistive technology device or software before you open Bluebook for practice and for testing. On test day, adjust any necessary settings before you start to check in for the digital test. Visit our **Accommodations and Assistive Technology** webpage for detailed information about using assistive technology with Bluebook. Additionally, the app has extensive content to answer your questions about setup, navigation, and tools to help you access test content.

> **IMPORTANT:** Practice taking a digital test with the technology you plan to use to test. Please see Prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT on page 9 for more information about practice.

English Learner Support

Supports such as word-to-word dictionaries, translated test directions, extended time, and EL – Text-to-Speech for Math Sections (Embedded) are available for non-English proficient or limited-English proficient English learners. If you need English learner (EL) support, work with your school to help ensure it will be there on test day. Talk to your school counselor if you'd like more information.

Privacy Policies

College Board recognizes the importance of protecting your privacy. Please review our privacy policies at **collegeboard.org/privacy-center** ("Privacy Policies") and the PSAT/NMSQT Testing Rules at **cb.org/pn-rules** to understand our collection, use, and disclosure of your personally identifiable information.

Telemarketing Scams

We sometimes get reports of phone scams when callers posing as employees of College Board or National Merit Scholarship Corporation try to sell test preparation products or request sensitive, personally identifying information, such as credit card and Social Security numbers. College Board and NMSC do not make unsolicited phone calls or send emails to students or families requesting this type of information. This type of activity, known as telemarketing fraud, is a crime and should be reported to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Please visit **Important Information About Telemarketing and Internet Scams** for more information.

Test Question Inquiries

If you find what you consider to be an error or an ambiguity in a test question, tell the proctor immediately after the test. You also have the option to complete the **Test Questions Error or Ambiguity form** if you prefer or if testing is already over.

In your inquiry, provide your name and email address, the date you took the PSAT/NMSQT, the name and address of the school where you took the test, the test section and module, the test question (as well as you can remember), and an explanation of your concern about the question.

College Board will send you a response after your inquiry has been reviewed thoroughly by subject-matter specialists. If you submit a report for what you consider to be an error or an ambiguity in a test question, you understand that College Board may need to hold your PSAT/NMSQT score for review. As a result, your score may not be available by the published release date for your administration.

Additional Information on the SAT Suite of Assessments

Procedures to Ensure Fairness and Access

College Board combats any bias in our tests with our review processes. Fairness reviewers help ensure that test materials are accessible to all students, have no offensive or insensitive content, and aren't made easier or harder by factors outside the subject being measured. You can download a copy of the **Assessment Framework for the Digital SAT Suite** to learn about fairness on the tests.

Prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT

You may have an opportunity to practice for the PSAT/NMSQT before testing as part of your school's student readiness activities. The school where you're testing will register you and provide sign-in credentials for Bluebook during these activities.

College Board offers many official ways to help you prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT at **sat.org/practice**. Here are some of them:

Test Preview

To prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT, you'll have access to a test preview within Bluebook. This tool helps you:

- Get familiar with functions in the app.
- See the structure of the test.
- Try a small sample of reading and writing and math questions to familiarize yourself with the kinds of questions you'll encounter on test day and with how to properly enter your answers.
- Try all the testing tools and experience how the digital tests work with any assistive technology you're approved to use.

Full-Length Adaptive PSAT/NMSQT Practice Tests

Taking a full-length practice test for the PSAT/NMSQT will let you experience digital testing and familiarize yourself with test content, including the types of questions you'll answer and the exam tools you'll use to take the test. Your school may run a full-length practice session during the student readiness check. You may also choose to access additional practice tests in Bluebook during your own study time using the sign-in credentials provided by your school. If you'll be using a personal device for testing, you can also make sure your device supports the app and is ready to use on test day.

While taking practice tests in Bluebook, every student is welcome to toggle on and experiment with certain built-in accommodations (text-to-speech, screen readers, etc.). However, practicing with accommodations does not mean you are approved to take an actual assessment with those accommodations. See If You Need Testing Accommodations on page 6 to find out more.

Both sections on the PSAT/NMSQT, (1) Reading and Writing and (2) Math, have 2 modules. Depending on how you answer the questions in the first module, you'll be routed to a second module, which has a different mix of difficulty levels. The mix of questions in the second module is, on average, either of higher difficulty or of lower difficulty than the mix in the first module. Taking a practice test in Bluebook helps you gain experience and comfort with the way you'll be assessed on test day.

The full-length practice tests will also give you a score.

1. Download the Bluebook app at **bluebook.collegeboard.org**.
2. Go to **Practice and Prepare** on the Bluebook homepage and select **Full-Length Practice**. (You'll need the credentials found on the sign-in ticket provided by your school to access full-length practice.)
3. After you've finished the practice test in Bluebook, go to **My Practice** at **mypractice.collegeboard.org** and sign in with the same credentials provided by your school to view your score results and review your practice exam questions and their skill level, answers, and explanations.

Official SAT Prep on Khan Academy

The SAT course content on Khan Academy® includes videos, articles, and worked examples designed to help you understand and experience the SAT Suite. Visit **khanacademy.org/digital-sat**.

Student Question Bank

You can use the Student Question Bank to design your own practice. The question bank has thousands of official practice questions and you can filter by assessment, section (Reading and Writing or Math), domain, skill, and difficulty level. You can go to **My Practice** at **mypractice.collegeboard.org** and sign in with the same credentials that appear on the sign-in ticket provided by your school to access the **Student Question Bank**.

Additional Practice

You can also try targeted practice questions in My Practice. If you click the **Practice Specific Questions** link, My Practice gathers a tailored set of questions from our Student Question Bank based on your performance on a practice test. These questions are specifically designed to help you build your skills at a level that's right for you.

Question of the Day

The Question of the Day web app is a fun and fast way to check your knowledge. Each day, you can choose to answer a Reading and Writing question or a Math question. The content comes from the makers of the SAT Suite of Assessments, so you can answer official questions in a casual setting, earn badges, and build your streak. For more information, visit **qotd.collegeboard.org**.

Paper-Based Practice Tests

College Board provides downloadable paper versions of practice tests for those students who need to test with paper-based accommodations on test day. Since the PDF versions of our practice tests are nonadaptive, they're recommended only for students who will test with paper-based accommodations on test day. Using these practice materials does not mean you've been approved to test with a particular accommodation. These paper versions of the tests are longer and require more questions to assess your knowledge and skills. To practice on paper, you'll need to ask your counselor to help you obtain the test or print these downloadable versions of the practice test at **sat.org/paper-practice**.

The Official SAT Study Guide

For additional tips on using practice tests effectively, check out the updated version of **The Official SAT Study Guide**™ from the College Board bookstore or wherever you find test prep materials. While you can take practice tests for free in Bluebook, taking a printed practice test in the study guide is another strategy to help you build your endurance and strengthen your understanding of the questions on the test.

What the Reading and Writing Section Is Like

The Reading and Writing section of the PSAT/NMSQT is designed to measure your success with building critical college and career readiness in literacy. In this section, you'll answer multiple-choice questions requiring you to read, comprehend, and use information and ideas in texts; analyze the craft and structure of texts; revise texts to improve the rhetorical expression of ideas; and edit texts to follow core conventions of Standard English.

Passages in this section, which serve as the basis for answering test questions, represent the subject areas of literature, history/social studies, the humanities, and science. There is a single question per passage.

Select questions in this section are accompanied by an informational graphic.

Reading and Writing Section Overview

Test length:

- 1st module: 25 operational questions and 2 pretest questions
- 2nd module: 25 operational questions and 2 pretest questions

Total: 54 questions

Time per module:

- 1st module: 32 minutes
- 2nd module: 32 minutes

Total: 64 minutes (1.19 minutes per question)

Questions from all four content domains appear in each test module. To help you budget your time, questions that test similar skills and knowledge are grouped together in Bluebook and then arranged from easiest to hardest. Pretest questions don't count toward your score.

READING AND WRITING SECTION CONTENT DOMAINS AND QUESTION DISTRIBUTION

Content Domain	Domain Description	Skill/Knowledge Testing Points	Question Distribution
Craft and Structure	Measures the comprehension, vocabulary, analysis, synthesis, and reasoning skills and knowledge needed to understand and use high-utility words and phrases in context, evaluate texts rhetorically, and make connections between topically related texts	Words in Context; Text Structure and Purpose; Cross-Text Connections	13–15 questions
Information and Ideas	Measures comprehension, analysis, and reasoning skills and knowledge and the ability to locate, interpret, evaluate, and integrate information and ideas from texts and informational graphics (tables, bar graphs, and line graphs)	Central Ideas and Details; Command of Evidence (Textual, Quantitative); Inferences	12–14 questions
Standard English Conventions	Measures the ability to edit texts to conform to core conventions of Standard English sentence structure, usage, and punctuation	Boundaries; Form, Structure, and Sense	11–15 questions
Expression of Ideas	Measures the ability to revise texts to improve the effectiveness of written expression and to meet specific rhetorical goals	Rhetorical Synthesis; Transitions	8–12 questions

These specifications are for the adaptive version of the digital test, which most students will take. Students approved for certain testing accommodations—such as a human reader, raised line drawings, or paper test forms—will test using a nonadaptive version of the PSAT/NMSQT. This nonadaptive version has a slightly higher number of test questions in each module to account for the fact that the test is not adaptive. Practice for this nonadaptive version of the test is also available in Bluebook. You can learn more about nonadaptive test specifications in Appendix E of the **Assessment Framework for the Digital SAT Suite**.

What the Math Section Is Like

The Math section of the PSAT/NMSQT is designed to measure your success with building critical college and career readiness knowledge and skills in math. It focuses on key elements of algebra, advanced math, problem-solving and data analysis, and geometry and trigonometry. Over the course of the Math section, you'll answer multiple-choice and student-produced response questions that measure your fluency with, understanding of, and ability to apply the math concepts, skills, and practices that are most essential.

Approximately 30% of math questions are set in context. These in-context "word" questions require you to consider a science, social studies, or real-world scenario and apply your math skills and knowledge, along with an understanding of the context, to determine the answer to each.

Select questions in this section are accompanied by an informational graphic.

Math Section Overview

Test length:

- 1st module: 20 operational questions and 2 pretest questions
- 2nd module: 20 operational questions and 2 pretest questions

Total: 44 questions

Time per module:

- 1st module: 35 minutes
- 2nd module: 35 minutes

Total: 70 minutes (1.59 minutes per question)

Questions from all four content domains appear in each test module. Across each module, questions are arranged from easiest to hardest, allowing you to have the best opportunity to demonstrate what you know and can do. Pretest questions don't count toward your score.

MATH SECTION CONTENT DOMAINS AND QUESTION DISTRIBUTION

Content Domain	Domain Description	Skill/Knowledge Testing Points	Question Distribution
Algebra	Measures the ability to analyze, fluently solve, and create linear equations and inequalities as well as analyze and fluently solve equations and systems of equations using multiple techniques	Linear equations in 1 variable; Linear equations in 2 variables; Linear functions; Systems of 2 linear equations in 2 variables; Linear inequalities in 1 or 2 variables	13–15 questions
Advanced Math	Measures skills and knowledge central for progression to more advanced math courses, including demonstrating an understanding of absolute value, quadratic, exponential, polynomial, rational, radical, and other nonlinear equations	Equivalent expressions; Nonlinear equations in 1 variable and systems of equations in 2 variables; Nonlinear functions	12–14 questions
Problem-Solving and Data Analysis	Measures the ability to apply quantitative reasoning about ratios, rates, and proportional relationships; understand and apply unit rate; and analyze and interpret 1- and 2-variable data	Ratios, rates, proportional relationships, and units; Percentages; 1-variable data: distributions and measures of center and spread; 2-variable data: models and scatterplots; Probability and conditional probability; Inference from sample statistics	7–9 questions
Geometry and Trigonometry	Measures the ability to solve problems that focus on area and volume; lines, angles, triangles, and trigonometry	Area and volume; Lines, angles, and triangles, including right triangles and right triangle trigonometry	4–6 questions

These specifications are for the adaptive version of the digital test, which most students will take. Students approved for certain testing accommodations—such as a human reader, raised line drawings, or paper test forms—will test using a nonadaptive version of the PSAT/NMSQT. This nonadaptive version has a slightly higher number of test questions in each module to account for the fact that the test is not adaptive. Practice for this nonadaptive version of the test is also available in Bluebook. You can learn more about nonadaptive test specifications in Appendix E of the **Assessment Framework for the Digital SAT Suite**.

Information You'll Need on Test Day for Digital Testing

Be prepared for digital testing by making sure you bring only what you need for the test. You'll have your testing device, but won't be able to use or access any other personal electronic devices, such as a mobile phone, smart glasses, or other wearable technology, during the test. See the PSAT/NMSQT Testing Rules, at **cb.org/pn-rules**, for a full list of items that are not allowed during testing. Review the other important guidelines in this section to make sure you understand the policies that cover your PSAT/NMSQT testing experience.

Test Day Items

The following items are required for taking the PSAT/NMSQT:

- A fully charged, acceptable testing device with Bluebook already downloaded and exam setup complete. (See **Approved Devices** for more information.)
- A pen or pencil for scratch work.
- A valid photo ID for check-in if testing as an Away Student.

Though not required, consider bringing:

- Snacks and drinks (which must be under your desk during testing).
- An acceptable calculator for the Math section (if you prefer using a handheld calculator to using the embedded Desmos calculator in Bluebook). Please see **PSAT/NMSQT Calculator Policy** for more information.
- Extra batteries, a power cord, and backup calculator.

For more information about what to bring on test day, see the **What to Bring on PSAT/NMSQT Test Day** webpage.

Test Day Steps

This section summarizes important guidelines for digital testing. See the PSAT/NMSQT Testing Rules at **cb.org/pn-rules** to make sure you cover all the steps to successfully prepare to take the PSAT/NMSQT.

- If you are allowed to bring your own or a school-issued device, plan ahead and bring equipment that's in good working order with enough battery power to last for about 3 hours. Your testing device must be able to connect to new Wi-Fi networks, and you may need to update your operating system to support the digital test. Testing staff might not have extra batteries or calculators.
- If you are allowed to bring your own device, you need to download the Bluebook app from **bluebook.app.collegeboard.org**.
- If you're testing with extended time, bring a power cord; your testing site should provide an outlet for recharging if needed.
- During exam setup, which will take place as either part of your school's student readiness check or right before the test, you'll be required to review and agree to the Testing Rules, which are available at **cb.org/pn-rules**. As part of exam setup, you'll also have the option to provide additional information about yourself. You may also have the opportunity to provide a mobile number to access the BigFuture School mobile application to jump-start your college and career planning with easy access to your scores and career insights.
- On test day, you'll follow instructions to connect to the school's Wi-Fi, complete exam check-in on your testing device, and type a brief statement saying that you agree to follow all rules for the exam.

- During testing:
  - You are not allowed to wear a hat or head covering (except when worn for medical or religious reasons; if a hooded garment is worn, the hood must remain down).
  - Store any snacks or drinks you bring under your desk. You may only eat snacks during breaks. The testing staff will tell you where you can go to have your snack.
  - You must remain in the testing site for the duration of the test. If you leave before you're dismissed, your scores are subject to cancellation.
  - Keep your laptop open or your tablet uncovered and on during the entire duration of testing. Closing your laptop lid or covering your device may result in a loss of your responses.

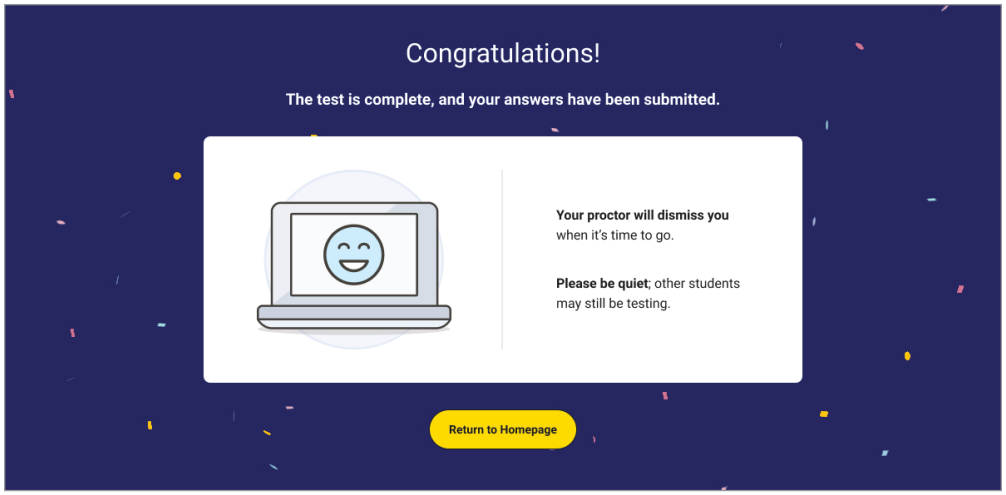
For a complete list of what you can't bring and what isn't allowed during the test, see the PSAT/NMSQT Testing Rules at **cb.org/pn-rules**.

Submitting Your Answers

Do not close the lid to your laptop, turn off your tablet screen, close Bluebook, or shut down your device until testing staff have confirmed that your tests have been submitted and you are officially dismissed from testing.

In the event of an internet disruption at the end of the test, or another issue that keeps you from submitting your answers, you'll need to follow instructions provided by your school to complete submission. This may include waiting until the internet is back online to leave the testing room, or returning later with your testing device once the internet service resumes.

If answers aren't received by the end of the submission period, College Board may cancel your scores or report them for guidance purposes only.



Do not close the lid of your laptop, turn off your tablet screen, close Bluebook, or shut down your device until testing staff confirm that your answers have been submitted.

After the Test

Once you've taken the PSAT/NMSQT, the next step is to access your scores, understand what they mean, and track your progress. Use the information in this section to help you make the most of your scores. You can also start to explore additional College Board tools to help you plan for the future.

How the PSAT/NMSQT Is Scored

The SAT Suite uses a multistage adaptive test design and item response theory (IRT) methodology to precisely measure students' knowledge and skills with fewer questions in less time. Every test includes a standardized set of question types and measures the same content domains, so all students have the same opportunity to demonstrate their strengths. Your scores depend on several factors, including whether you answer questions right or wrong, the difficulty level of the questions, and the probability that you might be guessing. For most students, it's better to guess than leave a question blank, especially if you can eliminate one or two wrong answers first. To learn more about how assessments in the SAT Suite adapt to your performance, watch our **What Is Digital SAT Adaptive Testing?** video.

TEST SCORING

PSAT/NMSQT Score Reported	Details	Score Range
Section Scores (2)	Reading and Writing (RW)	160–760
	Math (M)	160–760
Total Score	Sum of the 2 section scores	320–1520
NMSC Selection Index Score	$\frac{2RW + M}{10}$	48–228

For more information on Selection Index scores, see NMSC Selection Index on page 28.

Retesting

If you encounter an issue on test day that makes you want to consider canceling your score, you may be able to work with your school to retest later in the testing window. If you retest, you must take the entire test again. You cannot retest only one section or part of an assessment. (For more information on retesting, please see the PSAT/NMSQT Testing Rules at **cb.org/pn-rules**.)

Contact your school's test coordinator immediately to report any issues you encountered on test day.

If you do not want your NMSC Selection Index score used for participation in the National Merit Scholarship Program, you must contact NMSC immediately. See Removing Your Score from NMSC Consideration on page 27 for further details.

BigFuture School and Connections

The Power to Plan for Your Future the Moment You Get Your PSAT/NMSQT Scores

BigFuture School allows students to take control of their college and career planning—starting with easy access to their scores and career insights. When you take the PSAT/NMSQT, you may have an opportunity to access BigFuture School and:

- View your PSAT/NMSQT scores and Career Insights Snapshot
- Explore customized messages about planning for career and college, and paying for college
- Use interactive career tools like Career Quiz and Career Explorer to combine your interests, skills, and strengths to discover what future pathways are most intriguing to you

All of this is available to you on the BigFuture School mobile application if you are 13 and older, test in the U.S., and decide to download and authenticate your personalized access to the app. If you share your mobile number with us when you take the test, we'll text you a link to download the app, send you a code you'll use to sign in, and let you know when your scores are ready after you complete the test. No passwords are required and we won't use your phone number for any other reason. If you didn't provide a mobile number during exam setup, you can access BigFuture School by using your test registration number and then add a mobile number for future access. Your registration number is a code you received when you tested.

You can find it:

- On your sign-in ticket
- On your PDF score report
- Or by asking your school counselor

Read more about BigFuture School at **bigfutureschool.org**.

Get Connected to Colleges, Scholarships, and More

As you think about college planning, you can opt in to Connections, where you can match with nonprofit colleges, scholarship providers, and government agencies running educational programs. You may connect with organizations that are interested in students like you, based on information about you and your preferences. With so many options to discover, Connections keeps your interests in mind so you can decide if and when to contact organizations directly.

Connections is optional. If you choose to download BigFuture School, and/or provide your email and/or address when you take the PSAT/NMSQT, we'll send messages on behalf of organizations via the BigFuture School mobile app, email, and postal mail. If you use the BigFuture School mobile app, you will also see your matched organizations and which ones are interested in you through the Connections features in the app. You also have the choice to opt in or out later in the BigFuture School mobile app.

In Connections, we use the information you and your state, district, or school provide as part of the PSAT/NMSQT, any information you share in BigFuture School, your educational and career interests and preferences shared in BigFuture School, academic participation in AP classes (included only if you are also participating in Connections through a specific AP Classroom experience), and score ranges on any of your past and future SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT™ 10, PSAT 8/9, and any AP® Exams.

NOTE: The content from these organizations is not written, edited, or approved by College Board.

What Kinds of Organizations Could I Connect With?

When you opt in to Connections, you will only get content from organizations that meet one of the following criteria:

- Nonprofit accredited colleges and universities (domestic and international) that offer 2-year associate and/or 4-year bachelor's degrees, as well as their licensure and certificate programs
- 501(c)(3) nonprofit scholarship providers
- Government agencies that are responsible for the oversight and administration of educational programs, which are for the purpose of offering no-cost scholarships and/or financial aid or providing information regarding nonprofit higher education

What Kinds of Messages and Information Might I Receive?

You may learn about colleges, scholarship opportunities, and preliminary offers of admission, such as:

- Information about nonprofit college or university undergraduate institutions, including their academic degree programs (that lead to associate degrees, bachelor's degrees, certificate, or licensure), admissions processes and free events, no-cost scholarship and financial aid opportunities, or general college information
- Information about no-cost scholarship and financial aid opportunities that fund nonprofit secondary or postsecondary education and/or activities
- Information about accessing higher education, including information about particular types of nonprofit higher education institutions or their academic degree programs
- Preliminary offers of admission to nonprofit higher education institutions

If you receive a message with a preliminary offer of admission, you don't need to submit an application. For these offers:

- Your race and ethnicity will not be used.
- Though some colleges may be test optional, College Board SAT assessment test score ranges may be part of the decision-making process for these offers.
- There is no guarantee of admission, scholarships, or financial aid.
- Any preliminary offers of admission you receive and want to pursue may require you to complete additional steps as defined by the college.
- The college may also require confirmation of information it relied upon in making an offer of admission, such as submitting your final transcript to complete the admissions process.
- After you get the offer, you may share more information directly with the college to consider a comprehensive financial aid package as well as confirm your admission and enrollment.
- Each college is responsible for the decision on preliminary offers of admission.
- College Board is not involved in any of the selection or decision making by any of the colleges.
- If you don't receive an offer, you may still apply using the regular application process.

What Information About Me Will Connections Use?

We will never share your personal information with any organizations as part of Connections. To deliver content relevant to you as part of Connections, we use information your state, district, or school provides us with and information you choose to provide to us. We may provide reports about your use of Connections to these organizations, but none of your personal info will be included.

Information about you that your state, district, or school provides:

- Date of birth
- Where you go to school
- Grade level
- Gender
- Which College Board test you're taking
- When you will test

Information about you that you provide (optionally) as part of this test and/or in BigFuture School:

- Home/mailing address
- Email address
- Race
- Ethnicity
- First and best language
- GPA
- Intended college major
- Level of education aspirations
- Parents' level of education

Your educational and career interests and preferences shared by you (optionally) in BigFuture School.

BigFuture School and Connections Are Optional

Your participation in BigFuture School and Connections is completely voluntary, and you can opt out at any time.

To opt out of BigFuture School text messages:

- Text **STOP** to any text we send you about BigFuture School.
- Call customer service at 866-630-9305.
- For additional help, text **HELP** to any text we send you about BigFuture School or contact us at **cb.org/contact**.

You may stop using and delete the BigFuture School mobile application at any time.

To opt out of Connections:

- If you are already in Connections, you will be able to opt out in Bluebook during exam setup.
- There is an opt-out feature within the BigFuture School app.
- You can contact College Board's customer service at 866-630-9305.

You can also control specific communication preferences as you use Connections, including through email/mail/app notification controls within the app, an unsubscribe option within Connections emails, opt-out instructions included in each mailing, and by contacting College Board customer service.

Please know that your school, district, or state may choose to not provide access to Connections for its students or students that test at their schools.

PSAT/NMSQT scores will be available in the BigFuture School mobile app.
Please visit **sat.org/scores** for score release dates.

Read more about the BigFuture School mobile application at **privacy.collegeboard.org/program-specific-privacy-policies/bigfuture-school-app-privacy-policy**.

Getting Your Scores

If you provided your mobile number during exam setup, you'll receive a text message alerting you when your scores are available to view in the BigFuture School mobile app. In addition, an official student score report called Your Score Report is provided for every PSAT/NMSQT test taker. Check with your counselor if you would like to obtain a copy of your score report.

For a full breakdown of your scores, including how to get them, what to do with them, and a case study that shows you a sample score report and walks you through each section, check out **PSAT/NMSQT: Understanding Scores for Students and Families**.

As always, students age 13 and older may use or create a personal College Board student account at **studentscores.collegeboard.org** to view additional insights online.

We send your scores, data derived from your scores, and other information you provide during testing to our cosponsor, National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), who conducts the National Merit Scholarship Program. Your score report will also include the NMSC Selection Index score, which NMSC uses as an initial screen of entrants to its National Merit Scholarship Program. For further information, see the National Merit Scholarship Program section later in this publication.

IMPORTANT: If you don't provide a mobile number during exam setup, but later want to access the BigFuture School app, you can use your test registration number to sign in. You can find it on your score report and sign-in ticket, or you can ask your school counselor.

Explore Career Options

For students in the U.S., your score report will show Career Insights Snapshot—a list of growing careers in your state that connects you to your math and reading and writing skills based on your SAT Suite performance. Career Insights Snapshot provides career examples, not recommendations, that can stimulate your thinking, broaden your awareness of career options, and encourage deeper career exploration beyond the score report. You can view your Career Insights Snapshot in the BigFuture School mobile app to start your career exploration right on your phone. You can also visit **bigfuture.org** to discover more careers that interest you.

TIP: After reviewing the career information on your score report, take the free BigFuture Career Quiz in less than 10 minutes to get a list of more potential careers that match your interests. Access the quiz in the BigFuture School mobile app or visit **bigfuture.org/careerquiz**.

College Board National Recognition Program

If you take the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and/or AP® Exams as a sophomore or junior, you may be eligible to claim a National Recognition Program award that can help you stand out on college and scholarship applications. The program offers three award designations:

- School Recognition Award
- First-Generation Recognition Award
- Rural and Small Town Recognition Award

The program awards academic honors to high-performing students to help them stand out to colleges and celebrate their hard work. Students of all backgrounds from schools nationwide may qualify for an award based on their achievement on the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10, and/or AP Exams. Awardees are among the highest achieving students in their communities, including those form lesser-known high schools and, as a result, many colleges are eager to recruit them. Learn more about BigFuture at **bigfuture.org/recognition**.

Scholarship Programs

College Board partners with a variety of scholarship providers to help connect students like you with valuable funding opportunities for college. These partners often look for students based on factors such as your expected graduation date, geographic location, self-reported GPA, test score ranges, intended college major, and other limited criteria. Some partners offer multiple scholarships, each with their own eligibility requirements and deadlines. To explore these opportunities and for more information on how to apply directly, please visit their individual website(s).

- American Indian Science and Engineering Society (**aises.org**)
- American Savings Foundation (**asfdn.org**)
- Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholars (**apiascholars.org**)
- Boettcher Foundation (**boettcherfoundation.org/colorado-scholarships**)
- Calvin Coolidge Presidential Foundation Scholarship (**coolidgefoundation.org**)
- Cobell Scholarship (awarded by Indigenous Education, Inc.) (**cobellscholar.org**)
- Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation (**coca-colascholarsfoundation.org**)
- Daniels Fund (**danielsfund.org**)
- The Flinn Foundation (**flinn.org/flinn-scholars**)
- The Ford Family Foundation (**tfff.org/scholarship-programs-information**)
- George Snow Scholarship Fund (**scholarship.org**)
- Golden Apple Foundation (**goldenapple.org**
- Greenhouse Scholars (**greenhousescholars.org**)
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund (**hsf.net**)
- Horatio Alger Association (**scholars.horatioalger.org**)
- Jack Kent Cooke Foundation (**jkcf.org**)
- Jackie Robinson Foundation (**jackierobinson.org**)
- Joyce Ivy Foundation (**joyceivyfoundation.org**)
- Lighthouse Beacon Foundation (**lighthousebeaconfoundation.org**)
- Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation (**mcsf.org**)
- Ron Brown Scholar Program (**ronbrown.org**)
- Sachs Foundation (**sachsfoundation.org**)
- Scholarship America (**scholarshipamerica.org**)
- Southern Scholars Initiative (**southernscholarsinitiative.org**)
- Sunrise Scholars Foundation (**sunrisescholars.org**)
- Thrive Scholars (**thrivescholars.org**)
- United Negro College Fund (**uncf.org**)
- U.S. Army Cadet Command ROTC Scholarship (**goarmy.com/scholarship**)
- Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (**waopportunityscholarship.org**)

See **psat.org/scholarships** for more information.

PSAT/NMSQT Testing Rules

Important Note Regarding the Testing Rules

You must review and agree to the PSAT/NMSQT Testing Rules in Bluebook before testing. Please read these rules carefully in advance at **cb.org/pn-rules**.

PART 2

National Merit Scholarship Program

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) section of this publication provides details on the National Merit Scholarship Program, conducted by NMSC. This section is not created or managed by College Board. College Board is not involved in any of the decision making for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

National Merit® Scholarship Program

conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®)

Overview

The **National Merit Scholarship Program** is an annual academic competition among high school students for recognition and college scholarships that began in 1955. The program is conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®), a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance. United States high school students enter the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit® Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which serves as an initial screen of over 1.3 million entrants each year, and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements.

To enter the National Merit Scholarship Program and compete for recognition and 7,320 scholarships to be offered in 2028:

- Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October 2026.
- Meet other program entry requirements.

The 2026 PSAT/NMSQT is the qualifying test for entry to the 2028 program. Program entrants must take the test in the specified year of the high school program (see When to Take the Test on page 26). Most entrants will complete high school and enroll in college in 2028.

Contents in this section:

24 **Steps in the 2028 National Merit Scholarship Competition**
25 **The 2028 Competition Begins in 2026**
25 **Entry Requirements**
26 When to Take the Test
27 Eligibility Verification
28 **Program Recognition**
28 NMSC Selection Index
28 Commended Students
28 Semifinalists
29 Finalists
29 **Choosing Scholarship Winners**
30 **Types of Scholarships**
30 National Merit $2500 Scholarships
31 Corporate-sponsored Scholarships
31 College-sponsored Merit Scholarships
32 **Scholarship Sponsors**
32 Corporations, Business Organizations, and Individual Donors
39 Colleges and Universities

Have questions?

WEBSITE: www.nationalmerit.org

PHONE: 847-866-5100

ADDRESS: National Merit Scholarship Corporation
1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200
Evanston, IL 60201-4897

Steps in the 2028 National Merit Scholarship Competition

1,300,000 ENTRANTS

In October 2026, U.S. high school students who take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) and meet other program requirements will enter the 2028 competition for National Merit® Scholarship Program recognition and scholarships. Nearly all program participants (entrants) will be juniors planning to enter college in 2028. NMSC® uses PSAT/NMSQT Selection Index scores (calculated from the Reading and Writing, and Math section scores) to determine 50,000 high-scoring participants who qualify for program recognition.

50,000 HIGH SCORERS

In April 2027, NMSC will send a list of high-scoring participants to high school principals and ask them to identify any errors or changes in the reported eligibility of students whose scores will qualify them for recognition in the fall of 2027.

PARTICIPANTS WHO QUALIFY FOR NATIONAL MERIT PROGRAM RECOGNITION

34,000 COMMENDED STUDENTS

In late September 2027, more than two-thirds of the 50,000 high scorers will be notified through their high schools that they have qualified as Commended Students. NMSC will provide *Letters of Commendation* for schools to present to these students in recognition of their outstanding academic promise. Although Commended Students will not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, some may be candidates for Special Scholarships provided by corporate and business sponsors (see below).

16,000 SEMIFINALISTS

In early September 2027, about one-third of the 50,000 high scorers will be notified that they have qualified as Semifinalists—the highest-scoring entrants in each state. NMSC will notify them through their schools and provide scholarship application materials explaining requirements to advance in the competition for National Merit Scholarships to be offered in 2028.

15,000 FINALISTS

In February 2028, Semifinalists who meet academic and other requirements will be notified that they have advanced to Finalist standing. In March, schools will receive *Certificates of Merit* to distribute to students attesting to their recognition in the program. All National Merit Scholarship winners (Merit Scholar® awardees) will be chosen from this group of Finalists based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

620 SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Beginning in March 2028, NMSC will notify winners of Special Scholarships provided by corporate sponsors. Scholarship recipients will be chosen from candidates who will be sent scholarship application materials through their high schools in November 2027. Although not Finalists, scholarship recipients will be outstanding students who meet their sponsors' eligibility criteria. Sponsors will handle public announcement of their Special Scholarship winners.

6,700 MERIT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Beginning in March 2028, NMSC will notify winners of the three types of National Merit Scholarships:

- National Merit® $2500 Scholarships
- Corporate-sponsored scholarships
- College-sponsored scholarships

In April, May, June, and July, NMSC will release names of Merit Scholar designees to news media for public announcement.

The 2028 Competition Begins in 2026

The 2026 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) is the qualifying test for entry to the 2028 National Merit® Program. (The PSAT™ 10 and PSAT™ 8/9 will NOT be considered for entry to the National Merit Scholarship Program.) The competition will span about 18 months from entry in the fall of 2026 until the spring of 2028 when scholarships for college undergraduate study will be awarded. It is expected that more than 3 million students will take the PSAT/NMSQT in 2026, and approximately 1.3 million of them will meet requirements to enter this program.

Entry Requirements

To enter the 2028 National Merit Program, you need to meet **all** of the following requirements. You must:

1. be enrolled as a high school student (traditional or homeschooled), progressing normally toward graduation or completion of high school by 2028, and planning to accept admission to college no later than the fall of 2028;
2. attend high school in the United States, District of Columbia, or U.S. commonwealths and territories; or meet the citizenship requirements for students attending high school outside the United States (see the box at the bottom of the page); and
3. take the 2026 PSAT/NMSQT in the specified year of the high school program and no later than the third year in grades 9 through 12, regardless of grade classification or educational pattern (explained in When to Take the Test on page 26).

During the student readiness check, you will be asked the following three questions to determine entry to the National Merit Scholarship Program:

1. Are you enrolled as a high school student (traditional or homeschooled)?
   A. Yes
   B. No
2. When will you complete or leave high school and enroll full-time in college?
   A. 2027
   B. 2028
   C. 2029
   D. After 2029
   E. Not planning to attend college
3. How many total years will you spend in grades 9–12?
   A. 1 year
   B. 2 years
   C. 3 years
   D. 4 years
   E. 5 or more years

If you are testing outside the United States, you will also be asked the following question:

4. Are you a citizen of the United States?
   A. Yes
   B. No
   C. No, but I am a U.S. lawful permanent resident (or have applied for permanent residence, the application for which has not been denied) and I intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law.

Students Attending High School Outside the United States

To be eligible for the 2028 National Merit Scholarship Program, a student attending high school outside the United States must be a citizen of the United States; or be a U.S. lawful permanent resident (or have applied for permanent residence, the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law.

When to Take the Test

To participate in the National Merit Program, you must take the PSAT/NMSQT in the specified year of your high school program. Because you can participate (and be considered for a scholarship) in only one specific competition year, the year in which you take the PSAT/NMSQT to enter the competition is very important.

1. **If you plan to spend the usual four years in high school (grades 9 through 12) before entering college full-time,** you must take the qualifying test in your third year of high school (grade 11, junior year).

   Sophomores who take the 2026 PSAT/NMSQT but plan to spend four years in grades 9 through 12 will **not** meet entry requirements for the 2028 National Merit Program. They must take the PSAT/NMSQT again in 2027 (when they are juniors) to enter the competition that will end when scholarships are awarded in 2029, the year they will complete high school and enter college.

2. **If you plan to leave high school early to enroll in college full-time after spending three years or less in grades 9 through 12,** you can usually participate in the National Merit Program if you take the PSAT/NMSQT before you finish high school. To enter the competition for awards offered in 2028, you must be in either the **next-to-last** or the **last year** of high school when you take the 2026 PSAT/NMSQT:
   a. if you are in the **next-to-last year** of high school when you take the 2026 PSAT/NMSQT, awards will be offered as you are finishing your last year of high school; or
   b. if you are in your **last year** of high school when you take the 2026 PSAT/NMSQT, awards will be offered the year after you have completed high school.
3. **If you are dual enrolled in both high school and college,** you must take the qualifying test in your third year of high school (grade 11, junior year). To enter the competition that ends when scholarships are offered in 2028, you must be in your third year of high school when you take the 2026 PSAT/NMSQT, the same as all other students who plan to spend four years in grades 9 through 12. Your high school determines whether you are dual enrolled.
4. **If you plan to take five years to complete grades 9 through 12,** you can participate in the National Merit Program if you take the PSAT/NMSQT in the third year of high school and again in the fourth year. Your Selection Index score will not be eligible for the program until a written request for entry to the competition is approved by NMSC. The request should include your name, high school name and location, year you began high school, year you will complete high school, and a brief explanation of your educational pattern.

   NMSC will use your Selection Index score from the PSAT/NMSQT taken in your third year of grades 9 through 12 to determine the expected level of recognition. In order to be recognized in your fifth (final) year of high school, you must take the PSAT/NMSQT again in your fourth year and earn a qualifying Selection Index score at or above the level achieved on your third-year test. The level of recognition you receive cannot exceed the level earned on the qualifying test taken during your third year in grades 9 through 12, the year in which all other competitors are considered.

NOTE: If your high school standing and enrollment do not fit one of the preceding descriptions or if you have any questions about when to take the PSAT/NMSQT for National Merit Program entry, contact NMSC immediately.

Unable to Take the PSAT/NMSQT?

If you do not take the 2026 PSAT/NMSQT because of illness, an emergency, or other extenuating circumstance, you may still be able to enter the 2028 National Merit Scholarship Program.

If the PSAT/NMSQT testing window has not yet closed, see Special Considerations on page 5. You may be able to take the PSAT/NMSQT on another date or at another high school.

If the PSAT/NMSQT testing window has closed, write to NMSC as soon as possible but no later than April 1, 2027, to request another route of entry to the 2028 National Merit Scholarship Program.

The alternate entry request should include your name and home address, the contact information of the person making the request, the name and address of your high school, and a brief explanation of why you were unable to take the PSAT/NMSQT. **Do not delay**; the earlier you write, the more options you will have for scheduling test dates.

Submit your request via email to ae@nmerit.net or mail to:

National Merit Scholarship Corporation
Attn: Scholarship Administration
1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200
Evanston, IL 60201-4897

Your request must be received or postmarked on or before April 1, 2027, for your request to be considered.

Removing Your Score from NMSC Consideration

If you felt your test performance was negatively affected for any reason and you do not want your 2026 NMSC Selection Index score used for participation in the 2028 National Merit Program, you must contact NMSC **immediately**, but no later than five days following the test administration, to submit a formal request. Requests received after five days will not be considered.

Eligibility Verification

The NMSC section of the PSAT/NMSQT Score Report shows your responses to the entry requirements questions and whether your Selection Index score will be considered for the National Merit Scholarship Program. You are encouraged to review this section of your score report carefully.

If your score report indicates that you do not meet entry requirements for the 2028 National Merit Scholarship Program, you may have missing or incorrect responses to the entry requirements questions that were asked during the student readiness check. If that is the case, you may update your responses with NMSC using the online form at **www.nationalmerit.org/studentupdate**.

If your name, high school enrollment, or other information is inaccurate on your PSAT/NMSQT Score Report, please contact NMSC immediately.

All requests to update records for the 2028 National Merit Scholarship Program must be submitted no later than October 15, 2027.

Program Recognition

NMSC Selection Index

The NMSC Selection Index score, shown on a student's score report, is calculated using a student's section scores from the PSAT/NMSQT and the following formula:

$$\frac{2RW + M}{10} = \text{Selection Index Score}$$

NMSC uses NMSC Selection Index scores as an initial screen of some 1.3 million program entrants. The 2026 Selection Index scores of all students who meet entry requirements for the 2028 program will be considered. In the spring of 2027, NMSC will ask high school principals to identify any errors or changes in the reported eligibility of their high scorers (students whose Selection Index scores will qualify them for recognition in the fall of 2027).

Commended Students

In September 2027, more than two-thirds (about 34,000) of the high scorers will be designated Commended Students. They will be named on the basis of a nationally applied Selection Index qualifying score that may vary from year to year.

In recognition of their outstanding ability and potential for academic success in college, NMSC will honor these students by sending *Letters of Commendation* to them through their high schools. Although Commended Students will not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, some may be candidates for Special Scholarships offered by corporate sponsors (see Corporate-sponsored Scholarships on page 31). NMSC will notify those candidates in November 2027.

Semifinalists

More than 16,000 of the high scorers, representing less than 1% of the nation's high school graduating seniors, will qualify as Semifinalists. Only Semifinalists will have an opportunity to advance in the competition for Merit Scholarship® awards. NMSC will notify Semifinalists of their standing and send scholarship application materials to them through their high schools in September 2027. Their names will be sent to regionally accredited four-year U.S. colleges and universities and released to local news media for public announcement in mid-September.

NMSC designates Semifinalists in the program on a state-representational basis to ensure that academically accomplished young people from all parts of the United States are included in this talent pool. Using the latest data available, an allocation of Semifinalists is determined for each state, based on the state's percentage of the national total of high school graduating seniors. For example, the number of Semifinalists in a state that enrolls approximately 2% of the nation's graduating seniors would be about 320 (2% of the 16,000 Semifinalists).

NMSC then arranges the Selection Index scores of all National Merit Program participants within a state in descending order. The score at which a state's allocation is most closely filled becomes the Semifinalist qualifying score. Entrants with a Selection Index score at or above the qualifying score are named Semifinalists. As a result of this process, Semifinalist qualifying scores vary from state to state and from year to year, but the scores of all Semifinalists are extremely high.

In addition to Semifinalists designated in each of the 50 states and without affecting the allocation to any state, Semifinalists are named in several other selection units that NMSC establishes for the competition. These units are for students attending schools in the District of Columbia, schools in U.S. commonwealths and territories, schools in other countries that enroll U.S. citizens, and U.S. boarding schools that enroll a sizable proportion of their students from outside the state in which the school is located. A participant can be considered for Semifinalist standing in only one state or selection unit, based on the high school in which the student is regularly enrolled when taking the PSAT/NMSQT.

Finalists

A Semifinalist must fulfill several additional requirements and advance to the Finalist level of the competition before being considered for a National Merit Scholarship. About 95% (over 15,000) of the Semifinalists are expected to become Finalists and receive a *Certificate of Merit* attesting to their distinguished performance in the competition.

To qualify as a Finalist, a Semifinalist must:

1. continue to meet all program entry requirements (explained in Entry Requirements on page 25);
2. be enrolled in the last year of high school and planning to enroll full-time in college the following fall, or be enrolled in the first year of college if grades 9 through 12 were completed in three years or less;
3. be fully endorsed for Finalist standing and recommended for a National Merit Scholarship by the high school principal;
4. have a record of consistently very high academic performance in all of grades 9 through 12 and in any college course work taken (the high school must provide a complete record of courses taken and grades earned by the student, as well as information about the school's curriculum and grading system);
5. complete the National Merit Scholarship Application with all information requested, which includes writing an essay;
6. take the SAT® or ACT® and earn scores that confirm the PSAT/NMSQT performance that resulted in Semifinalist standing; and
7. provide any additional documentation and information that NMSC requests.

Choosing Scholarship Winners

Only Finalists will be considered for the National Merit Scholarships. Approximately half of the Finalists will be Merit Scholarship winners, earning them recognition as a Merit Scholar. Winners are chosen on the basis of their abilities, skills, and accomplishments—without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference. Scholarship recipients are the candidates judged to have the greatest potential for success in rigorous college studies and beyond.

To receive a scholarship payment, a Merit Scholarship winner must notify NMSC of plans to (a) enroll in a college or university in the United States that holds accredited status with a regional accrediting commission on higher education, and (b) enroll full-time in an undergraduate course of study leading to a traditional baccalaureate degree. NMSC scholarship stipends are not payable for attendance at service academies or certain institutions that are limited in their purposes or training.

To select winners of National Merit $2500 Scholarships and corporate-sponsored awards, committees of experienced professionals evaluate a variety of information submitted by the high school and the student on the scholarship application. Included are each student's academic record (course load, difficulty level, depth and breadth of subjects studied, and grades earned); the student's essay; demonstrated leadership and contributions to school and community activities; and the school official's recommendation. Recipients of college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards are chosen by officials of the sponsor institution. College officials base their decisions on information Finalists file with the college as part of the admission process.

Types of Scholarships

Some 6,700 National Merit Scholarships of three types and approximately 620 Special Scholarships will be awarded in 2028; these 7,320 awards will have a combined value of over $30 million. Different types of scholarships will be offered, but no student can receive more than one monetary award from NMSC.

National Merit $2500 Scholarships

These awards are unique because every Finalist is considered for one and winners are named in every state and other selection unit. The number awarded in each state is determined by the same representational procedure used to designate Semifinalists. Finalists compete with all other Finalists in their state or selection unit for one of the 2,500 National Merit® $2500 Scholarships. Winners are selected by a committee of college admission officers and high school counselors.

National Merit $2500 Scholarships provide a single payment of $2,500. NMSC's own funds support the majority of these scholarships, but corporate sponsors help underwrite these awards with grants they provide to NMSC in lieu of paying administrative fees. Donations made to NMSC's President's Fund also provide funding for National Merit $2500 Scholarship awards.

SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED

Scholarships	Who is considered?	What is the monetary value?	Who selects winners?	When does NMSC begin sending scholarship offers?
National Merit® $2500 Scholarships	All Finalists compete with all other Finalists in their state or other selection unit.	Awards provide a one-time payment of $2,500.	A committee of college admission officers and high school counselors	Late March
Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarships	Finalists who meet criteria specified by a corporate sponsor, usually: • children of employees; • residents of specific communities; or • Finalists with certain college major or career plans	Varies by sponsor—awards can be a one-time payment ranging from $2,500 to $10,000 or renewable awards that range from $1,000 to $10,000 per year.	NMSC's professional staff	Early March
Corporate-sponsored Special Scholarships	High-performing program participants (although not Finalists) who meet a sponsor's criteria; most are for: • children of employees; or • residents of specific communities	Varies by sponsor—awards can be a one-time payment ranging from $2,500 to $10,000 or renewable awards that range from $1,000 to $10,000 per year.	NMSC's professional staff	Early March
College-sponsored Merit Scholarships	Finalists who plan to attend a sponsor college and have informed NMSC that the sponsor college is their first choice	Varies by sponsor—awards are renewable for four years of study at the sponsor institution. Stipends range from $500 to $2,000 per year.	Officials of each sponsor college	Early May

Corporate-sponsored Scholarships

In 2026, about 120 corporations, company foundations, and businesses sponsored scholarships through the National Merit Program as part of their educational philanthropy. These sponsors committed nearly $13 million to support approximately 700 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards and 620 Special Scholarships for children of employees, or for other accomplished students who meet the sponsor's criteria.

The number of **National Merit** Scholarships a company or business offers annually may range from one to more than 100. Finalists who meet a sponsor's criteria are identified from information Semifinalists supply on their scholarship applications. Winners are selected from this pool based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments. The scholarship name usually identifies the grantor—for example, National Merit XYZ Company Scholarship.

Over two-thirds of the program's corporate sponsors also provide **Special** Scholarships. Organizations that sponsor Special Scholarships make Entry Forms available to employees or members to enter eligible students in the corporate sponsor's program. In addition, NMSC identifies students with qualifications of interest to certain sponsors. Entry Forms must be filed in the same academic year as the qualifying test. If the number of Finalists eligible for a sponsor's awards is smaller than the number of awards the corporate organization wishes to offer, NMSC establishes a pool of candidates to compete for the remaining awards (Special Scholarships). These candidates are the highest scoring students who filed Entry Forms with the sponsoring organization but were not named Finalists. NMSC sends Special Scholarship application materials to these candidates through their high schools.

Each corporate sponsor specifies the monetary limits of scholarships it finances and decides whether the awards provide one-time payments or fixed stipends that can be renewed for up to four years of college undergraduate study. (See Scholarships Offered chart on previous page.)

College-sponsored Merit Scholarships

In the 2028 competition, it is expected that about 3,500 National Merit Scholarships will be offered to Finalists who plan to attend a sponsor college or university. (See the list of about 140 colleges that are currently Merit Scholarship sponsors in Colleges and Universities on page 39.) A college-sponsored scholarship is renewable for up to four years of undergraduate study at the sponsor institution. It cannot be transferred; therefore, it is canceled if a winner does not attend the college financing the award.

Officials of each sponsor institution choose award recipients from among Finalists who have been accepted for admission and have informed NMSC that the sponsor college or university is their first choice. Each college sponsor chooses the annual stipend their institution offers to award recipients, within a range of $500 to $2,000 per year. All college-sponsored scholarship recipients at the institution will receive the same stipend amount as determined by the college.

Scholarship Sponsors

Approximately 260 independent organizations and institutions sponsor nearly two-thirds of the National Merit Scholarships offered each year. All Special Scholarships are sponsored by business organizations that also support Merit Scholarship awards.

Corporations, Business Organizations, and Individual Donors

Following is a list of corporate organizations that currently sponsor scholarships in the National Merit Program with any eligibility criteria that apply to candidates for their awards. **An asterisk (*) indicates the sponsor offers Special Scholarships in addition to National Merit Scholarships and requires students or their families to file Entry Forms.**

The number of awards shown is an estimate of the yearly total, and neither the sponsor nor NMSC is obligated to offer these scholarships in 2027, 2028, or beyond.

A

Adient Foundation Inc.–3 awards for Finalists who are children of employees of Adient US LLC.

* **ADP Foundation**–40 awards for children of employees of ADP.

* **Albany International**–2 awards for children of employees of the company and its subsidiaries.

* **Ameren Corporation Charitable Trust**–6 awards for children of employees of Ameren Corporation.

American Air Liquide Holdings, Inc–5 awards for Finalists who are children of employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries.

* **American City Business Journals, Inc.**–2 awards for children of employees of the corporation.

* **The AMETEK Foundation**–10 awards for children of employees of AMETEK, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

* **Aon Foundation**–15 awards for children of employees of Aon and its subsidiaries.

* **Arkema Inc. Foundation**–4 awards for children of employees of Arkema Inc. and its subsidiaries.

* **Astellas US LLC**–2 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its eligible affiliates.

* **AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP**–36 awards for children of employees of AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP and its eligible affiliated companies.

B

BASF Corporation–Up to 20 awards for Finalists who are children of employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries.

Bentley Systems, Incorporated–Every Finalist who is the child of an employee of the corporation will be offered an award.

Mary E. Beyerle Trust–7 awards for Finalists from Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

BNSF Railway Foundation–Up to 10 awards for Finalists who are children of employees of BNSF Corporation and its subsidiaries.

This corporate sponsor * offers Special Scholarships in addition to Merit Scholarship awards, and Entry Forms must be filed with the sponsor.

The Boeing Company–Every Finalist who is the child of an employee of the company or a subsidiary will be offered an award.

* **Brady Corporation**–5 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its eligible subsidiaries.
* **Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund**–Up to 50 awards for children of employees and retirees of Bridgestone Americas, Inc., and its participating subsidiaries.
* **Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation**–50 awards for children of employees of Bristol Myers Squibb's U.S. divisions and subsidiaries.
* **Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc.**–6 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its qualifying subsidiaries.
* **Brown & Brown, Inc.**–10 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its eligible subsidiaries.
* **Bunge**–4 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its eligible subsidiaries; the awards are distributed among employment groups.
* **Bunzl USA, LLC**–5 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries.

C

* **Carlisle Companies Incorporated**–2 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries; the awards are distributed among employment groups.
* **Carpenter Technology Corporation**–4 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries.
* **CDK Global, LLC**–6 awards for children of employees of the corporation.
* **Cencora, Inc.**–8 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries.

The Child Family–2 awards for Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

* **Colgate-Palmolive Company**–20 awards for children of employees of the company and its subsidiaries.
* **Commvault Systems, Inc.**–2 awards for children of employees of the corporation.
* **Computer Aid, Inc.**–2 awards for children of employees of CAI and its eligible subsidiaries.
* **Corning Incorporated**–5 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries; the awards are distributed among employment groups.
* **Crum & Forster**–15 awards for children of employees of the company and its eligible subsidiaries.

CSX Corporation–5 awards for Finalists who are children of employees of the corporation and its eligible subsidiaries.

D

* **Dollar Tree, Inc.**–Up to 10 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its eligible divisions.

Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation–1 award for a Finalist from a designated county in South Carolina.

This corporate sponsor * offers Special Scholarships in addition to Merit Scholarship awards, and Entry Forms must be filed with the sponsor.

E

* **Eaton Charitable Fund**–15 awards for children of employees of Eaton Corporation and its eligible subsidiaries.
* **ECMS**–3 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries.

  Ellucian Company L.P.–2 awards for Finalists who are children of employees of the company.
* **Emerson Charitable Trust**–25 awards for children of employees of Emerson Electric Co. and its subsidiaries.
* **The Estée Lauder Companies Inc.**–3 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its U.S. affiliates and subsidiaries.
* **Eversource Energy Foundation, Inc.**–10 awards for children of employees of the company or its subsidiaries.

F

* **Family Dollar Management, LLC**–Up to 10 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its eligible divisions; the awards are distributed among employment groups.
* **Federal Express Corporation**–38 awards for children of employees of the corporation and eligible affiliated business units.
* **FedEx Freight, Inc.**–20 awards for children of employees of FedEx Freight, Inc. and FedEx Custom Critical, Inc.
* **Fifth Third Foundation**–25 awards for children of employees of Fifth Third Bank.
* **FMC Corporation**–4 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries.

  Formosa Plastics Corporation, U.S.A.–Every Finalist who is the child of an employee of the corporation or an affiliated organization will be offered an award.
* **Fox News Network, LLC**–2 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its eligible subsidiaries.

  FTS International, LLC–1 award for a Finalist from either Washington, DC, or Denver, Colorado, metropolitan areas planning to pursue certain college majors.

G

* **GAF**–2 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries; the awards are distributed among divisions.
* **Gates Industrial Corporation Foundation**–Up to 10 awards for children of employees of Gates Industrial Corporation and its subsidiaries; the awards are distributed among the employment base.

  GEICO Philanthropic Foundation–3 awards for Finalists who are children of associates of GEICO Corporation and its subsidiaries.

  General Dynamics Corporation–Every Finalist who is the child of an employee of the corporation or a subsidiary will be offered an award.
* **General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems**–2 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries.

This corporate sponsor * offers Special Scholarships in addition to Merit Scholarship awards, and Entry Forms must be filed with the sponsor.

* **Gleason Family Foundation**–Up to 8 awards for children of employees and retirees of Gleason Corporation and its U.S. subsidiaries and divisions.
* **Global Tungsten & Powders LLC**–2 awards for children of employees of Global Tungsten & Powders LLC and Plansee Group Functions America's Corp.
* **W.W. Grainger, Inc.**–12 awards—10 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its U.S. subsidiaries; 2 awards for Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

H

* **Hormel Foods Corporation Charitable Trust**–Up to 18 awards for children of employees of Hormel Foods Corporation and its subsidiaries.
* **The Hubbell Foundation**–4 awards for children of employees of Hubbell Incorporated and its subsidiaries.
* **Hunter Industries Incorporated**–2 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries.

I

* **Illinois Tool Works Inc.**–Up to 30 awards for children of employees of ITW and its subsidiaries.
* **Ingalls Shipbuilding Division of Huntington Ingalls Industries**–4 awards for children of employees of Ingalls Shipbuilding.
* **Insperity Services, L.P.**–4 awards for children of corporate employees.

J

* **JBT Marel Corporation**–2 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries.

L

L3Harris Technologies–2 awards for Finalists who are children of employees of the company and its subsidiaries.

* **LANXESS Corporation**–5 awards for children of employees of the corporation.

Leidos, Inc.–10 awards for Finalists who are children of employees of the corporation or its subsidiaries.

* **Liberty Mutual Scholarship Foundation**–50 awards for children of employees of Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and its subsidiaries.
* **Loews Corporation**–2 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its divisions and wholly owned subsidiaries.
* **LPL Financial LLC**–6 awards for children of associates of the corporation and its eligible subsidiaries.

The Lubrizol Foundation–Every Finalist who is the child of an employee of The Lubrizol Corporation, Lubrizol Specialty Products, Inc., and their eligible subsidiaries will be offered an award.

This corporate sponsor * offers Special Scholarships in addition to Merit Scholarship awards, and Entry Forms must be filed with the sponsor.

M

* **Mannington Mills, Inc.**–2 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its eligible subsidiaries.
* **Marsh**–5 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries.
* **McGraw Hill LLC**–4 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its affiliates.

Mead Witter Foundation, Inc.–2 awards for Finalists from specified geographic areas of Wisconsin.

The MITRE Corporation–4 awards for Finalists who are children of employees of the corporation.

Motorola Solutions Foundation–10 awards for Finalists who are children of employees of Motorola Solutions, Inc., or its subsidiaries.

N

National Distillers Distributors Foundation–7 awards for Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

* **(National Gypsum Company) C. D. Spangler Foundation, Inc.**–2 awards for children of employees of National Gypsum Company and its subsidiaries.
* **New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company**–At least 3 awards for children of employees of New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Group.
* **The NewMarket Foundation**–2 awards for children of employees of NewMarket Corporation and its subsidiaries.
* **NextEra Energy Foundation, Inc.**–10 awards for children of employees of NextEra Energy, Inc. and its subsidiaries.
* **NiSource Charitable Foundation**–15 awards for children of employees of NiSource and its subsidiaries.

Norfolk Southern Foundation–Every Finalist who is the child of an employee or retiree of Norfolk Southern Corporation or an affiliated company will be offered an award.

* **Northrop Grumman Corporation**–55 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries.

NOV Inc.–Every Finalist who is the child of an employee of the corporation and its eligible subsidiaries will be offered an award.

* **Novo Nordisk Inc.**–3 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its participating affiliates.

NVIDIA Corporation–Every Finalist who is the child of an employee of the corporation or an eligible subsidiary will be offered an award.

O

Occidental Petroleum Corporation–6 awards for Finalists who are children of employees of the corporation or an eligible division or subsidiary.

* **Omron Foundation, Inc.**–5 awards for children of employees of Omron.

Owens Corning Foundation–Every Finalist who is the child of an employee of Owens Corning will be offered an award.

This corporate sponsor * offers Special Scholarships in addition to Merit Scholarship awards, and Entry Forms must be filed with the sponsor.

P

* **Paramount Global**–5 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its eligible subsidiaries.

Parker Hannifin Foundation–Every Finalist who is the child of an employee of Parker Hannifin Corporation or a subsidiary will be offered an award.

The PepsiCo Foundation, Inc.–Every Finalist who is the child of an employee of PepsiCo, Inc., or a division, subsidiary, or affiliate will be offered an award.

* **Pfizer Inc.**–50 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries.
* **Pilkington North America, Inc.**–2 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries.
* **PPG Foundation**–57 awards—Up to 35 awards for children of employees of PPG and its subsidiaries; 22 awards for residents of communities where PPG has operations.

Principal Life Insurance Company–Every Finalist who is the child of an employee of the company or an affiliate will be offered an award.

Public Service Enterprise Group–2 awards for Finalists who are children of employees of Public Service Enterprise Group or its subsidiaries.

R

* **Research Triangle Institute**–2 awards for children of employees of the institute.
* **Reynolds American Foundation**–Up to 20 awards for children of employees of Reynolds American Inc. and its eligible subsidiaries.
* **Rheem Manufacturing Company**–5 awards for children of employees of the company and its subsidiaries.

Robert Half Inc.–2 awards for Finalists who are children of employees of the corporation and its eligible subsidiaries.

Rockwell Automation Charitable Corporation–5 awards for Finalists who are children of employees of Rockwell Automation and its subsidiaries.

RSM US Foundation–2 awards for Finalists who are children of employees of RSM US LLP and its eligible subsidiaries.

S

* **Schindler Elevator Corporation**–5 awards for children of employees of the corporation.
* **Sensient Technologies Foundation**–3 awards for children of employees of Sensient Technologies Corporation and its divisions and subsidiaries.
* **Sentry Insurance Foundation, Inc.**–5 awards for children of employees of Sentry Insurance Group and its eligible subsidiaries.

Siemens Foundation–Every Finalist who is the child of an employee of Siemens Corporation or an eligible affiliated company will be offered an award.

* **Snap-on Incorporated**–6 awards for children of employees and dealers of the corporation.

Sogeti USA–Every Finalist who is the child of an employee of the corporation will be offered an award.

* **Sony Electronics Inc.**–3 awards for children of employees of Sony Electronics Inc. and Sony Corporation of America.

This corporate sponsor * offers Special Scholarships in addition to Merit Scholarship awards, and Entry Forms must be filed with the sponsor.

South Carolina Sports Medicine & Orthopaedic Center–2 awards—first preference for Finalists who are children of employees of the practice; second preference for Finalists from the Greater Charleston area of South Carolina.

Southern Company Services, Inc.–Every Finalist who is the child of an employee of Southern Company or a subsidiary will be offered an award.

Specialty Materials Inc–2 awards for Finalists from Massachusetts or New Hampshire planning to major in materials engineering, materials science, or computer science.

* **State Farm Companies Foundation**–100 awards for children of employees and insurance agents of State Farm Companies.

Stronger Minds Foundation–1 award for a Finalist from a designated area of the state of Georgia pursuing a college major in bioengineering or biomedical engineering.

* **Suburban Propane, L.P.**–3 awards for children of employees of the company.

* **Synthomer Foundation**–3 awards for children of employees of Synthomer plc.

T

Texas Instruments Foundation–Every Finalist who is the child of an employee or retiree of Texas Instruments Incorporated will be offered an award.

* **Textron Charitable Trust**–10 awards for children of employees of Textron, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

* **The Travelers Employees' Club**–10 awards for children of members of The Travelers Employees' Club.

* **Tredegar Corporation**–3 awards for children of employees of the corporation and its subsidiaries.

* **Truist Financial Corporation**–30 awards for children of employees of the corporation.

U

United Services Automobile Association–Every Finalist who is the child of an employee of the company will be offered an award.

* **USG Foundation, Inc.**–8 awards for children of employees of USG Corporation and its subsidiaries.

V

* **Vulcan Materials Company Foundation**–3 awards for children of employees of Vulcan Materials Company and its subsidiaries.

W

Waste Management National Services Inc.–Every Finalist who is the child of an employee of Waste Management National Services Inc.'s family of companies will be offered an award.

Westlake–2 awards for Finalists who are children of employees of the corporation and its eligible subsidiaries.

X–Z

* **Zoetis Inc.**–5 awards for children of colleagues of the corporation.

Colleges and Universities

The higher education institutions listed below currently sponsor National Merit Scholarships. The number in parentheses reflects the minimum number of Merit Scholarship awards NMSC expects the college to offer annually. However, neither the institution nor NMSC is obligated to offer these scholarships in 2027, 2028, or beyond.

A–B

Abilene Christian University (3)

American University (5)

Arizona State University (85)

Auburn University (35)

Belmont University (3)

Boston University (15)

Bowdoin College (3)

Brandeis University (10)

Brigham Young University (10)

Bucknell University (3)

C–E

Calvin University (5)

Case Western Reserve University (25)

Centre College (3)

Claremont McKenna College (8)

Clemson University (25)

Colby College (Maine) (3)

College of Charleston (3)

Colorado College (6)

Colorado State University (3)

Creighton University (3)

Davidson College (10)

DePauw University (3)

Drake University (3)

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and identified campuses (3)

Emory University (20)

F–H

Florida Atlantic University (3)

Florida International University (3)

Florida State University, and identified campuses (15)

Fordham University (3)

Furman University (5)

Grinnell College (15)

Gustavus Adolphus College (3)

Harding University (5)

Harvey Mudd College (30)

Hendrix College (3)

Hillsdale College (10)

Hope College (3)

I–N

Indiana University Bloomington (6)

Iowa State University (25)

Kansas State University (5)

Kenyon College (5)

Lawrence University (Wisconsin) (3)

Lehigh University (3)

Liberty University (3)

Louisiana State University (25)

Louisiana Tech University (3)

Loyola University Chicago (3)

Luther College (3)

Macalester College (10)

Marquette University (3)

Michigan State University (35)

Michigan Technological University (3)

Mississippi State University (10)

Missouri University of Science and Technology (9)

Montana State University-Bozeman (3)

North Dakota State University (3)

Northeastern University (Massachusetts) (3)

O–R

Oberlin College (15)

Occidental College (3)

Ohio University-Athens (3)

Oklahoma Christian University (3)

Oklahoma State University (10)

Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering (3)

Ouachita Baptist University (3)

Pennsylvania State University, and identified campuses (5)

Pomona College (4)

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (15)

Rhodes College (3)

Rochester Institute of Technology (10)

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (15)

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and identified campuses (15)

S–T

Saint Louis University (3)

St. Olaf College (10)

Samford University (3)

Southern Methodist University (15)

Stony Brook University (15)

Tennessee Technological University (3)

Texas A&M University, and identified campuses (110)

Texas Christian University (3)

Texas Tech University (3)

Trinity University (Texas) (3)

Truman State University (3)

Tufts University (10)

Tulane University (20)

U

University of Alabama at Birmingham (5)

University of Alabama in Huntsville (5)

University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa (250)

University of Arizona (55)

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (30)

University of Central Florida (10)

University of Dallas (3)

University of Dayton (3)

University of Evansville (3)

University of Florida (20)

University of Georgia Foundation (20)

University of Houston-Main Campus (10)

University of Idaho (15)

University of Iowa (20)

University of Kansas (20)

University of Kentucky (60)

University of Louisville (12)

University of Maine (3)

University of Maryland, and identified campuses (15)

University of Miami (15)

University of Minnesota, and identified campuses (36)

University of Mississippi (10)

University of Missouri-Columbia (20)

University of Montana-Missoula (3)

University of Nebraska-Lincoln (20)

University of Nevada, Las Vegas (3)

University of Nevada, Reno (3)

University of New Mexico (3)

University of North Dakota (3)

University of North Texas (3)

University of Oklahoma, and identified campuses (80)

University of Oregon (6)

University of Pittsburgh (3)

University of Puget Sound (3)

University of St. Thomas (Minnesota) (3)

University of South Carolina-Columbia (8)

University of South Florida (12)

University of Southern California (3)

University of Southern Mississippi (3)

University of Tennessee, Knoxville (15)

University of Texas at Dallas (100)

University of Tulsa (15)

University of Utah (20)

University of Wyoming (3)

V–Z

Vanderbilt University (18)

Villanova University (5)

Virginia Commonwealth University (3)

Washington and Lee University (15)

Washington State University (3)

Wayne State University (Michigan) (3)

West Virginia University Foundation, Inc. (12)

Wheaton College (Illinois) (20)

Wichita State University (3)