



Gaining  
Early Awareness  
and Readiness  
for Undergraduate  
Programs

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# Psssssst.....

## What's the PSAT?

PSAT (pronounced by its letters, P-S-A-T) is the Preliminary SAT®/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

### Why take the PSAT? Two reasons.

**First**, the PSAT gives you practice for the SAT Reasoning Test™, which many four-year colleges require for admission. And it never hurts to practice!

**Second**, scores on the PSAT enter you into competition for scholarships sponsored by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). Students who score high on the PSAT may be formally recognized by the NMSC. There are different levels of recognition. For instance, the NMSC could:

- recommend your name to two colleges of your choice.
- issue a Letter of Commendation in recognition of your outstanding academic promise.
- identify you as a semi-finalist and ask you to submit additional materials to remain in the competition
- identify you as a finalist
- select you as a merit scholar and award you \$2500 (In 2007, 8,200 students will be selected to receive awards.)

*Even though most levels of recognition do not come with money, colleges pay attention to your achievement. It may open doors to other scholarship opportunities.*

### When and where do I take the PSAT?

You can take the PSAT in your sophomore and/or junior years, and it is usually administered at your high school. Only when the test is taken in the junior year will your scores qualify you for the National Merit Scholarship competition.

### How much does it cost?

The basic fee is \$12, although some high schools add an administrative fee to the cost. Clover Park and Oakville School Districts pay for all sophomores to take the PSAT. Fee waivers for the PSAT are available in your high school guidance office for students who have signed up for free and reduced lunch. Ask for the PSAT fee waiver form.

### But I'm going to community college, and they don't require test scores for college admissions.

Even if you think you will attend a community or technical college that does not require you to submit scores from college entrance exams like the SAT or ACT, it's a good idea to keep your options open. Take the PSAT!

*GEAR UP is a federally-funded grant program that partners with the community to encourage students to aim high, stay in school, study and develop the skills needed to go to college. The five-year, Evergreen State College GEAR UP project has been working since 2002 with the Clover Park and Oakville School Districts.*