



Frequently Asked Questions about the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT)

Q. What is the SAT?

A. The SAT is a test designed primarily for college-bound juniors and seniors. The test consists of three sections: Critical Reading (sentence completions and passage-based reading); Math (multiple choice and student-produced response questions); and Writing (multiple choice questions and one essay). The entire test takes 3 hours, 45 minutes to complete, but the total time the students are at the testing center is 5 hours. Students, whether they are interested in ATYP's Language Arts or Math programs, must sit for the *full* test. The test is designed by the College Board.

Q. Why do NUMATS and ATYP suggest that you take the SAT?

A. You have already exhibited substantial academic talent. The Academic Talent Search process provides a second screening device, the SAT, which is a valuable tool in discovering your potential for excellence in mathematical and verbal areas. Since it is an above-grade level test, it provides an assessment of your readiness to study curriculum at advanced levels.

Q. Isn't the SAT too difficult for sixth and seventh graders?

A. The test will be difficult. There will be MANY questions that you will not be able to answer. Nevertheless, experience has shown that the very ablest of you will do reasonably well on the test. There is no passing or failing score on this test. The SAT score only indicates the extent of your above-grade level reasoning ability, which you cannot fully demonstrate on grade-level achievement tests because their level of difficulty is too low.

Q. If I decide to take the SAT, should I prepare for it?

A. It's probably a good idea to familiarize yourself with the types of questions on the SAT. You will receive a booklet called the *SAT Preparation Booklet*. This booklet contains actual sample tests. Practice questions are available at www.collegeboard.com. We also offer a SAT Preview Seminar that helps students understand the expectations for the test. Young students should NOT be coached or tutored on an ongoing basis as preparation for this test. The purpose of this process is for students to demonstrate how they think about these mathematical and verbal ideas *before they have been taught the content*.

Q. How soon do I get my score?

A. You get the results about four-to-six weeks after the test administration. The test company mails your scores directly to your home. You will get material from NUMATS approximately four-to-six weeks after you get your scores.

Q. How will I hear from ATYP after I take the test?

A. ATYP traditionally sends a follow-up letter to all students who have their **scores reported to the ATYP office**. ATYP receives scores **after** you do, and then must enter them into the database

and do a score analysis. Thus, we **will not know immediately** who qualifies for the ATYP program. Therefore, *it will not help to call the office about program eligibility before you receive the letter in April.*

Q. When and where will the SAT test be given?

A. The test will be given on a Saturday morning in both January and March. You may take the test at either Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo Central High School, or at any other site that is convenient for you. Available sites will be listed when you register. You should be at the test site **no later** than 7:45 a.m.

Q. What if there is bad weather the morning of the SAT test?

A. Listen to the radio for announcements of SAT test cancellation for **your test site**. They are unlikely to cancel except for extremely bad weather. If the test is cancelled, you will be notified of a re-scheduled date in 2-3 weeks.

Q. How much does it cost to do the NUMATS and take the SAT test?

A. If you are participating with the The Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS), their total application fee of \$79 includes the \$45 SAT fee. If you only register for the SAT, you will not receive any interpretation of your test scores, the packet of NUMATS material that includes middle school students' score statistics, academic high school course planning, or access to additional courses and programs throughout the midwest.

Q. How do I register for the SAT I?

A. You will automatically be registered for the SAT by completing the NUMATS application. The recommended way to register is through the NUMATS website (<http://ctd.northwestern.edu>). Paper applications are available through your counselor or the ATYP office.

Q. What shall I bring to the test?

A. Take your Admission Ticket (you will receive one from the College Board about 3-14 days before the test), at least three No. 2 pencils with good erasers, identification (either a picture ID, passport or the Talent Search participant form sent from NUMATS) and a calculator (optional). You may also bring a quiet snack and water bottle.

Q. If I have questions after I have read the information booklets, can I call anyone?

A. Talent Search information can be found at ctd.northwestern.edu/numats. General ATYP information can be found at www.wmich.edu/honors/atyp. SAT questions should be directed to collegeboard.com or to their office at 609-771-7600; their offices are open until 8:45 p.m., ET.

TIMETABLE and DEADLINES

December 10:	Deadline to register for NUMATS online
January or March:	SAT Test – 7:45 a.m.
February or April:	Students receive SAT test results from test company.
Late April:	Students receive information on a follow-up meeting from ATYP.