

PSAT Information

When is the PSAT? October 16, 2019 at Carroll

How much is the PSAT? FREE

The PSAT will help prepare you for the SAT, which you are encouraged to take during your junior and senior years of high school. Depending on your PSAT scores, you may qualify for the *National Merit Scholarship*, which can lead to **FREE COLLEGE MONEY**.

***What is the *National Merit Scholarship*?** It's an academic competition that rewards academic excellence and scholarships. The competition is very rigorous; scholarship winners are chosen based on their abilities, skills, extracurricular accomplishments, and potential for success in college and beyond. To participate, you must take the PSAT your junior year of high school.

How are participants chosen?

- Of the 1.5 million entrants, some 50,000 with the highest PSAT scores qualify for recognition
- About 34,000 of the 50,000 high scorers receive Letters of Commendation – although these students do not continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships, some do become candidates for Special Scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses
- About 16,000 of the 50,000 are notified that they have qualified as Semifinalists – these students are the highest scoring students in each state
 - NMSC provides scholarship application materials to Semifinalists through their high schools
 - To be considered for a National Merit Scholarship, Semifinalists must advance to Finalist standing by meeting high academic standards and all other requirements explained in the information provided to each Semifinalist
- Some 15,000 Semifinalists are notified at their home addresses that they have advanced to Finalist standing
- Winners are chosen from the Finalist group, based on their abilities, skills, and accomplishments
 - Evaluated on the Finalist's academic record, information about the school's curricula and grading system, two sets of test scores, the high school official's written recommendation, information about the student's activities and leadership, and the Finalist's own essay

What are the types of Merit Scholarship Awards?

- National Merit \$2500 Scholarships
 - Awarded on a state representational basis without consideration of family financial circumstances, college choice, or major and career plans
 - Single payment scholarships
- Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards
 - Corporate sponsors designate their awards for children of their employees or members, for residents of a community where a company has operation, or for Finalists with career plans the sponsor wishes to encourage
 - May be renewable for four years of undergrad study or one-time awards
- College-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards
 - Officials of each sponsor college select winners of their awards from Finalists who have been accepted for admission and have informed NMSC by the published deadlines that the sponsor college or university is their first choice
 - Renewable for up to four years of undergraduate study