

PSAT/NMSQT®

UNDERSTANDING SCORES 2015

Updated May 2016

Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
cosponsored by

 CollegeBoard /  NATIONAL MERIT
SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

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About the College Board

The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the College Board's membership is made up of over 6,000 of the world's leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT® and the Advanced Placement Program®. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators, and schools. For further information, visit collegeboard.org.

About the PSAT/NMSQT®

The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) is cosponsored by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). It is administered for the College Board and NMSC by Educational Testing Service (ETS).

About the National Merit® Scholarship Program

The PSAT/NMSQT is the route of entry to the National Merit Scholarship Program, an academic competition conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). Requirements for participation, steps in the competition, and awards offered are explained in the *Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT* and on NMSC's website. Further information is provided in the *Guide to the National Merit Scholarship Program*. Questions about the scholarship program not answered in the published materials should be directed to:

National Merit Scholarship Corporation
1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200
Evanston, IL 60201-4897
847-866-5100
nationalmerit.org

Contacts for Students and Parents

✉ psathelp@info.collegeboard.org
☎ 866-433-7728
+1-212-713-8105 (International)
609-882-4118 (TTY)
8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET, Mon.–Fri.

General Contacts

📍 PSAT/NMSQT
P.O. Box 6720
Princeton, NJ 08541-6720
610-290-8979

Contacts for Educators

✉ psat/nmsqt@info.collegeboard.org
☎ 888-477-PSAT (7728)
for educators only
+1-212-237-1335 (International)
609-882-4118 (TTY)
8 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET, Mon.–Fri.

RELATING NEW PSAT/NMSQT SCORES TO EARLIER PSAT/NMSQT SCORES

The redesigned PSAT/NMSQT is a different test than the previous test; therefore, a numerical score on one test will not be equivalent to the same numerical score on the other. Further, the score scale has changed so that all redesigned assessments are on the same vertical scale. To help educators understand current and redesigned PSAT/NMSQT scores in relation to one another, the College Board is providing a concordance that shows how to relate the scores.

What is concordance?

The term *concordance* refers to establishing a relationship between scores on assessments that measure similar (but not identical) constructs. A technically sound concordance allows high school counselors and state and district administrators to use scores from two similar assessments to make decisions. Scores on two different tests are considered concordant when they have the same percentile rank. For example, the score at the 75th percentile on the old SAT score distribution would correspond to the score at the 75th percentile of the redesigned SAT score distribution.

Concordance tables for the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT

In January 2016, at the same time that student scores were delivered from the first administration of the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future), preliminary concordance tables were released to link the PSAT/NMSQT from 2014 and earlier to the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future). This document was updated in May 2016 to reflect the final concordance tables.

SAT concordance tables are available in several formats and can be accessed in print and online, including through smartphone apps and with a Web-based tool.

Key uses for concordance tables

There are several reasons why students and educators need to compare scores on the PSAT/NMSQT from 2014 and earlier to the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future.)

- » To compare progress for students who took the PSAT/NMSQT in 2014 or earlier and took the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT in 2015. (Concord PSAT/NMSQT from 2014 and earlier to the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT [2015 and future].)
- » To translate scores on the current and redesigned assessments when some students have taken one and some have taken the other. (Consistently concord scores in one direction, preferably PSAT/NMSQT from 2014 and earlier to redesigned PSAT/NMSQT [2015 and future].)
- » To understand approximate NMSC Selection Index scores on the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT for students who took the PSAT/NMSQT in 2014 or earlier. (Concord NMSC Selection Index scores from the PSAT/NMSQT from 2014 and earlier to the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT [2015 and future].)

- » To understand a redesigned PSAT/NMSQT score in relation to a current SAT score. (Concord redesigned PSAT/NMSQT [2015 and future] to PSAT/NMSQT [from 2014 and earlier] and add a zero to derive the SAT score.)

Concordance is not necessary to understand potential progress from the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT to the redesigned SAT. This can be done by simply adding average growth to the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT score.

NMSC Selection Index

For guidance purposes, counselors can approximate an NMSC Selection Index on the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT from PSAT/NMSQT scores from 2014 or earlier. Use the Section to Test Concordance Tables on pages 26–27 to convert the three subject test scores. Then, double the sum of the Reading Test, Writing and Language Test, and Math Test scores to calculate the approximate NMSC Selection Index.

Student Search Service®

There will be no visible changes to Student Search Service®. To make the process of converting scores easier for the many users of Student Search Service, the College Board has developed a system to work behind the scenes to help colleges and universities during the transition year.

All users will also have the opportunity to view the concordance tables so that they may better understand the relationship between PSAT/NMSQT scores from 2014 and earlier and redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future) scores.

Concordance Table Formats

Because the redesign of the PSAT/NMSQT (and the SAT) moves from three sections (Critical Reading, Writing, Math) to two sections (Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, Math) a set of tables is needed to provide educators with dependable information with which they can effectively advise students. In order to meet these needs, the College Board released tables for three levels of concordance.

- » Total to Total Concordance
- » Section to Section Concordance
- » Section to Test (or Test to Section) Concordance

For each concorded score pair, two tables were produced — one that can be used to concord current PSAT/NMSQT scores to redesigned PSAT/NMSQT scores, and the other to concord in the opposite direction — from the redesigned PSAT/NMSQT to the current PSAT/NMSQT.

Providing two sets of concordance tables per score pair ensures the highest possible degree of accuracy in comparing current PSAT/NMSQT and redesigned PSAT/NMSQT scores.

Total to Total Concordance — Updated May 2016

PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier) to Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future)

PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier) to Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future)		PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier) to Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future)		PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier) to Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future)	
Critical Reading + Math + Writing (60–240)	Total ERW + Math; (320–1520)	Critical Reading + Math + Writing (60–240)	Total ERW + Math; (320–1520)	Critical Reading + Math + Writing (60–240)	Total ERW + Math; (320–1520)
240	1520	178	1270	116	870
239	1520	177	1270	115	860
238	1520	176	1260	114	850
237	1520	175	1250	113	850
236	1520	174	1250	112	840
235	1520	173	1240	111	830
234	1520	172	1230	110	830
233	1520	171	1230	109	820
232	1520	170	1220	108	810
231	1520	169	1210	107	810
230	1520	168	1210	106	800
229	1520	167	1200	105	800
228	1520	166	1200	104	790
227	1520	165	1190	103	780
226	1520	164	1180	102	780
225	1520	163	1180	101	770
224	1520	162	1170	100	760
223	1520	161	1160	99	760
222	1520	160	1160	98	750
221	1520	159	1150	97	740
220	1510	158	1140	96	740
219	1510	157	1140	95	730
218	1510	156	1130	94	730
217	1500	155	1120	93	720
216	1500	154	1120	92	710
215	1490	153	1110	91	710
214	1490	152	1110	90	700
213	1480	151	1100	89	690
212	1480	150	1090	88	690
211	1470	149	1090	87	680
210	1470	148	1080	86	670
209	1460	147	1070	85	660
208	1450	146	1070	84	650
207	1450	145	1060	83	640
206	1440	144	1050	82	630
205	1440	143	1050	81	620
204	1430	142	1040	80	610
203	1430	141	1030	79	600
202	1420	140	1030	78	590
201	1410	139	1020	77	580
200	1410	138	1020	76	560
199	1400	137	1010	75	550
198	1400	136	1000	74	540
197	1390	135	1000	73	530
196	1380	134	990	72	520
195	1380	133	980	71	510
194	1370	132	980	70	500
193	1370	131	970	69	490
192	1360	130	960	68	480
191	1350	129	950	67	470
190	1350	128	950	66	460
189	1340	127	940	65	450
188	1340	126	930	64	440
187	1330	125	930	63	430
186	1320	124	920	62	420
185	1320	123	910	61	410
184	1310	122	910	60	400
183	1300	121	900		
182	1300	120	890		
181	1290	119	890		
180	1290	118	880		
179	1280	117	870		

2014 and earlier

2015 and future

Total to Total Concordance, cont. — Updated May 2016

Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future) to PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier)

Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future) to PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier)		Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future) to PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier)		Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future) to PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier)	
Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT Total (320–1520)	Prior PSAT/NMSQT CR + M + W (60–240)	Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT Total (320–1520)	Prior PSAT/NMSQT CR + M + W (60–240)	Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT Total (320–1520)	Prior PSAT/NMSQT CR + M + W (60–240)
1520	221	1100	151	680	87
1510	219	1090	149	670	86
1500	217	1080	148	660	85
1490	215	1070	146	650	84
1480	213	1060	145	640	83
1470	211	1050	143	630	82
1460	209	1040	142	620	81
1450	208	1030	140	610	80
1440	206	1020	139	600	79
1430	204	1010	137	590	78
1420	202	1000	136	580	77
1410	200	990	134	570	76
1400	199	980	133	560	75
1390	197	970	131	550	74
1380	195	960	130	540	73
1370	193	950	128	530	73
1360	192	940	127	520	72
1350	190	930	125	510	71
1340	188	920	124	500	70
1330	187	910	122	490	69
1320	185	900	121	480	68
1310	184	890	120	470	67
1300	182	880	118	460	66
1290	181	870	117	450	65
1280	179	860	115	440	64
1270	178	850	114	430	63
1260	176	840	112	420	62
1250	175	830	111	410	61
1240	173	820	109	400	60
1230	171	810	107	390	60
1220	170	800	106	380	60
1210	168	790	104	370	60
1200	167	780	103	360	60
1190	165	770	101	350	60
1180	164	760	99	340	60
1170	162	750	98	330	60
1160	161	740	96	320	60
1150	159	730	95		
1140	157	720	93		
1130	156	710	91		
1120	154	700	90		
1110	153	690	88		

Section to Section Concordance — Updated May 2016

PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier) to Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future)

PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier) to Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future)		PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier) to Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future)		PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier) to Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future)		PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier) to Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future)	
PSAT/NMSQT CR + W (40–160)	PSAT/NMSQT ERW (160–760)	PSAT/NMSQT CR + W (40–160)	PSAT/NMSQT ERW (160–760)	PSAT/NMSQT CR + W (40–160)	PSAT/NMSQT ERW (160–760)	PSAT/NMSQT Math (20–80)	PSAT/NMSQT Math (160–760)
160	760	119	650	79	440	80	760
159	760	118	650	78	440	79	760
158	760	117	640	77	430	78	760
157	760	116	640	76	430	77	760
156	760	115	630	75	420	76	760
155	760	114	630	74	420	75	760
154	760	113	620	73	410	74	760
153	760	112	620	72	410	73	760
152	760	111	610	71	400	72	750
151	760	110	610	70	400	71	740
150	760	109	600	69	390	70	730
149	760	108	600	68	390	69	720
148	760	107	590	67	380	68	710
147	760	106	590	66	380	67	700
146	750	105	580	65	370	66	690
145	750	104	580	64	370	65	670
144	750	103	570	63	360	64	660
143	740	102	570	62	360	63	650
142	740	101	560	61	360	62	640
141	740	100	560	60	350	61	630
140	730	99	550	59	350	60	620
139	730	98	550	58	340	59	610
138	730	97	540	57	340	58	600
137	720	96	540	56	330	57	600
136	720	95	530	55	330	56	590
135	710	94	530	54	330	55	580
134	710	93	520	53	320	54	570
133	710	92	510	52	320	53	560
132	700	91	510	51	310	52	550
131	700	90	500	50	310	51	550
130	700	89	500	49	300	50	540
129	690	88	490	48	290	49	530
128	690	87	490	47	280	48	520
127	680	86	480	46	270	47	510
126	680	85	480	45	260	46	510
125	680	84	470	44	240	45	500
124	670	83	460	43	230	44	490
123	670	82	460	42	220	43	480
122	660	81	450	41	210	42	470
121	660	80	450	40	200	41	460
120	650					40	450
						39	440
						38	430
						37	420
						36	410
						35	400
						34	390
						33	380
						32	370
						31	360
						30	360
						29	350
						28	340
						27	330
						26	330
						25	310
						24	300
						23	280
						22	260
						21	260
						20	250
							230
							220
							200

Section to Section Concordance, cont. — Updated May 2016

Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future) to PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier)

Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future) to PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier)		Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future) to PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier)		Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future) to PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier)		Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future) to PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier)	
PSAT/NMSQT ERW (160–760)	PSAT/NMSQT CR + W (40–160)	PSAT/NMSQT ERW (160–760)	PSAT/NMSQT CR + W (40–160)	PSAT/NMSQT Math Section (160–760)	PSAT/NMSQT Math (20–80)	PSAT/NMSQT Math Section (160–760)	PSAT/NMSQT Math (20–80)
760	148	460	82	760	74	450	41
750	145	450	80	750	72	440	40
740	142	440	79	740	71	430	39
730	139	430	77	730	70	420	38
720	137	420	75	720	69	410	37
710	134	410	73	710	68	400	36
700	131	400	71	700	67	390	35
690	129	390	69	690	66	380	34
680	126	380	66	680	65	370	33
670	124	370	64	670	65	360	31
660	121	360	62	660	64	350	30
650	119	350	60	650	63	340	29
640	117	340	57	640	62	330	28
630	115	330	55	630	61	320	28
620	112	320	52	620	60	310	27
610	110	310	50	610	59	300	26
600	108	300	49	600	58	290	26
590	106	290	48	590	57	280	25
580	104	280	47	580	56	270	24
570	102	270	46	570	55	260	24
560	101	260	45	560	53	250	23
550	99	250	44	550	52	240	22
540	97	240	44	540	51	230	22
530	95	230	43	530	50	220	21
520	93	220	42	520	49	210	20
510	91	210	41	510	47	200	20
500	89	200	40	500	46	190	20
490	88	190	40	490	45	180	20
480	86	180	40	480	44	170	20
470	84	170	40	470	43	160	20
		160	40	460	42		

Section to Test Concordance — Updated May 2016

PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier) to Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future)

PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier) to Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future)		PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier) to Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future)	
PSAT/NMSQT Critical Reading (20–80)	PSAT/NMSQT Reading Test (8–38)	PSAT/NMSQT Critical Reading (20–80)	PSAT/NMSQT Reading Test (8–38)
80	38	49	27
79	38	48	26
78	38	47	26
77	38	46	25
76	38	45	25
75	38	44	24
74	38	43	24
73	38	42	23
72	38	41	22
71	37	40	22
70	37	39	21
69	37	38	21
68	36	37	20
67	36	36	20
66	35	35	19
65	35	34	19
64	34	33	19
63	34	32	18
62	33	31	18
61	33	30	18
60	32	29	17
59	32	28	17
58	31	27	16
57	31	26	15
56	30	25	14
55	30	24	13
54	29	23	13
53	29	22	12
52	28	21	11
51	28	20	10
50	27		

Section to Test Concordance, cont. — Updated May 2016

PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier) to Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future)

PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier) to Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future)		PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier) to Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future)		PSAT/NMSQ (2014 and earlier) to Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future)		PSAT/NMSQ (2014 and earlier) to Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future)	
PSAT/NMSQT Writing (20–80)	PSAT/NMSQT Writing and Language Test Score (8–38)	PSAT/NMSQT Writing (20–80)	PSAT/NMSQT Writing and Language Test Score (8–38)	PSAT/NMSQT Math (20–80)	PSAT/NMSQT Math Test Score (8–38)	PSAT/NMSQT Math (20–80)	PSAT/NMSQT Math Test Score (8–38)
80	38	49	28	80	38	49	26
79	38	48	28	79	38	48	25.5
78	38	47	27	78	38	47	25.5
77	38	46	27	77	38	46	25
76	38	45	26	76	38	45	24.5
75	38	44	25	75	38	44	24
74	38	43	25	74	38	43	23.5
73	38	42	24	73	38	42	23
72	37	41	24	72	37.5	41	22.5
71	37	40	23	71	37	40	22
70	37	39	22	70	36.5	39	21.5
69	36	38	22	69	36	38	21
68	36	37	21	68	35.5	37	20.5
67	36	36	21	67	35	36	20
66	35	35	20	66	34.5	35	19.5
65	35	34	19	65	33.5	34	19
64	35	33	19	64	33	33	18.5
63	34	32	18	63	32.5	32	18
62	34	31	18	62	32	31	18
61	33	30	17	61	31.5	30	17.5
60	33	29	17	60	31	29	17
59	33	28	16	59	30.5	28	16.5
58	32	27	15	58	30	27	15.5
57	32	26	14	57	29.5	26	15
56	31	25	14	56	29	25	14
55	31	24	13	55	28.5	24	13
54	30	23	12	54	28.5	23	12.5
53	30	22	11	53	28	22	11.5
52	29	21	11	52	27.5	21	11
51	29	20	10	51	27	20	10
50	28			50	26.5		

Test to Section Concordance — Updated May 2016

Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future) to PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier)

Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future) to PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier)		Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future) to PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier)		Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future) to PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier)		Redesigned PSAT/NMSQT (2015 and future) to PSAT/NMSQT (2014 and earlier)	
PSAT/NMSQT Reading Test (8–38)	PSAT/NMSQT Critical Reading (20–80)	PSAT/NMSQT Writing and Language (8–38)	PSAT/NMSQT Writing (20–80)	PSAT/NMSQT Math Test (8–38)	PSAT/NMSQT Math (20–80)	PSAT/NMSQT Math Test (8–38)	PSAT/NMSQT Math (20–80)
38	72	38	74	38	74	22.5	41
37	70	37	71	37.5	72	22	40
36	68	36	68	37	71	21.5	39
35	66	35	65	36.5	70	21	38
34	64	34	63	36	69	20.5	37
33	61	33	60	35.5	68	20	36
32	59	32	57	35	67	19.5	35
31	57	31	55	34.5	66	19	34
30	55	30	53	34	65	18.5	33
29	53	29	51	33.5	65	18	31
28	52	28	49	33	64	17.5	30
27	50	27	47	32.5	63	17	29
26	48	26	45	32	62	16.5	28
25	46	25	43	31.5	61	16	28
24	44	24	42	31	60	15.5	27
23	42	23	40	30.5	59	15	26
22	40	22	38	30	58	14.5	26
21	38	21	37	29.5	57	14	25
20	37	20	35	29	56	13.5	24
19	34	19	34	28.5	55	13	24
18	31	18	32	28	53	12.5	23
17	28	17	30	27.5	52	12	22
16	27	16	28	27	51	11.5	22
15	26	15	27	26.5	50	11	21
14	25	14	26	26	49	10.5	20
13	24	13	24	25.5	47	10	20
12	22	12	23	25	46	9.5	20
11	21	11	22	24.5	45	9	20
10	20	10	20	24	44	8.5	20
9	20	9	20	23.5	43	8	20
8	20	8	20	23	42		



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