

Your students are invited to participate in

Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS),

the most prestigious program identifying, rewarding, and meeting the needs of gifted children throughout the Midwest.

What is NUMATS?

Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS) is beginning its 36th year of providing a gateway to opportunity for high-ability students in grades 3-9. The program offers

- above-grade-level assessment via PSAT™8/9, SAT®, and ACT® that pinpoints what high-achieving students know and are ready to do academically
- access to a personalized, online MyCTD Toolbox account with
 - test preparation materials including *NUMATS Student Guide*
 - test scores and grade-level NUMATS comparison percentiles in a downloadable file
 - *NUMATS Statistical Summary*
 - guidelines for academic and career planning
 - resources to facilitate differentiated instruction (educators)
 - information about parenting gifted students (parents)
- student and teacher recognition
- access to CTD Backpack, an interactive online community for gifted students and their families

Why above-grade-level assessment through NUMATS?

Grade-level tests, including state and popular computer-adaptive exams, do not have sufficient ceiling to measure the full extent of high-achieving students' knowledge. In contrast NUMATS assessments provide the data needed to accurately

- unmask exceptional potential
- determine zone of proximal development
- differentiate instruction
- match students with appropriate programs and opportunities

- monitor academic growth
- demonstrate the impact of services for accountability purposes

In addition, **a survey of NUMATS parents** indicated the top three reasons they registered their children for our program:

- gain practice on a high-stakes test
- find out more about the nature and extent of their abilities
- experience the intellectual challenge of taking an assessment designed for much older students

How can you help your students participate in NUMATS?

Seventy percent of NUMATS participants learned about our program from district/school personnel, so you have a very important role to play. Remember parents generally pay the cost of NUMATS participation. Also the tests take place on weekends; i.e., they do not take away from instructional time. Give your parents the opportunity to choose whether their children participate.

- Identify eligible students (see tables for criteria based on grade-level test results; additional eligibility criteria listed on our website).
- Complete, photocopy, and send our enclosed letter along with our *NUMATS Family Fact Sheet 2017* to their parents (see tables for test dates, registration deadlines, and fees; a test center lookup is available on our website).
- Monitor registrations and access test results in your MyCTD Toolbox account.
- Remind students to take their test center admission ticket and, for SAT/ACT only, the student identification form to the test center.
- Distribute NUMATS recognition certificates in an awards assembly.

Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS)

Test Criteria to Determine NUMATS Eligibility*

* Other criteria are available on our website.



Nationally Normed Tests*

STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN GRADE	VERBAL/READING, MATH, OR COMPOSITE (CATEGORIES OR SUBCATEGORIES)
3	≥ 92nd percentile
4-9	≥ 90th percentile

*Examples include CogAT, ITBS, MAP, Terra Nova, etc.

State Achievement Tests*

GRADE(S) WHEN TAKEN	ILLINOIS	INDIANA	MICHIGAN	MINNESOTA	NORTH DAKOTA	OHIO	SOUTH DAKOTA	WISCONSIN
	PARCC LEVEL	ISTEP+ LEVEL	M-STEP LEVEL	MCA PERCENTILE	SBAC LEVEL	OHIO STATE TESTS LEVEL	SBAC LEVEL	FORWARD EXAM LEVEL
3	5 - Exceeded	Pass+	PL 4 - Advanced	≥ 92th	4 - Advanced	Advanced	4	Advanced
4-8	5 - Exceeded	Pass+	PL 4 - Advanced	≥ 90th	4 - Advanced	Advanced	4	Advanced

*Verbal/reading or math results (categories or subcategories) may be used.



Guide to Above-Grade-Level Assessments*

STUDENTS CURRENTLY IN GRADE	SHOULD TAKE
3-6*	PSAT 8/9
7-9	SAT and/or ACT

*Test recommendations for repeat participants in grade 6 are available on our website.

Registration Deadlines, Test Dates, and Fees

TEST	REGULAR REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION PERIOD ¹	TEST DATES	REGULAR FEES ²			
				NUMATS	TEST	TOTAL	
PSAT 8/9	October 23, 2016	Not Available	December 10, 2016	\$40	\$35	\$75	
	December 4, 2016		January 14, 2017				
			January 15, 2017				
SAT ³	August 29, 2016	Not Available	October 1, 2016	\$40	Without Essay \$45	With Essay \$57	\$85 (without essay) or \$97 (with essay)
	October 4, 2016		November 5, 2016				
	October 31, 2016		December 3, 2016				
	December 18, 2016		January 21, 2017				
	February 7, 2017		March 11, 2017				
	April 4, 2017		May 6, 2017				
	May 4, 2017		June 3, 2017				
ACT ⁴	August 3, 2016	August 4-16, 2016	September 10, 2016	\$40	\$42.50	\$82.50	
	September 14, 2016	September 15-27, 2016	October 22, 2016				
	November 2, 2016	November 3-15, 2016	December 10, 2016				
	January 11, 2017	January 12-17, 2017	February 11, 2017				
	March 1, 2017	March 2-14, 2017	April 8, 2017				
	May 3, 2017	May 4-16, 2017	June 10, 2017				

¹ACT assesses a late fee of \$27.50 during late registration periods.

²Refunds are not provided for regular fees or late fees.

³SAT Essay is optional and may be added in the NUMATS registration process; NUMATS percentiles are not provided.

⁴ACT Writing is optional but may be added by contacting the testing agency if the registration is completed by the regular deadline; cost is \$16; NUMATS percentiles are not provided.

Test Centers

Look up available test centers by location and date at www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats-test-centers.

How can NUMATS help your school and your students participate?

Full information on these and other services is available on our website at www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats.

School Test Centers

As a convenience to your students, you can establish a PSAT 8/9, SAT, or ACT test center at your school. Requirements and deadlines vary.

School Payment Plans

Some schools choose to pay the NUMATS fee and/or test fee for students who do not qualify for financial aid. To offer this option, complete and return a School Payment Form for either online (preferred) or paper registrations.

Financial Aid

Requests for financial aid are made in the registration process. It is available on a first-come first-served basis for one test per school year to students who qualify for a federally subsidized program such as free or reduced-price lunch. NUMATS fee waivers are available for all three tests. Test fee waivers are available for SAT and ACT only.

An eligibility letter stating that the student qualifies for financial aid, written on school letterhead and signed by a school official, is required to complete the registration. NUMATS must receive the letter by the regular registration deadline for the chosen test date.

Non-Saturday Testing

Requests for non-Saturday testing are made in the registration process. It is available to students whose religious observance prohibits Saturday testing. A letter from clergy requesting this option is required to complete the registration. NUMATS must receive the letter by the registration deadline for the chosen test date.

The January 15, 2017 PSAT 8/9 test date is open to all students in grades 3-6. Those who request this non-Saturday test date for religious reasons and submit a letter from clergy will qualify for priority seating.

Special Accommodations

Requests for special accommodations are made in the registration process, and registration deadlines can differ from those shown in the table. Special accommodations may be made for students with a disability that requires special testing tools or an exception to standard testing procedures. Testing agencies may require the submission of documentation; they determine allowable accommodation(s) and/or whether allowable accommodation(s) can be provided.

Grade 9 Registrations

Students in grade 9 who register for the ACT may do so in the one-step process; i.e., they are able to complete their registration for NUMATS and the test itself via the NUMATS registration process. Both NUMATS and test fee waivers are available for qualified students.

However, students in grade 9 who register for the SAT must do so in a two-step process; i.e., after completing their NUMATS registration, they must register for the test itself directly through the testing agency. Only NUMATS fee waivers are available for qualified students.

How can you find out more about NUMATS?

E-mail	numats@ctd.northwestern.edu
Phone	847/491-3782 ext. 3 Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Central
Fax	847/467-4283
Website	www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats
MyCTD Toolbox	https://my.ctd.northwestern.edu