

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

Research-based, above-grade-level assessment program for identifying academic talent and measuring the growth of high-achieving students

## What is NUMATS?

Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS) is beginning its 37th year of providing educators with accurate information about the academic needs of high-achieving students in grades 3 through 9 and is a gateway to opportunity for these students. The program offers above-grade-level assessment via PSAT™8/9, SAT®, and ACT® that pinpoints what students know and are ready to do academically.

## 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



**A survey of NUMATS parents** indicated the top three reasons they registered their children for our program:

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

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## How can your school or students participate in NUMATS?

NUMATS can be coordinated by schools or provided as an option for parents to register their students on their own. Either way, you have an important role to play. Seventy percent of NUMATS participants learned about our program from district or school personnel. Below are three different ways you can participate in NUMATS.

**Option 1:** If your students are in grades 3 through 6, you can arrange to offer the PSAT 8/9 at your school on a day of your choice for a reduced fee per student. NUMATS does not have an in-school test administration option for SAT or ACT.

**Option 2:** If you do not want to administer the PSAT 8/9 within your school or district and take time away from instruction during the week or if you have students in grades 6 through 9 who are eligible for the SAT or ACT, you can have parents register to take a NUMATS assessment at a local test center and set up a School Payment Plan.

**Option 3:** Provide parents with registration information and encourage them to participate. Parents register independently, pay the cost of NUMATS participation, and may have scores reported to your school. Tests take place on weekends; i.e., they do not take away from instructional time. If you choose this option, you can help support the process in the following ways:

- Identify eligible students.
- Complete, photocopy, and send our enclosed letter along with our *NUMATS Family Guide 2018* to their parents.
- Monitor registrations and access test results in your school's 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.

## Where can you learn more about NUMATS?

Visit the Details sections of the NUMATS webpage at [www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats](http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats) to access information about the following:

- Financial Aid
- Special Accommodations
- Other Registration Requests | Essay/Writing, Grade 9, Non-Saturday Test
- Educator Resources
- School Payment Plans
- Set Up a Test Center

## Help us make NUMATS accessible to more students!

- Become a test center for the PSAT 8/9. We are looking to add test centers to provide more students, parents, and educators with easy access to NUMATS. Contact us at [numats@ctd.northwestern.edu](mailto:numats@ctd.northwestern.edu) for more information.
- Identify and help students from low-income families request a fee waiver for testing.



# 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 PERCENTILE
3	5 - Exceeded	Pass+	PL 4 - Advanced	≥ 92nd	4 - Advanced	Advanced	4	≥ 92nd
4-8	5 - Exceeded	Pass+	PL 4 - Advanced	≥ 90th	4 - Advanced	Advanced	4	≥ 90th

\*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
6*-9	SAT and/or ACT

\*Test recommendations for first-time and repeat participants in grade 6 are available on our website in the section entitled, Which Test — PSAT 8/9, SAT, ACT?

# Registration Deadlines, Test Dates, and Fees

TEST	REGULAR REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REGISTRATION PERIOD <sup>1</sup>	TEST DATES	REGULAR FEES <sup>2</sup>			
				NUMATS	TEST	TOTAL	
<b>PSAT 8/9</b>	December 11, 2017	Not Available	January 20, 2018	\$42	\$38	\$80	
	January 8, 2018		February 10, 2018				
			February 11, 2018				
<b>SAT<sup>3</sup></b>	July 25, 2017	Not Available	August 26, 2017	\$42	Without Essay \$46	With Essay \$60	\$88 (without essay) or \$102 (with essay)
	September 6, 2017		October 7, 2017				
	October 2, 2017		November 4, 2017				
	October 30, 2017		December 2, 2017				
	February 6, 2018		March 10, 2018				
	April 3, 2018		May 5, 2018				
	April 30, 2018		June 2, 2018				
<b>ACT<sup>4</sup></b>	August 2, 2017	August 3-15, 2017	September 9, 2017	\$42	\$46	\$88	
	September 20, 2017	September 21-October 3, 2017	October 28, 2017				
	November 1, 2017	November 2-14, 2017	December 9, 2017				
	January 10, 2018	January 11-16, 2018	February 10, 2018				
	March 7, 2018	March 8-20, 2018	April 14, 2018				
	May 2, 2018	May 3-15, 2018	June 9, 2018				
	June 13, 2018	June 14-19, 2018	July 14, 2018				

<sup>1</sup>ACT assesses a late fee of \$29.50 during late registration periods.

<sup>2</sup>Refunds are not provided for regular fees or late fees.

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

<sup>4</sup>ACT Writing is optional and may be added by contacting the testing agency if the registration is completed by the regular deadline; cost is \$16.50; NUMATS percentiles are not provided.

## Test Centers

Look up available test centers by location and date at [www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats-test-centers](http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats-test-centers).

## Benefits Beyond Assessment

Access to a personalized, online MyCTD Toolbox account with

- test preparation materials
- test scores and grade-level NUMATS comparison percentiles
- 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

## How can you find out more about NUMATS?

E-mail [numats@ctd.northwestern.edu](mailto:numats@ctd.northwestern.edu)  
 Phone 847/491-3782 ext. 2  
 Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Central  
 847/467-4283  
 Fax  
 Website [www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats](http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/numats)  
 MyCTD Toolbox <https://my.ctd.northwestern.edu>

**Northwestern** | Center for Talent Development  
 School of Education and Social Policy