

Standardized Testing

Freshman	CE/ICEPT	MAP	EXPLORE		
Sophomore	CE/ICEPT	MAP	PLAN	PSAT	
Junior	CE/ICEPT	PRACTICE ACT	ACT	PSAE	AP
Senior	CE/ICEPT	Sr Retake ACT	AP		

Consumer Education Proficiency Exam – Check Testing Calendar for Dates

What is the Consumer Education Proficiency Exam? The Consumer Education Proficiency Test is a 140-item, multiple-choice examination that is administered on a uniform basis throughout the state. The test content covers 15 topics: the Consumer in the Market Place; the Consumer in our Economy; Budgeting; Saving, Investing, and Financial Services; Consumer Credit; Taxes; Insurance; Consumer Services; Housing; Food; Transportation; Clothing; Health Care; Recreation; Home Furnishing and Equipment.

The exam will be administered to interested high school students who have not taken or are not currently enrolled in our consumer education classes. This test is not a required test, but will be given to students who want to take this test. The test is administered by Unity High School twice a year; however, students may only take the exam one time per year. Students who pass the exam will have the option to exempt the consumer education class and replace it with another elective. Students who exempt the class receive the 1/2 credit towards graduation for the class, but will have completed the consumer education graduation requirement. The Consumer Education Proficiency Test is extremely challenging and most schools rarely have

ACT – Check Testing Calendar for Dates

What is the ACT?

The ACT Assessment, or "A-C-T" as it is commonly called, is a national college admission examination that consists of tests in English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning. ACT results are accepted by virtually all U.S. colleges and universities. Most colleges and universities require students to take the ACT in order to be admitted. Students have the option to take the SAT Assessment instead of the ACT assessment for college admission purposes, however, most colleges in the United States prefer students take the ACT.

The ACT includes 215 multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 3 hours and 30 minutes to complete. Actual testing time is 2 hours and 55 minutes. **There is an optional writing exam. Most colleges do not require the writing exam, but they do recommend it. Use our link below to determine whether or not the college you are considering recommends or requires the ACT writing portion.** In the U.S., the ACT is administered on six national test dates, in September, October, December, February, April, and June. Students must register to take the ACT over a month in advance.

Students must complete a registration packet and have it postmarked by the specified deadline. Students can pick up these ACT registration packets from their counselor or register online.

When can I take the ACT?

The link below lists all current ACT assessment test date. **Most juniors have traditionally taken the ACT on the April** test date and often choose to retake the ACT in June. The April date is most common due to the fact that students have completed nearly an entire year of learning by that point.

The state of Illinois now requires all junior students to take the ACT as part of the Prairie State Achievement Exam in April to fulfill graduation requirements (at no cost to the student). Unity will administer the ACT as part of the PSAE in April. A registration packet is not necessary for the ACT given as part of the PSAE.

The ACT (No Writing) consists of four multiple-choice tests: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. The ACT Plus Writing includes the four multiple-choice tests and a Writing Test.

TEST			CONTENT
<u>English</u>	75 questions	45 minutes	Measures standard written English and rhetorical skills.
<u>Mathematics</u>	60 questions	60 minutes	Measures mathematical skills students have typically acquired in courses taken up to the beginning of grade 12.
<u>Reading</u>	40 questions	35 minutes	Measures reading comprehension.
<u>Science</u>	40 questions	35 minutes	Measures the interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problem-solving skills required in the natural sciences.
<u>Optional Writing Test</u>	1 prompt	30 minutes	Measures writing skills emphasized in high school English classes and in entry-level college composition courses.

Additional resources available at www.act.org

PSAE

The state law passed in 2004 requires that every student classified as a junior take the ACT (American College Testing) and the PSAE (Prairie State Assessment Exam) in order to meet graduation requirements. These tests will be administered to those students who have accumulated 13.25 credits after 5 semesters to reach junior status. Students who have not accumulated 13.25 credits after 5 semesters must take the Senior ACT and PSAE Retake in October of their senior year in order to meet graduation requirements.

The Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) measures the achievement of grade 11 students in reading, mathematics, science, and writing.

The PSAE includes three components: (1) the ACT Plus Writing, which includes the ACT battery of four multiple-choice tests (English, mathematics, reading, and science) and a 30-minute constructed-response writing test with a single prompt question; (2) an ISBE-developed science assessment, and (3) two **WorkKeys** assessments (Applied Mathematics and Reading for Information).

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the PSAE? PSAE is a 2-day state achievement test for grade 11 public high school students. In the spring, students will take the ACT portion on day 1 and WORKKEYS on day 2.

How do I prepare for the PSAE? If you take your classes seriously and do all the work assigned, you will be prepared to be successful on the PSAE. Pay attention to the specific reviews in each of your classes that are designed to eliminate test anxiety.

Is the PSAE required? Yes, the PSAE is required for graduation.

What if I am sick and miss the test? We will hold a 2-day make-up session in May. You will be notified that you must attend those 2 days and will be excused from your morning classes only.

What if my child misses the spring testing? Your child will have one more opportunity in the fall to complete the tests. Your child will be notified of the date and requirement for graduation stipulation.

Does day 1 (ACT) count for college NCAA? In 2006, NCAA changed the ruling to allow the state ACT scores in determining eligibility for participation in Division I and Division II sports.

Why should students who are not planning to go to college take the ACT? The Illinois Learning Standards are for all Illinois students, not just those who plan to go to

college. Taking the ACT, which is aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards, gives students a measure of the academic strengths and weaknesses. Furthermore, students who do not want to attend college immediately after high school graduation may decide to go back to school after they have worked for a time. The need for learning in the workplace is continuing; most high school graduates will eventually have to continue their education to achieve career or life goals.

AP

AP can change your life. Through college-level AP courses, you enter a universe of knowledge that might otherwise remain unexplored in high school; through AP Exams, you have the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at most of the nation's colleges and universities.

Why Participate?

With 37 courses and exams across 22 subject areas, AP offers something for everyone. Here are just a few reasons to sign up:

Gain the Edge in College Preparation

- Get a head start on college-level work.
- Improve your writing skills and sharpen your problem-solving techniques.
- Develop the study habits necessary for tackling rigorous course work.

Stand Out in the College Admissions Process

- Demonstrate your maturity and readiness for college.
- Show your willingness to take the most rigorous courses available to you.
- Emphasize your commitment to academic excellence.

Broaden Your Intellectual Horizons

- Explore the world from a variety of perspectives, most importantly your own.
- Study subjects in greater depth and detail.
- Assume the responsibility of reasoning, analyzing, and understanding for yourself.

How Do I Enroll?

Once you've decided to take the AP challenge it's easy to enroll.

- Talk to the AP Coordinator at your school about the course you want to take.
- Discuss the course's workload and any preparation you might need.

ASVAB

Your decision to enter college, technical school, vocational school, military service or work is a very important one. To help you make this decision, the ASVAB Career Exploration Program provides you with more than a simple test.

The ASVAB is a multi-aptitude test battery. It helps you identify your different skills and competencies. ASVAB scores allow you to compare your test performance to that of other students at your grade level. It consists of eight short individual test covering General Science, Math Reasoning, Word Information, Auto and Shop Information and Mechanical Comprehension. Not only do you receive scores on each of these individual tests, you also receive career exploration scores. These scores are the results of individual tests combined to yield three career exploration scores: Verbal Skills, Math Skills and Science and Technical skills. For more information visit asvabprogram.com

EXPLORE

The **EXPLORE®** program is designed to help 9th grade students explore a broad range of options for their future. **EXPLORE** prepares students not only for their high school coursework, but for their post-high school choices as well. It marks an important beginning for a student's future academic and career success.

Achievement Tests

English	40 items	30 minutes
Mathematics	30 items	30 minutes
Reading	30 items	30 minutes
Science	28 items	30 minutes

Additional Components

- **Why Take EXPLORE?**
Provides helpful information about **EXPLORE** for students and parents, including practical hints for making a successful transition into high school.
- **UNIACT Interest Inventory** (72 items)
Helps students explore personally relevant career options.
- **Needs Assessment**
Collects information about students' perceived needs.
- **Plans and Background Information**
Gathers information about students' school coursework plans, educational and career plans after high school, and other relevant information.

The content of the EXPLORE tests is closely tied to that of the achievement tests in the **ACT**, which is broadly used for college entrance and placement decisions. It is also consistent with the content of ACT's **PLAN**® program for grade 10. EXPLORE, PLAN and the ACT can be used in combination to focus on meeting academic standards across the entire secondary school core program of studies. The EPAS College Readiness Standards are a useful tool for supporting instructional improvement.

More information can be found on the ACT website located at www.actstudent.org

MAP

Dedicated to the belief that assessment should make a difference, NWEA developed Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), a state- aligned computerized adaptive assessment program that provides educators with the information they need to improve teaching and learning. Educators use the growth and achievement data from MAP to develop targeted instructional strategies and to plan school improvement. With the ability to test students up to four times a year, MAP test results help educators make student-focused, data-driven decisions.

The MAP assessments are unique in that they adapt to each student's ability, accurately measuring what a student knows and needs to learn. In addition, MAP tests measure academic growth over time, independent of grade level or age. Most importantly, the results educators receive have practical application to teaching and learning. MAP test results provide educators with timely information that guides instructional planning and school improvement.

The MAP is a computer based assessment that measures each student's abilities in reading, English, and math. Each test can vary in time as the length of the test varies according to the student's ability to correctly respond to each question.

PLAN

The **PLAN**® program helps 10th graders build a solid foundation for future academic and career success and provides information needed to address school districts' high-priority issues. It is a comprehensive guidance resource that helps students measure their current academic development, explore career/training options, and make plans for the remaining years of high school and post-graduation years.

PLAN can help all students, those who are college-bound as well as those who are likely to enter the workforce directly after high school.

As a "pre-ACT" test, PLAN is a powerful predictor of success on the ACT. At the same time, many schools recognize the importance of PLAN testing for all students, as it focuses attention on both career preparation and improving academic achievement.

More information can be found on the ACT website located at www.actstudent.org

Practice ACT

The practice ACT is given to all juniors during the fall semester. KAPLAN administers this test and provides students with a 6 week free review course (QuizBank) that allows them to improve upon the subject areas in which they are currently succeeding and review in those areas that may be giving them difficulty. Students who sign up for QuizBank are not charged for this review but must provide an email address to receive their login and password for the review site.

PSAT

The Preliminary SAT®/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is a co-sponsored program by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). PSAT/NMSQT stands for Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. It's a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT Reasoning Test™. It also gives you a chance to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) scholarship programs.

The PSAT/NMSQT measures:

- critical reading skills
- math problem-solving skills
- writing skills

You have developed these skills over many years, both in and out of school. This test doesn't require you to recall specific facts from your classes.

The most common reasons for taking the PSAT/NMSQT are:

- to receive feedback on your strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for college study. You can then focus your preparation on those areas that could most benefit from additional study or practice.
- to see how your performance on an admissions test might compare with that of others applying to college.
- to enter the competition for scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (grade 11).
- to help prepare for the SAT. You can become familiar with the kinds of questions and the exact directions you will see on the SAT.
- to receive information from colleges when you check "yes" to Student Search Service.

Preparing

Spending your school years taking challenging academic courses and reading widely is the best way to get ready for the PSAT/NMSQT.

The PSAT/NMSQT includes the same types of critical reading, math, and writing skills

multiple choice questions as the SAT® Reasoning Test.

SAT

The SAT Assessment is a national college admission examination. SAT results are accepted by virtually all U.S. colleges and universities. Schools in the Midwest prefer students take the ACT instead of the SAT. Schools on the East or West coast of the United States tend to prefer the SAT.

Students have the option to take the ACT Assessment instead of the SAT assessment for college admissions. Most colleges in the United States prefer students take the ACT.

Students must register to take the SAT over a month in advance. Students must complete a registration packet. Students can pick up these SAT registration packets from their counselor.