Standardized Testing



Testing Agencies and Accommodations

The College Board (SAT, PSAT, and AP)

The SAT is an exam owned and managed by a group known as the College Board. The College Board's products include the SAT, the PSAT 8/9, PSAT 10, and the PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test). The College Board is also the owner and administrator of the Advanced Placement (AP) program, courses and exam.

Students' scores on any of the exams provided by the College Board can be accessed by students and families through establishing and managing their own College Board accounts. Students (not parents) should establish a College Board account as early as their eighth grade year to see the results of their PSAT 8/9 exam taken as part of their high school course recommendation process. Students will need access to this account as they progress through their high school years, so it is very important to keep track of your login and password information. Once students have established accounts, it is very important that they do not create additional accounts as having multiple accounts can result in incomplete score reports. Please be advised that College Board accounts are managed directly between the student and the College Board, and no one at Glenbard East has the power to access or update account passwords. If you know you have a College Board account but cannot recall the login or password information to access that account, you must contact the College Board account help line at: 866-315-6068.

ACT

"ACT" is the name of the company and the exam they offer. ACT offers other products used as assessment tools in other states, but currently, the only product from ACT used in the state of Illinois and at Glenbard East is the ACT exam itself when selected for use by students

Testing with Accommodations

Students who are eligible for accommodations through either a 504 Plan or IEP may be able to receive the same accommodations when taking standardized tests. See this page for additional information regarding eligibility and access to receiving approval for and access to accommodations on standardized exams.

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The Testing Timeline

Spring of Freshman Year - PSAT 8/9 (required)

This is the same exam students took during the eighth grade year as part of the course recommendation process for their high school courses. This exam is a practice test for the SAT that will provide families with growth data compared to its previous administration as well as areas in need of further improvement for developing the necessary college and career readiness skills.

Spring of Sophomore Year - PSAT 10 (required)

Similar to the PSAT 8/9, this exam is a practice test for the SAT that will provide families with growth data compared to the PSAT 8/9 as well as areas in need of further improvement for developing the necessary college and career readiness skills.

Spring of Sophomore Year - AP Exams (optional)

Many students will take their first AP (Advanced Placement) course and subsequent exam in their sophomore year, but students are encouraged to enroll in one or more of these challenging courses in each of their sophomore, junior, and senior years. AP exam registration occurs within students' AP courses in October/November (February for "semester 2 only" courses), and AP exams are administered during the first two weeks of May each year.

Fall of Junior Year - PSAT/NMSQT (required)

The <u>PSAT/NMSQT</u> exam serves two purposes. It is the final practice opportunity for the SAT, but it also serves as the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT). The <u>National Merit Scholarship Program</u> is one of the largest scholarship programs in the country that begins its process by inviting the top one half of one percent of students that score highest on this exam administered only once a year to apply for the scholarship program.

Fall of Junior Year - ASVAB (optional)

Juniors have the option to sign up for the <u>Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)</u>, a multi-aptitude test battery, for free. The School Counseling Department hosts the ASVAB to provide our students with an excellent career assessment opportunity. The score report helps students identify their individual strengths and weaknesses in areas such as math, science, and reading, as well as their current knowledge of specific mechanical, electronic, automotive, and shop concepts. They can use the report to help identify possible career pathways. <u>The test administration is NOT a military recruitment tool</u>. However, students who are interested in

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military service can use their score for entrance. Students sign up in person at Mrs. Maslo's Office in the School Counseling Department.

Throughout Junior Year and Fall of Senior Year - Saturday SAT or ACT (optional)

The SAT and ACT are similar exams that are used by many colleges and universities to evaluate a students' potential for success at their institution and therefore serve as a component in evaluating their eligibility for admission. Parents and students should check individual college websites for their specific exam policies. See this link for additional resources to help you determine what exam options best fit your individual needs, including resources for exam prep materials and services. Visit ACT's website for available exam dates and locations and to register to take the ACT. For the SAT, visit the SAT registration page of the College Board Website. See your counselor for a fee waiver if you are eligible for the free/reduced meal program.

Spring of Junior Year - ACT School Day (required)

Each year, the State of Illinois will establish a school day in April in which all students attending a public high school in the state during their junior year are required to take the ACT. Note that since this exam is a graduation requirement, there is no charge to families for this exam, and students need not register for the ACT School Day: registration for this exam will be managed by school staff. There is no minimum score students need to achieve. Simply taking the exam meets the graduation requirement. However, results of this exam can be used for the purposes of applying to college.

Spring of Junior Year - AP Exams (optional)

AP exam registration occurs within students' AP courses in October/November (February for "semester 2 only" courses), and AP exams are administered during the first two weeks of May each year. Colleges typically will use AP courses and grades listed on a student's transcript, but not AP exam scores, in their admissions processes. Students need not send an AP score report to the colleges they intend to apply to.

Spring of Senior Year - AP Exams (optional)

<u>AP exam registration</u> occurs within students' AP courses in October/November (February for "semester 2 only" courses), and AP exams are administered during the first two weeks of May each year. Students should indicate in their College Board account which college or university they would like a comprehensive (all scores from all years) <u>sent</u> so they can be awarded credit for performance on their exams (if eligible).