



Academic Testing: A quick overview



In addition to passing classes and earning credits many tests are required for your child to earn his/her Maryland High School Diploma, this is just a quick summary of those tests and when most students take them.

Test Commonly Taken			
9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Practice PSAT	PSAT	PSAT	SAT or ACT
AP (course related)	AP (course related)	Mock ACT	AP (course related)
MISA Life Science (LS)- Taken after biology typically in 9 th or 10 th grade	NSL Government,	AP (course related)	Accuplacer (MC Placement test)
MCAP- Algebra 1 (if not taken in middle school)	MISA Life Science (LS)- Taken after biology typically in 9 th or 10 th grade	SAT or ACT or Accuplacer (mandated by CCRC)	MCAP- if they have not met the requirement.
MAP M and R (taken in fall and spring)	MCAP- Algebra 1 (if not taken in middle school)	MCAP- if they have not met the requirement.	
	MCAP- English 10		Biliteracy Test- if not already completed

Test Glossary

Test	Description
AP Tests <i>Taken after completing AP course</i>	AP stands for Advanced Placement, and students are enrolled in a yearlong course, which culminates with an AP Exam. If students earn a 3 or higher on a 5 point scale they may get college credit for the course. Cost- Approximately \$101
Accuplacer <i>Typically grades 11-12</i>	Used to be MC's placement test, MC is using newer tests, more info to come.
ACT <i>Typically grades 11-12</i>	One of two major college entrance exams. Students do not have to take both the SAT and the ACT they can chose one or the other, some students do chose to take both. Cost- Approximately \$60-70
Biliteracy <i>Typically grades 11-12</i>	Students can earn the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy on their diploma by either taking an AP language exam and scoring a 4 or higher or taking one of the Biliteracy tests Advant Stamp or World Speaks and passing. Cost- if test in grade 12 free, if testing 11 th grade approximately \$20
CCRCCA	<i>Update coming soon</i>
MAP M and R <i>Grade 9</i>	Measures of Academic Progress in reading and math. Required by MCPS for all 9 th graders. Students will take the test in the fall and spring. Cost- Free
LS MISA <i>Course specific grades 9-12</i>	Maryland Integrated Science Assessment- for students graduating in 2024-2026 participation is needed for graduation. For students in the class of 2027, this is an end of course (EOC) assessment and scores will become part of students Semester B final grade. Students need to pass the course for graduation. Cost- Free
MCAP <i>Course specific grades 9-12</i>	MCAP (Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program) (Cost: free)- The umbrella term for all mandated state assessments. In High School, the most common are, LS MISA, Government, English 10, Algebra 1, Access for ELLs.



Academic Testing: A quick overview



In addition to passing classes and earning credits many tests are required for your child to earn his/her Maryland High School Diploma, this is just a quick summary of those tests and when most students take them.

PSAT <i>Typically grades 10-11</i>	• PSAT 8/9- A New College Board test written for students in 9th grade. That assess them on their current academic level. Data can be used to see if students are on track to be College and Career ready. (Cost: \$13.25) • 9th graders can take A practice test to see where students fall , data can be used to assist with scheduling and making sure students are being appropriately challenged (Cost: free) • 10th grade: Practice test to see where students fall academically, data can be used to assist with scheduling and making sure students are being appropriately challenged. This time students are practicing with the actual exam. MCPS pays for all 10th grade exams (Cost: free) • 11th grade: Grade this test has two purposes: it serves as a practice test for the SAT, Wheaton uses the data to determine which test students are more successful with (SAT/ACT), and students can also qualify for National Merit scholarships through a national program. (based on nationwide score distribution) (Cost: \$15.25)
Progress Checks and Common Writing Tasks <i>All grades</i>	Progress Checks are given in Math, English and ESOL classes quarterly, the schedule and type of exam varies by subject (see the MCPS website for specifics). Common Writing Tasks- are given in academic classes 2-4 times a school year. Exam specifics vary by subject (see the MCPS website for specifics.) Cost –Free
SAT <i>Typically grades 11-12</i>	One of two major college entrance exams. Students do not have to take both the SAT and the ACT. They can choose one or the other, some students do choose to take both. Cost- Approximately \$50-60
TOEFL <i>Typically grades 11-12</i>	The TOEFL iBT test measures your ability to use and understand English at the university level. And it evaluates how well you combine your reading, listening, speaking and writing skills to perform academic tasks. (It is only for international students or students who have lived in the US for less than 5 years. Cost- \$200-225
Duolingo	New on-line test that is accepted by Univeristy of Maryland System in lieu of the TOFEL. (Cost: \$20-30)
WIDA- Access for ELLs <i>All EML students</i>	Students in the ELD program will take the Access for Ells to measure their English Language Proficiency. This is also the test that students must “pass” in order to exit from ELD services. Cost –Free