

# TESTING

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## Career Cruising

Pine Tree High School provides all students with an account to Career Cruising which is an interactive career resource designed for people of all ages. This program will help you find the right career, explore different career options, or plan future education and training. Career Cruising has been designed to help students plan their future. It is a web based program that has assessment tools, occupation profiles, and comprehensive post-secondary education information. A portfolio system helps the student organize the career exploration process. Take a tour of this guidance system at [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com). To access your student account, obtain a code from the high school counselor.

## Texas Success Initiative (TSI)

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) (Texas Education Code 51.3062) is a comprehensive program of assessment, advising, developmental education, and other strategies to ensure college readiness. If you are a first time college student, initial testing may still be required prior to enrollment in your first semester of college. Also, high school juniors and seniors may be eligible to earn college credit while still in high school by enrolling in concurrent enrollment or dual credit programs. A variety of assessments are approved for this initial testing such as THEA & ACCUPLACER.

## THEA & Accuplacer - *Texas Higher Education Assessment*

If you are planning to attend a Texas public university, you will need to take the Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA) ([www.thea.nesinc.com](http://www.thea.nesinc.com)) test or Accuplacer ([www.collegboard.com](http://www.collegboard.com)) test before you register for your first semester of college. You can take the test during your senior year, but sophomores and juniors should consider taking the THEA/Accuplacer to qualify for Dual-Credit classes. Texas state schools use these tests as an assessment for placement unless the student has an exemption.

### ACCEPTED STATE EXAM EXEMPTIONS

	Reading	Math	Writing
TAKS	ELA 2200	2200	ELA-3
ACT	19	19	Composite-23
SAT	500	500	Combined 1070

## National Exams

Two of the most common and most important high school national exams are the SAT Reasoning Test and the ACT. These standardized tests not only measure a student's academic capabilities, but also acts as a major influence in college admissions. The test you take will probably be determined by the requirements of the college/university you would like to attend. Some colleges insist on one or the other so check the admissions policies of the college or university that you desire to attend. Make sure you know exactly which tests you are to take.

## ACT

The ACT is a national college admissions examination which covers four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading and science. It is designed to assess high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college level work. The ACT includes 215 multiple choice questions and takes approximately three hours to complete. The ACT is an achievement test that indicates what students are ready to learn next by measuring what they currently know and can do. The ACT was designed to reflect high school courses because much of the knowledge and skills that are taught in high school are being measured on the ACT; therefore, it is a good measure of overall high school preparation by subject area and of student readiness for college. ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks are the minimum ACT test scores required for students to have a high probability of success in credit-bearing college courses. More information about testing and practice sessions is available on the district Testing Web Page.

## ACT'S COLLEGE READINESS BENCHMARKS

College Courses	ACT TEST	ACT SCORE
English Comp	English	18
Social Sciences	Reading	21
Algebra	Mathematics	22
Biology	Science	24

Students who meet a Benchmark on the ACT have approximately a 50% chance of earning a B or better and approximately a 75% chance or better of earning a C or better in the corresponding college courses. Visit the website for ACT at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) to find testing dates and sites. More information about testing and practice sessions is also available on the district Testing Web Page.

### **SAT** - *Scholastic Aptitude Test*

Universally accepted for college admissions, the SAT is a reasoning test that students need to complete college level work in any academic area. It is a three hour test that is administered by The College Board and measures two sets of skills – verbal and mathematical reasoning. The SAT Reasoning Test is a measure of the critical thinking skills that a student needs for academic success in college. The SAT assesses how well the student analyzes and solves problems. Usually High school juniors and seniors take the SAT which includes a Critical Reading Test, Mathematics Test, and Writing Test. Each section is scored on a scale of 200-800 with two writing sub-scores for multiple choice and the essay. The test is given seven times a year. Calendar and other information about the SAT tests can be researched at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). More information about testing and practice sessions is also available on the district Testing Web Page.

### **PSAT** - *Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test*

The PSAT is the qualifying examination for the National Merit Scholarship Program (NMSQT) and is administered in October of each year by The College Board to 10th and 11th grade students. The test measures verbal reasoning skills, math problem-solving skills, critical reading skills and writing skills that have been developed by students during the course of their education. The PSAT serves as a valuable tool to assist students and their parents with early college preparation and planning. The PSAT/NMSQT measures the critical reading, math problem-solving and writing skills that you have been developing all your school life. It doesn't measure things like creativity and motivation, and it doesn't recognize the special talents that may be important to colleges. The PSAT/NMSQT gives you firsthand practice for the SAT Reasoning Test and it also gives you a chance to qualify for National Merit Scholarship Corporation scholarship programs.

The PSAT/NMSQT is administered by PTHS; online registration is not available. Many sophomores and juniors take the test to get as much practice as possible, but only PSAT/NMSQT scores from a student's junior year are used to award scholarships. PSAT/NMSQT score reports are mailed to the high school principal and are then mailed to students/parents at home in December.

### Why take the PSAT/NMSQT?

So you can:

- Compare yourself with other college-bound students around the country.
- Practice for the SAT (The PSAT/NMSQT includes actual SAT questions).
- Assess your verbal, math, and writing skills.
- Forecast your SAT scores.
- Participate in the Student Search Service to get mail from colleges.

### What is on the PSAT/NMSQT?

The PSAT/NMSQT includes five sections:

- Two 25-minute verbal sections
- Two 25-minute math sections
- One 30-minute writing skills section

The test requires two hours and ten minutes to complete.

### Scholarship and Recognition Programs

By taking the PSAT/NMSQT, you may qualify to enter the competitions for prestigious scholarships and participate in recognition programs.

### **Advanced Placement Tests**

The Advanced Placement Program gives you the opportunity to take college-level courses while you are still in high school. The AP course teaches the student skills that -can lead to success in college. The student will develop writing skills, problem-solving techniques, and study habits that will prepare the student for college academics. Taking rigorous AP courses demonstrates the student's maturity, willingness to push intellectually, and commitment to academic excellence. The AP Exam provides students with a standardized measure of what they have accomplished in the AP classroom. AP Exams are taken in the final six-weeks of each year.

### **ASVAB Testing**

The ASVAB is a free evaluation offered to sophomores, juniors, and seniors who sign up during October each year. The ASVAB is a widely used multiple aptitude test battery. It was developed and is maintained by the Department of Defense. The ASVAB consists of the following eight individual tests:

- Word Knowledge
- Paragraph Comprehension
- Mathematics Knowledge
- Arithmetic Reasoning
- General Science
- Mechanical Comprehension
- Electronics Information
- Auto and Shop Information

Students are provided with scores on each of these individual tests and three Career Exploration Score composites: Verbal Skills, Math Skills, and Science and Technical Skills. The battery takes approximately three hours to complete and test results are returned to the school in about two weeks.

### **TAKS**

As mandated by the 76<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature in 1999, the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) test is administered each school year. The TAKS measures the statewide curriculum in English Language Arts; mathematics; science; and social studies at grades 10 and 11. Reading and math are assessed at grade 9. Passing the TAKS at the Grade 11 Exit level is prerequisite to a high school diploma.