

SAT, ACT, PSAT FAQs for Parents and Students

1. **How do I prepare for college?** Students should do their best to prepare for college entrance by:
 - Taking rigorous high school courses
 - Taking the PSAT multiple times
 - Studying for the PSAT, SAT, or ACT
 - Researching and / or visiting prospective colleges
 - Attending College Fairs or Seminars
 - Researching scholarship opportunities
 - Obtaining work or internship experience in a possible career field

2. **How do I take rigorous high school courses?**
 - Pearland ISD has an open enrollment policy for all students in grades 5-12. Any student in grades 5-12 may register for an Advanced, Pre-AP, or Advanced Placement class if he/she has met the pre-requisites or previous year's coursework.
 - Please consult your high school course selection handbook for detailed information or ask your school counselor.

3. **How do I register for the PSAT?**
 - In Pearland ISD, all students take the PSAT at no personal cost. This is something that the district currently provides for all 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students.
 - Students do not need to register for the PSAT since it is administered by the district.
 - Students who wish to have accommodations during PSAT or SAT testing should speak to their high school counselor.

4. **How do I prepare for college entrance tests?**
 - **Free study/preparation** information about the SAT and PSAT can be found at:
 - [College Board www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) or
 - <http://sat.collegeboard.org/home?affiliateId=nav&bannerId=h-satns>
 - **Free study/preparation** information about the ACT can be found at: <http://www.actstudent.org/>
 - **Taking a class** to prepare for the PSAT, SAT, or ACT can often improve scores. Classes vary in duration, intensity, and fees. Generally, the more time invested in study, the greater improvement. It's simply a matter of practice and time on task. Some students do very well studying on their own, others benefit from actually going to a class and having an instructor. Pearland ISD often hosts test prep classes for college bound students. A resource list of area classes is available to students and parents. Classes vary in length and cost, and it is recommended that students and parents spend some time researching and discussing what best suits their family's needs and schedules. **Pearland ISD does not endorse nor pay for individual student test preparation. The following test preparation companies are those that have had classes in the greater Houston area. Not all of them include PSAT preparation.**

- **Resources for SAT, ACT, and / or PSAT Preparation**
 - Huntington www.huntingtonlearning.com/
 - Kaplan www.kaptest.com/enroll/PSAT/77049/comprehensive
 - KNOWSYS www.ktprep.com
 - Pearland is a host site.
 - Please contact Advanced Academics at 281-485-3203 to register or for more information
<http://www.pearlandisd.org/departments.cfm?subpage=23773>
 - SAT preparation sessions in fall and spring semesters
 - Major Tests www.majortests.com
 - Princeton Review www.princetonreview.com/
 - Revolution Prep www.revolutionprep.com/
 - Sylvan www.sylvanlearning.com/
 - Test Masters www.testmasters.com/PSAT-Houston

5. How do I become a National Merit Scholar, an AP Scholar, or receive other honors?

- **National Merit Scholar**– Students who score 180 or higher on the PSAT in 10th grade are in a strong position to become National Merit Scholar candidates. While many organizations/ preparation classes claim to improve scores, two things seem to have the greatest benefit:
 - Taking the PSAT multiple times improves student scores. Pearland ISD already provides this opportunity for **ALL** 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students.
 - Taking advanced math classes seems to make a significant difference in scores. Many of our Pearland National Merit students have made a personal choice to participate in one or more of the following:
 - Pre-AP Pre-Calculus in 10th grade
 - Math Club
 - Math classes outside of school at Rice University, University of Houston, Summer Institute for the Gifted, Chinese School, or other local classes. Pearland ISD does not pay for classes taken outside of the regular school day or classes not held at one of the district high school campuses.
- **AP Scholar**
 - Take multiple Advanced Placement classes.
 - Students become AP Scholars by scoring 4 or 5 on multiple AP exams.
<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/scholarawards.html>
 - SIEMENS Award http://www.siemens-foundation.org/en/advanced_placement.htm or
<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/siemensawards.html>