NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION
1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200, Evanston, Illinois 60201-4897 (847) 866-5100

Alternate Entry to the 2024 National Merit® Scholarship Program

National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®) conducts the National Merit Scholarship Program, an annual nationwide academic competition for high school students. The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) is the route of entry into the National Merit Scholarship Program. Although you received a PSAT/NMSQT Score Report, your NMSC Selection Index score cannot be considered for entry to the National Merit Scholarship Program. If you meet all other program entry requirements (see next page), you must follow the instructions specified below to enter the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Requirements:
To enter the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program based on your SAT scores in lieu of PSAT/NMSQT scores, you must complete the steps below:

- ☐ Take an official administration of the SAT from **October 2022 through June 2023**.
- ☐ Request that College Board SAT Program send an official report of your SAT scores to NMSC (**code 0085**) as soon as possible. The SAT Program will not report your scores to NMSC unless you request it, and you cannot substitute a printout or screenshot of your scores for the official report.
- ☐ Immediately complete and return the enclosed Alternate Entry Form to NMSC.

Deadline:
NMSC urges you to submit your SAT scores as soon as they become available and your Alternate Entry Form as soon as possible. NMSC must receive your SAT scores and your completed Alternate Entry Form no later than October 15, 2023.

Additional Details:

- In keeping with the published procedures for the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program, students can be considered for recognition in only one state or selection unit, based on the high school in which the student was regularly enrolled when the PSAT/NMSQT was administered in October 2022. Therefore, if there is/was a change in the student's high school after the October 2022 administration of the PSAT/NMSQT, please contact NMSC's Scholarship Administration department at (847) 866-5161.
- NMSC will use your Reading Test score, Writing and Language Test score, and Math Test score to calculate your NMSC Selection Index score [2(R + WL + M)]. Your Selection Index score will determine if you are recognized in the National Merit Scholarship Program. To account for the differences in scale between the PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT, NMSC will cap your SAT test scores at a maximum of 38 on each test section before calculating your Selection Index score.
- Detailed information about SAT registration and score reporting is available at sat.collegeboard.org or by phone at (866) 756-7346 for Domestic and (212) 713-7789 for International. College Board may charge a fee for their score reporting service.
- Your Alternate Entry Form must be signed by your high school principal, guidance counselor, or other school official designated by your principal. If you are homeschooled, your Alternate Entry Form should be signed by your homeschool parent teacher.

PROGRAM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE 2024 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Only students who meet all the following entry requirements can participate and be considered for program recognition and awards to be offered in 2024. To participate in the 2024 competition, you must:

1. be enrolled as a high school student (traditional or homeschooled), progressing normally toward graduation or completion of high school by 2024, and planning to accept admission to college no later than the fall of 2024;

2. attend high school in the United States, District of Columbia, or U.S. commonwealths and territories; or meet the citizenship requirements for students attending high school outside the United States (see below); and

3. take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) or complete Alternate Entry requirements in the specified year of the high school program and **no later than** the third year in grades 9 through 12, regardless of grade classification or educational pattern; as explained below:

    a. Students who plan to spend the usual four years in high school (grades 9 through 12) before entering college full-time must take the qualifying test in their third year of high school (grade 11, junior year).

    b. Students who plan to leave high school early to enroll in college full-time after spending three years or less in grades 9 through 12 usually can participate in the National Merit Program if they take the qualifying test before they finish high school. To enter the 2024 competition, these students must be in either *the next-to-last* or the *last* year of high school when they take the qualifying test.

    c. Students who are dual enrolled in both high school and college must take the qualifying test in the third year of high school (grade 11, junior year). The high school determines whether a student is dual enrolled and confirms the student's status as a high school student.

    d. Students who plan to take five years to complete grades 9 through 12 can participate in the National Merit Program if they take the qualifying test in the third year of high school and again in the fourth year. These students' Selection Index scores will not be eligible for the program until a written request for entry to the competition is approved by NMSC. The request should include the student's name, high school name and location, year the student began high school, year the student will complete high school, and a brief explanation of the student's educational pattern.

Students attending high school outside the U.S.: To be eligible for the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program, students attending high school outside the United States must be a citizen of the United States; or be a U.S. lawful permanent resident (or have applied for permanent residence, the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law.

Note: Many of NMSC's corporate and business sponsors offer both Merit Scholarship awards and Special Scholarships for children of their employees or other students of interest to the sponsor. To enter such a sponsored scholarship competition, an Entry Form must be submitted directly with the sponsor organization. Additionally, you must meet all requirements (as stated above) for participation in the National Merit Scholarship Program. To identify sponsors that require Entry Forms, see the descriptions of corporate-sponsored scholarships in the 2022 *PSAT/NMSQT Student Guide*, which is available at high schools nationwide and at www.nationalmerit.org.

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ALTERNATE ENTRY FORM
2024 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

PART A - TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT

Name: _____
Last, First Middle

Birthdate: _____

Address: _____
Mailing Address

_____ _____ _____
City State Zip Code

Email: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

1) Are you enrolled as a high school student (traditional or homeschool)?
   ❑ Yes ❑ No
2) When will you complete or leave high school and enroll full-time in college?
   ❑ 2023 ❑ 2024 ❑ 2025 ❑ Not planning to attend college
3) How many total years will you spend in grades 9–12?
   ❑ 4 yrs. ❑ 3 yrs. ❑ 2 yrs. ❑ 1 yr. ❑ 5 or more yrs.

I wish to enter the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program and understand that I must take (have taken) an official administration of the SAT on dates specified by NMSC. I further understand that I must request that the SAT Program send an official report of my scores to the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (0085). I give permission for NMSC to share my name, address, and birth date with my high school if I qualify for entrance to the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Student's signature: _____ Date: _____

PART B - TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HIGH SCHOOL OFFICIAL

Although the 2022 PSAT/NMSQT Selection Index score of the student named on this form cannot be considered for program entry, the student meets the published requirements for participation in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. Therefore, I recommend that this student be permitted to substitute scores from an authorized administration of the SAT for entry to the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Signature: _____ Title: _____
Printed Name: _____ Date: _____
School Name: _____ High School Code: _____
School City/State: _____ Phone: _____

UPON COMPLETION OF PART B:
Please email this document to ae@nmerit.net or mail it to National Merit Scholarship Corporation, Attention: Scholarship Administration, 1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200, Evanston, IL 60201-4897.