

# Character Skills Snapshot FAQ

## What is the Character Skills Snapshot?

The Character Skills Snapshot is a 20-30 minute online assessment created by the Enrollment Management Association (EMA), provider of the SSAT admission exam. It was designed to measure eight essential character skills currently not measured by cognitive standardized tests, but deemed prevalent among independent school missions. They are: resilience, open-mindedness, responsibility, teamwork, social awareness, self-control, intellectual curiosity, and initiative.

## How was the Character Skills Snapshot developed?

The EMA collaborated with admission directors, heads of schools, and teachers from more than 46 independent schools to develop it. Assessment development experts from the Educational Testing Service wrote some of the questions, and others were written by teachers and admission professionals from independent schools. It has been through rigorous pilot testing with approximately 11,000 students enrolled in or applying to independent schools across the country.

## Why is Catlin Gabel including the Character Skills Snapshot?

Character and personal growth are an integral part of a Catlin Gabel education. During the admission process we focus not only on applicants' cognitive skills such as writing and math, but also their character skills such as integrity, resilience, and curiosity, which will also help carry them forward into a successful life. While an applicant's character has always been an important part of our admission process, we have not had a tool that we could use to help us measure the character skills a child is developing. The application for admission, grades, and test scores only tell part of the story of each applicant. The Character Skills Snapshot provides more holistic information and illuminates areas where Catlin Gabel may be able to help a student grow and thrive as we further develop and enrich each student's intellectual curiosity, teamwork, initiative, resilience responsibility, self-control, open-mindedness, and social awareness.

## For what age groups is it intended?

The Character Skills Snapshot is for students applying to independent schools for grades 6 through 12.

## How is it administered?

It is administered online in a student's home or other location with internet service and is not available on mobile devices. It is intended to capture a snapshot of the student at the moment they apply, so applicants can take it once each admission cycle (between September and the end of July).

## Is it required for all applicants to middle and upper school?

The Character Skills Snapshot is optional for all Middle and Upper School applicants. For those opting to complete it, they can choose whether or not to have the results sent to Catlin Gabel.

## How will the results be used?

The results from the Character Skills Snapshot will complement the other information collected during the application process, including admission test scores, interviews, grades, our own non-cognitive assessment, and teacher evaluations, to help further get to know an applicant and/or address discrepancies. Our hope is that it will help provide a more holistic picture of an applicant.

## Is this evaluation an extra cost to applicants?

There is no cost for the Character Skills Snapshot if an applicant registers to take the SSAT. If an applicant opts to take a different admission test, the cost of The Character Skills Snapshot is \$35.00.

[>>Read more about the Character Skills Snapshot or register on the SSAT website](#)