

Center for Talent Development

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Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS)

Guide for Families

Assessment to help
students discover their
academic potential



Northwestern | CTD

Research-Based Assessment at Center for Talent Development

Center for Talent Development (CTD) at Northwestern University has served as a leader in gifted education and talent development since 1982. CTD offers students age 3 through grade 12 research-based assessment, advanced programs, and resources to enhance their schooling and nurture their talents.



How CTD's NUMATS Program Works

Why test through Center for Talent Development (CTD)?

Understanding your child's academic potential and current level of achievement is an important first step in planning for academic growth. Grade-level tests taken in school typically do not measure knowledge and skills beyond the current grade, and many high-achieving students have already mastered the grade-level content.

CTD solves this problem by utilizing assessments designed for older students, which

measure college and career readiness. When given to younger students "above-grade-level", these assessments measure academic ability, potential, and what students are ready to learn. This approach has been researched extensively and used with great success since Dr. Julian Stanley at Johns Hopkins University first developed it nearly 50 years ago.

What tests do students take?

Through Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS), students in grades 3 through

6 take the PSAT™ 8/9, typically administered in grades 8 and 9, and students in grades 6 through 9 take the SAT® or ACT®, the same tests high school juniors and seniors take for college entrance. These challenging tests provide a more accurate measure of your child's knowledge and skills, providing insight into the following:

your child's areas of strength

what type and level of instruction is appropriate

what supplemental educational activities may be beneficial

With NUMATS, families and educators can promote your child's talent development. Resources and benefits include:

test results with interpretive materials that help you plan your child's academic pathway through high school graduation

when taken annually, a benchmark for academic growth

practice on high-stakes test(s) used for high school placement, scholarships, and college admissions

information about enrichment and accelerated programs for which your child might qualify

connections to an active, online community of gifted learners and their families (CTD Backpack online community)

Learn more and register

Assessment dates are available throughout the year. Visit the NUMATS website, ctd.northwestern.edu/numats for test dates, locations, deadlines, and fees.

NUMATS fees cover the cost of the test and online access to resources. Fee waivers are available, on a first-come, first-served basis, for students who qualify.

Please visit the enrollment section of the CTD website for more fee information: ctd.northwestern.edu/enrollment.

Not ready to test yet or your child is not yet in grade 3?

Parents and students can still get access to CTD's online community, Backpack, and information about enrichment

and accelerated programming by purchasing a membership. Visit ctd.northwestern.edu/backpack for more information.

CTD offers testing options in the Chicagoland area for children as young as age 4, since many children do not have the opportunity for achievement testing in their schools. The following tests are available:

Measure of Academic Progress (MAP), a group administered test

Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement (KTEA), an individually administered test

For more information and to register for testing, visit ctd.northwestern.edu/early-assessment.

NOTE: Assessments for children under grade 3 are grade-level tests, not above-grade-level.

Contact us

ctd-admissions@northwestern.edu
847/467-1575



A score at the 95th percentile on a grade-level test demonstrates success. But, what it doesn't tell you is what your child is ready to learn next. NUMATS provides the information you need to offer appropriate challenges.

PARENT OF NUMATS STUDENT



NUMATS serves

12,000

students annually.

Northwestern | Center for Talent Development
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