



Requirements and Instructions for Semifinalists in the 2010 National Achievement® Scholarship Program

REQUIREMENTS FOR BECOMING A FINALIST

As a Semifinalist named in the fall of 2009, you must advance to Finalist standing before you can be considered for an Achievement Scholarship® award to be offered in 2010. You must meet all specified requirements and deadlines, or you will be withdrawn from the competition. To qualify as a Finalist you must:

1. Continue to meet all program entry requirements (published in the 2008 *Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT*®).
2. Be enrolled in the last year of high school and be planning to enroll full time in college in the fall of 2010 **or** be enrolled in the first year of college, if grades 9–12 were completed in three years or less.
3. Be a black student who is a citizen of the United States; or be a black student who is a U.S. lawful permanent resident (or have applied for permanent residence, the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. If you have not yet become a U.S. citizen, see box below.
4. Be fully endorsed for Finalist standing and recommended for a National Achievement Scholarship by your high school principal (or school official designated by the principal).
5. Have a record of consistently high academic performance in **all** of grades 9–12 and in any college course work taken. Your school must provide a complete record of high school courses you have taken, grades earned, and course work you will take in grade 12. The school also is to notify the National Achievement Scholarship Program of any noticeable decline in your academic performance during the current year. If you are now in college, high academic performance must continue and must be documented by an official transcript of your record (see instructions on page 2 of this leaflet).
6. Complete all student sections, D–F, of the *National Achievement Scholarship Application*; by September 18, or other date set by your school, give the entire application to your principal or designated school official for completion of the school sections, A–C and F. The school official then must mail the completed application to the National Achievement Program by October 16, 2009.
7. Take the *current* SAT® and earn scores that confirm your 2008 PSAT/NMSQT performance. You must take (or have taken) a national administration of the SAT between October 2007 and December 2009. Also, **it is your responsibility** to file a request with the College Board SAT Program to have an official report of your SAT scores sent to the National Achievement Scholarship Program (**code 0300**). See page 2 of this leaflet for detailed information about authorized SAT administrations and score reporting.
8. Provide any additional documentation and information that the National Achievement Program requests.

If you have not yet become a U.S. citizen, you must enclose with your completed *National Achievement Scholarship Application*:

- A letter signed by you explaining your plans for becoming a citizen, including the date on which you expect to be eligible and will apply for U.S. citizenship.

AND

- **If you are a U.S. lawful permanent resident**, a copy of your Permanent Resident Card (Green Card); **or** a copy of your passport including the identity/biographical page and the “I-551” stamp showing that you have been granted lawful permanent resident status.

OR

- **If you have applied for U.S. lawful permanent residence**, a copy of the Form I-797 Receipt Notice from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) that verifies you filed the “Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status” (Form I-485). *Note: Form I-797 Receipt Notice must be received by the National Achievement Program on or before January 31, 2010.*

TAKING THE SAT AND HAVING YOUR SCORES REPORTED

To become a Finalist, you must confirm your PSAT/NMSQT performance with scores on the SAT.

It is **your sole responsibility** to:

1. take the SAT on a date authorized by the National Achievement Program; and
2. request that the College Board SAT Program send an official report of your SAT scores to the National Achievement Scholarship Program (**code 0300**).

You can register for the SAT **online** at www.collegeboard.com or by mail. To register by mail, you need a *Registration Booklet* which is available at your school counselor's office. If your high school does not have a copy, telephone the SAT Program to request one (866-756-7346 Domestic or 212-713-7789 International).

The SAT Program will **not** report your scores to the National Achievement Scholarship Program unless you request it, and you cannot substitute a photocopy of the score report sent to you or your school for the official report. Send all testing and score reporting fees directly to the SAT Program.

- **Authorized SAT administrations**

Scores earned on national administrations of the SAT **from October 2007 through December 2009** will be considered by the National Achievement Scholarship Program. Scores from a national SAT administration taken earlier than October 2007 or later than December 2009 will not be accepted. Your critical reading score, math score, and writing multiple-choice subscore [CR + M + W(mc)] will be the basis for determining whether you meet the confirming score requirement.

- **If you have not yet taken the SAT**

Register NOW to take the SAT on one of the following dates in 2009 and request that scores be sent to the National Achievement Scholarship Program (**code 0300**):

- October 10
- November 7
- December 5

We urge you to take the SAT no later than November 7 and not wait until the December administration.

- **If you have already taken an authorized administration of the SAT**

IMMEDIATELY request that an official score report be sent to the National Achievement Scholarship Program (**code 0300**) by using one of the following services:

1. View and Send Scores at www.collegeboard.com

OR

2. Automated Telephone Service at 866-756-7346 Domestic or 212-713-7789 International

- **Be sure the National Achievement Scholarship Program is to be sent a report of your SAT scores**

Look at the score report sent to you by the SAT Program to be certain it shows the National Achievement Scholarship Program (**code 0300**) as a recipient. If it is not listed, immediately use one of the two methods listed above to request that a score report be sent. This is very important because you will be withdrawn from further consideration in the competition if the National Achievement Program does not receive a timely report of your scores from an authorized SAT administration.

SEMIFINALISTS NOW ENROLLED FULL TIME IN COLLEGE

Once you have completed Sections D–F of your *National Achievement Scholarship Application*, send the entire application to the principal of the high school you last attended. A school official should complete Sections A–C and F and mail the entire application to the National Achievement Scholarship Program by October 16. If you report a college choice in Section E, it should be the college you plan to attend in 2010–11.

To be considered for Finalist standing, you must meet all requirements specified on page 1 and, immediately after the end of the current term, arrange to have your college send an **official transcript** of all college course work you have taken to the National Achievement Program.

COLLEGE CHOICE

College choice is not considered in determining whether a Semifinalist qualifies as a Finalist. However, it is requested because National Achievement Scholarships can only be used for attendance at a college or university in the United States that holds accredited status with a regional accrediting commission on higher education. All Achievement Scholarship awards **are** transferable from one regionally accredited college or university in the United States to another.

You are asked to report your first-choice college (to which you are applying for admission) in Section E of your *National Achievement Scholarship Application*. However, if you are undecided, write “undecided” on your application and report a college choice to the National Achievement Scholarship Program as soon as possible. You can report your college choice or a change in it by mailing the postcard provided in your *Semifinalist Packet*, or by faxing a copy to NMSC at (847) 866-5113. (This college choice card is also available at www.nationalmerit.org.) It is your responsibility to apply and be admitted to the college you plan to attend.

Schedule and Deadlines for the 2010 Achievement Scholarship® Competition

2009

- September 18** (or other date set by school) Semifinalist gives *National Achievement Scholarship Application* to principal or designated official
- September 30** Names of 1,600 National Achievement Program Semifinalists are released to news media by NMSC
- October 10** SAT administration date
- October 16** School mails completed *National Achievement Scholarship Application* to the National Achievement Program
- November 7** SAT administration date
- Semifinalists who took an earlier authorized administration of the SAT should have requested the SAT Program to report scores to the National Achievement Program (**code 0300**)
- December 5** Last date for Semifinalists to take SAT

2010

- January 18** Selection committees begin choosing Achievement Scholarship award winners
- January 22** National Achievement Program notifies principals of their Semifinalists who have become Finalists; a *Certificate of Achievement* is provided for each Finalist
- January 29** National Achievement Program notifies Finalists of their status at their home addresses
- February 26** National Achievement Program begins mailing scholarship offers to winners at their home addresses; their principals are also notified
- April 7** Names of Achievement Scholarship winners are released to news media by NMSC
- April 14** Finalists who are not selected to receive a scholarship are notified at their home addresses

If you have questions, contact: National Achievement Scholarship Program
1560 Sherman Avenue, Suite 200, Evanston, IL 60201-4897 • (847) 866-5161

Listed below with code numbers are major fields of study frequently offered at institutions of higher education and careers to which they lead. General fields are shown in bold type. If your exact major and career choices are not included, please choose the ones that are most similar.

COLLEGE MAJOR CODES

100 Agriculture, Agriculture Operations and Related Sciences	218 Marketing/Marketing Management, General	474 Materials Science	627 Pre-Dentistry Studies	830 Physical Sciences
101 Agricultural Business and Management	250 Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs	467 Mechanical Engineering	628 Pre-Medicine/Pre-Medical Studies	832 Astronomy
103 Animal Sciences	251 Advertising	468 Mining and Mineral Engineering	629 Pre-Pharmacy Studies	833 Astrophysics
120 Architecture and Related Services	252 Communication and Media Studies	470 Nuclear Engineering	630 Pre-Veterinary Studies	834 Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology
121 Architecture	253 Digital Communication and Media/Multimedia	472 Petroleum Engineering		836 Chemistry
123 City/Urban, Community, and Regional Planning	254 Journalism	475 Polymer/Plastics Engineering	700 History	837 Geological and Earth Sciences/Geosciences
125 Landscape Architecture	256 Public Relations/Image Management	500 Engineering Technologies/Technicians	710 Legal Professions and Studies	843 Physics
140 Area, Ethnic, Cultural, and Gender Studies	257 Radio and Television	501 Computer Engineering Technology/Technician	712 Pre-Law Studies	870 Psychology
141 Area Studies	300 Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services	502 Drafting/Design Engineering Technologies/Technician	720 Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies, and Humanities	880 Public Administration and Social Service Professions
142 Ethnic, Cultural Minority, and Gender Studies	303 Computer Science	509 Telecommunications Technology/Technician	722 Humanities/Humanistic Studies	881 Human Services, General
160 Biological and Biomedical Sciences	308 Information Science/Studies	520 English Language and Literature/Letters	723 Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies	882 Public Administration
161 Biology/Biological Sciences, General	400 Education	522 Creative Writing	740 Mathematics and Statistics	883 Public Policy Analysis
162 Biochemistry	407 Early Childhood Education and Teaching	540 Family and Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences	741 Applied Mathematics	884 Social Work
163 Biophysics	417 Elementary Education and Teaching	542 Foods, Nutrition, and Wellness Studies, General	742 Mathematics	890 Security and Protective Services
164 Biotechnology	430 Secondary Education and Teaching	550 Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	743 Statistics	892 Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Administration
166 Cell/Cellular Biology and Anatomical Sciences	432 Special Education and Teaching	553 Classics and Classical Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	770 Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	894 Forensic Science and Technology
167 Ecology	450 Engineering	554 Comparative Literature	771 Biological and Physical Sciences	900 Social Sciences
168 Genetics	451 Aerospace, Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering	555 East Asian Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	772 International/Global Studies	901 Anthropology
169 Marine Biology and Biological Oceanography	452 Agricultural/Biological Engineering and Bioengineering	556 French Language and Literature	773 Mathematics and Computer Science	902 Archaeology
170 Microbiological Sciences and Immunology	453 Architectural Engineering	557 German Language and Literature	774 Neuroscience	903 Economics
171 Molecular Biology	454 Biomedical/Medical Engineering	559 Linguistics	790 Natural Resources and Conservation	904 Geography
175 Zoology/Animal Biology	455 Chemical Engineering	560 Russian Language and Literature	791 Environmental Science	905 Geology
200 Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services	456 Civil Engineering	561 Spanish Language and Literature	792 Environmental Studies	906 International Relations and Affairs
201 Accounting and Related Services	457 Computer Engineering, General	600 Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences	793 Fishing and Fisheries Sciences and Management	907 Political Science and Government
202 Actuarial Science	459 Electrical, Electronics and Communications Engineering	602 Allied Health Diagnostic, Intervention, and Treatment Professions	794 Forestry	908 Sociology
204 Business Administration, Management and Operations	461 Engineering Physics	603 Athletic Training/Trainer	796 Wildlife and Wildlands Science and Management	920 Theology and Religious Vocations
209 Finance and Financial Management Services	462 Engineering Science	605 Clinical/Medical Laboratory Science and Allied Professions	800 Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies	940 Visual and Performing Arts
211 Hospitality Administration/Management	463 Environmental/Environmental Health Engineering	606 Communication Disorders Sciences and Services	802 Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Facilities Management	941 Art History, Criticism, and Conservation
212 Human Resources Management and Services	464 Geological/Geophysical Engineering	607 Dental Hygiene/Hygienist	803 Sport and Fitness Administration/Management	942 Dance
214 International Business	465 Industrial Engineering	610 Dietetics and Clinical Nutrition Services	810 Personal and Culinary Services	943 Drama and Dramatics, Theater Arts, General
217 Management Information Systems and Services	466 Materials Engineering	619 Nursing	821 Philosophy	944 Fashion/Apparel Design
		620 Occupational Therapy/Therapist	822 Religion/Religious Studies	945 Film/Video and Photographic Arts
		624 Physical Therapy/Therapist		946 Fine and Studio Art
				947 Graphic Design
				948 Interior Design
				949 Music
				950 Technical Theater/Theater Design and Technology
				990 Other
				999 Undecided

CAREER CODES

100 Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, and Related Sciences	211 Restaurant or Hotel Manager/Event Planner	457 Computer Engineer	631 Public Health Worker or Administrator	870 Psychology
101 Farm or Ranch Manager	212 Human Resources Specialist	459 Electrical Engineer	700 History	871 Psychologist
103 Agricultural Manager or Specialist	217 Business Information Systems Analyst, Manager, or Consultant	460 Design Engineer	701 Historian	872 Counselor
105 Crop or Soil Chemist	218 Marketing or Sales Manager/Market Researcher	463 Environmental Engineer	710 Legal Professions	880 Public Administration and Social Service
120 Architecture and Related Services	250 Communication and Journalism	464 Geological or Geophysical Engineer	712 Lawyer	881 Mental Health Worker
121 Architect	251 Advertiser	465 Industrial Engineer	740 Mathematics and Statistics	882 City Manager
123 City Planner/Urban Designer or Developer	252 Communications Specialist or Consultant	466 Materials or Metallurgical Engineer	742 Mathematician	883 Public Policy Researcher, Analyst, or Consultant
125 Landscape Architect	253 Multimedia Designer, Analyst or Manager	467 Mechanical Engineer	743 Statistician	884 Social Worker
160 Biological and Biomedical Sciences	254 Newspaper, Magazine or Broadcast Journalist	468 Mine or Construction Engineer	770 Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	890 Security and Protective Services
161 Biologist/Biological Researcher	256 Public Relations Specialist	470 Nuclear Engineer	771 Natural Sciences Manager	892 Law Enforcement Officer
162 Biochemist	300 Computer and Information Sciences	472 Petroleum Engineer	772 Foreign Service Worker	894 Forensic Scientist
163 Biophysicist	303 Applications Programmer	475 Polymer/Plastics Engineer	774 Neuroscientist	900 Social Sciences
164 Biotechnologist	308 Computer or Information Systems Designer/Systems Analyst	500 Engineering Technologies	790 Natural Resources and Conservation	901 Anthropologist
166 Cell Biologist	400 Education	520 English Language and Literature/Letters	791 Environmental Consultant	902 Archaeologist
167 Ecologist/Ecology Researcher	407 Early Childhood Teacher	522 Writer	792 Environmental Educator or Lobbyist	903 Economist
168 Geneticist/Genetic Researcher	417 Elementary School Teacher	540 Family and Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences	793 Fisheries Manager	904 Geographer
169 Marine Biologist	430 Secondary School Teacher	551 Translator/Interpreter	794 Forester	905 Government Service Worker
170 Microbiologist/Immunologist	432 Special Education Teacher	600 Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences	796 Wildlife Manager	908 Sociologist
171 Molecular Biologist	436 School or College Administrator	601 Laboratory Technician	800 Parks, Recreation, and Fitness	920 Theology and Religious Vocations
172 Medical or Biomedical Researcher	438 College Professor	603 Athletic Trainer	802 Recreation and Fitness Administrator or Manager	921 Clergy/Minister
175 Zoologist/Zoological Researcher	440 School Counselor	604 Physician's Assistant	803 Athletic Director	940 Visual and Performing Arts
200 Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services	450 Engineering	606 Speech Pathologist/Audiologist	810 Personal and Culinary Services	941 Art Museum Curator or Archivist
201 Accountant	451 Aerospace Engineer	610 Nutritionist/Dietician	830 Physical Sciences	942 Dancer/Choreographer
202 Actuary	452 Agricultural Engineer/Bioengineer	619 Nurse	832 Astronomer	943 Actor/Director
204 Manager/Management Consultant	453 Architectural Engineer	620 Occupational Therapist	833 Astrophysicist	944 Fashion or Textile Designer
209 Stockbroker/Financial Analyst/Investment or Commercial Banker	454 Biomedical Engineer	624 Physical Therapist	834 Meteorologist	945 Film Production Worker
	455 Chemical Engineer	627 Dentist	836 Chemist	946 Artist/Commercial Artist
	456 Civil Engineer	628 Physician	837 Geologist	947 Graphic Designer
		629 Pharmacist	838 Polymer Chemist	948 Interior Designer
		630 Veterinarian	843 Physicist	949 Musician/Composer
				950 Theater Designer, Technician, or Manager
				990 Other
				999 Undecided