

Academic Talent Search

[information for students and parents]

- ATS offers fun & challenging classes at Sac State for students in 4th–9th grade (grade level as of Jan. 1, 2015) • More than 42,000 students have attended in the past 33 years • Over \$45,000 in financial aid scholarships and fee waivers was granted in 2014 • ATS is a non-profit organization & receives no University, state, or federal funding



“I really like the fact that it’s like an actual, real college experience and I don’t really do it for the...credit. I do it because I enjoy learning more and it gives me better opportunity to expand my knowledge than just regular school.”

- ATS Student

What is Academic Talent Search (ATS)?

- ATS offers fun and academically challenging summer classes on the Sacramento State campus.
- ATS is a unique summer program for current 4th–9th grade students (grade level as of January 1, 2015).
- There are 2 separate programs offering classes: one for 4th & 5th graders and another for 6th–9th graders. In other words, a 4th grader will not be in classes with 9th graders.
- Over 42,000 students have been educated and inspired at ATS since its founding in 1982.
- ATS is a non-profit program sponsored by Sac State that receives no University, state, or federal funding.
- ATS has been featured by KCRA, KMAX/Ch 31, and Sac State’s Public Affairs. Visit our website to view the news stories.

Why should 6th–9th grade students get involved?

- Experience a collegiate environment and gain self-confidence and independence while being treated like “college students” on the Sac State campus.
- Learn from university professors, public and private school teachers, and leading business professionals.
- Discover a variety of new academic and creative challenges in areas not often available in regular school such as engineering, forensic science, game programming, law, and visual and performing arts. For more examples of the 6th–9th grade classes offered at ATS, please refer to the back page of this sheet.
- Accelerate your learning in traditional subjects like English, science, math, and foreign languages. Some classes (ex: Algebra, Spanish) allow students to complete a year’s worth of high school material in 5 weeks. Many courses are recommended for high school credit.
- Meet students from across the region who share an enthusiasm and desire to explore subjects more in depth.

Why should 4th & 5th grade students get involved?

- Explore unique and interesting topics with interactive hands-on classes designed to encourage you to think critically and creatively. Last year’s subjects included science, engineering, writing, acting, art, and more. Please see the back of this sheet for more examples of the 4th/5th grade classes that ATS offers.
- Meet new friends from other schools who also like fun and learning!

How do I get involved? What does the test do?

- Be a current 4th–9th grader (as of January 1, 2015).
- Take the ATS Qualifying Exam (*College Ability Test*), which assesses your reasoning abilities. Students take the test level appropriate for their grade: current 4th and 5th graders take the “intermediate” exam, while current 6th–9th graders take the “advanced” exam. There is no pass or fail.
- Use your test scores to help determine which ATS classes match your skills and interests. There are classes available for ALL score levels.
- The qualifying test does not affect your school grades or obligate you to go to ATS. It simply gives you the option to apply for fun, interactive classes at Sac State!





**California State University, Sacramento
Academic Talent Search (ATS)**

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Congratulations!

Your school is offering you the opportunity to participate in Academic Talent Search (ATS) at Sacramento State. As mentioned on **the Information for Students and Parents sheet** (provided by your school), ATS provides fun, interactive, fast-paced summer classes to 4th through 9th grade students. Since 1982, more than 42,000 students have taken advantage of the educational opportunities provided by ATS, and over 1,800 students applied last year to attend classes on the Sac State campus. In 2014, over \$45,000 in financial aid scholarships and fee waivers was granted.

To be eligible for ATS, all you need to do is be a current 4th through 9th grade student (grade level as of January 1, 2015) and take the ATS Qualifying Exam. Taking the test automatically qualifies you for ATS. The test takes a little over an hour and assesses your academic abilities. Students in 4th and 5th grades take the “intermediate” level exam while 6th-9th graders take the “advanced” level test. Scores do NOT affect your school grades. Taking the test does not mean you have to attend ATS, but by doing so, you have the option to decide later if you would like to attend these fun and unique classes at Sac State this summer.

Your ATS School Representative (usually the person who gave you this form) can tell you when the test will be offered at your school. To sign up, complete the back of this sheet and return it to your School Representative at least one week prior to the testing date. **On the day of the test, bring the \$15 processing fee with you (fees should not be submitted before the exam).** This fee covers the scoring of your exam and the mailing of your test results directly to your home. If you cannot afford the test processing fee, ask your School Representative about a *Testing Fee Waiver*.

Again, congratulations on being offered this opportunity! If you have any questions, please call the ATS office (916-278-7032), send us an email (ats@csus.edu), or visit the ATS website (<http://www.csus.edu/coe/ats>) for more information. We hope you will join us this summer at Sac State!

Sincerely,

Scarlet P. Maurin
Director

Terry A. Thomas, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Quick Facts...

About the ATS Test

- Because classes are filled top-score down, **ATS strongly encourages taking the test every year.** Your highest scores (from the appropriate level of the exam) will always be accepted, so there is no risk in retesting!
- Testing is also available on the Sac State campus (for a fee of \$15 per student) on the following Saturday mornings:
 - January 31 • February 28
 - February 21 • March 14

About ATS Classes

- ATS' wide variety of classes include new topics not covered in regular school, as well as traditional subjects taught at an accelerated level.
- Students gain exposure to a collegiate environment by attending classes at Sac State.
- Participants meet new friends from across the region who share an enthusiasm for learning.
- Many classes in the 6th-9th grade program are recommended for high school credit.

Have your parent/guardian complete the back side of this form so you can take the test.



- Return it to your ATS School Representative at least one week before the testing date.
- Don't forget to bring \$15 cash, check* (payable to ATS), or money order to school ON the day of the test.

If you cannot afford the processing fee, ask your School Representative about a *Testing Fee Waiver*.

* Please note: Returned checks are subject to penalty fees per University Enterprises, Inc.