



SACRAMENTO 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.



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- 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.

Why should I take this test?

The *College Ability Test* can offer valuable experience in taking a college admission-type exam. Test results also help identify special aptitudes to be further developed. There is no risk in testing, as test scores do not affect your regular school grades. The test is designed for older students, so you are not expected to know all of the answers or prepare for the test in any way.

If I have taken the test before, do I have to take it again?

If you are currently in grade 6 or above and last tested as a 4th or 5th grader, you will need to test again to take the "advanced" level exam this year. Because classes are filled top-score down, **ATS strongly encourages all students to take the test every year.** ATS will accept your highest scores from the appropriate level of the exam, so there is no risk in retesting!

How much does the test cost?

There is a \$15 processing fee (payable to ATS **on** the day of the test) which covers the scoring of your exam and the mailing of your test results directly to your home. If you cannot afford the processing fee, ask your School Representative about a *Testing Fee Waiver*.

About the ATS Qualifying Exam (College Ability Test)

The *College Ability Test* is a 40-minute, multiple-choice exam. There are two parts to the exam: a verbal section and a quantitative section. Each section has 50 questions, with 20 minutes allotted to complete each part. Students take the test level appropriate for their grade: current 4th and 5th graders take the "intermediate" level, and current 6th–9th graders take the "advanced" level. The test is not "pass" or "fail," as it does not measure specific knowledge; rather, it helps assess your aptitude for learning!

• Verbal Section

The verbal section tests your knowledge of the meaning of words and your ability to identify relationships between pairs of words. You will be asked to find the pair of words that go together in the same way as the first two words.

Example

gym : exercise ::

- a) cafeteria : eat
- b) mall : sell

- c) car : sit
- d) auditorium : clap

Solution

To solve analogy questions, put the primary pair of words into a sentence which explains their relationship ("You go to a gym to exercise."). Next, substitute the answer choices into your sentence until you create a sentence that makes sense. The correct answer is A: "Gym" is related to "exercise" as "cafeteria" is related to "eat."

• Quantitative Section

The quantitative section tests how well you work with numbers. Each question has two parts (Column A and Column B). You must determine if the value presented in Column A is greater than the value presented in Column B, if the parts are equal, or if there is not enough information to decide.

Example

Column A

Value of 3 nickels and 1 dime

Column B

Value of 2 dimes and 1 nickel

- A if the part in Column A is greater
- B if the part in Column B is greater
- C if the two parts are equal
- D if not enough information is given for you to decide

Solution

The example is asking you to add. Since a nickel is 5 cents and a dime is 10 cents, in Column A, 5+5+5+10 is equal to 25. This is the same answer as 10+10+5 in Column B. Therefore, the answer to the question is C.



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ATS Test Sign-Up Form for 4th–9th graders

Parent(s): Please return this completed form to your School Representative at least 1 week before the test to secure your student's seat.

Student Name:	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 2px;"> Last Name First Name Middle Initial </div>		
Mailing Address:	Address		Apt #
	City	State	Zip
Primary Phone:	()	Parent Email:	
Current School:		Current Grade as of Jan. 1, 2015 (circle):	<input type="radio"/> 4th <input type="radio"/> 5th <input type="radio"/> 6th <input type="radio"/> 7th <input type="radio"/> 8th <input type="radio"/> 9th
Parent Name (Printed):		Parent Signature:	

A message from your ATS School Representative: