

Notification: Using the Past SAT and the Redesigned (New) SAT for State Scholarship Eligibility

Student Affairs SC Commission on Higher Education

The January 2016 SAT was the last test offered prior to the implementation of the redesigned SAT. Starting March 2016, College Board employed a redesigned (new) SAT test that includes new components and scoring. From March 2016 moving forward the new SAT will be the only test offered. College Board has issued its own statement regarding the new SAT. In preparation of the employment of the new SAT, College Board communicates the following statement:

“We recognize that many institutions have built effective predictive models and comparative processes using “Super Scoring.” During the transition from the current SAT to the redesigned SAT, colleges will need to develop policies on use of scores from students who have taken both the current and redesigned SAT.

The current and redesigned assessments vary in design and content tested. We ask that colleges consider the implications of comparing and combining scores from two different tests as they design their score use policies. We will continue to work with institutions to communicate their defined policies to students.” College Board 8/2015

The SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE) has developed a policy that ensures equity in meeting eligibility requirements for South Carolina merit-based scholarships and a straightforward transition from the past SAT to the new SAT. Currently established LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship statute and regulations allow for students to “super score,” in that a student has an opportunity to combine the highest math and the highest critical reading score to meet the requisite SAT score for the LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship. **In order to ensure that students are held harmless this year, students who are graduating in the current Senior class of 2016 and current Junior class will still be allowed to “super score” by using the face value of their highest critical reading (now called “evidence-based reading and writing”) and highest math scores regardless of the SAT test they have taken.**

Beginning with the graduation class of 2018, only the new SAT evidence-based reading and writing, and the new SAT math sections will be used in determining eligibility for South Carolina merit-based scholarships (if using this College Board test). Students in the class of 2018 and beyond will need to meet the SAT requirement for South Carolina merit-based scholarships based on the new SAT test.

**It is important to note that students in the Class of 2016 and Class of 2017 who have already earned the requisite scores from the past SAT have in effect “locked in” that eligibility criterion. All other eligibility requirements for the LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship still must be met. Starting with the 2018 graduating class only scores from the new SAT (if using the SAT to meet state merit-based scholarship requirements) will be accepted for determining eligibility for the LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Scholarships. New statute(s) or changes to current regulation(s) that determine eligibility to receive state scholarships may change this guidance. This guidance is effective only until current statute(s) and regulation(s) are amended as approved by the General Assembly.*