



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. Our program provides students the opportunity to study in fields like art, business, computer science, engineering, law, and science (as well as other subjects not readily available to students in this age group). Last year, some of our most popular classes included Algebra 1, Chemistry to Cure Disease, Intro to Video Game Development, Messy Science: Explosions and Reactions, and Mock Trial: Prosecution and Defense. Since 1982, approximately 44,500 students have taken advantage of the educational opportunities provided by ATS on the Sac State campus. In 2016, ATS awarded close to \$30,000 in financial aid and fee waivers to students.

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, 2017) 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 it gives you the **option** 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!

Scarlet P. Maurin
Director

Terry A. Thomas, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Quick Facts...

❖ About the ATS Test ❖

• **ATS strongly encourages students take the test each year because:**

- Each student's highest score (from the appropriate exam) will always be applied, so there is no risk in retesting!
- Class placements are made top score down until all seats are filled.

• Testing is also available at Sac State (\$15 fee per student) Contact ATS to sign up for one of these Saturdays:

February 11, 2017

February 25, 2017

March 11, 2017

❖ 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.

• ATS recommends many classes in the 6th-9th grade program 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 or money order (payable to ATS) to school ON the day of the test. *Please note: Returned checks are subject to penalty fees per University Enterprises, Inc.*

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



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❖

The *College Ability Test* takes no more than 1 hour and 15 minutes – this includes instructions and two 20-minute sections (verbal and quantitative). Students take the multiple choice test appropriate for their grade: current 4th and 5th graders take the “intermediate” level, and current 6th–9th graders take the “advanced” level. Taking the test automatically qualifies you for ATS. 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 c) car : sit
b) mall : sell 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	Column B
	Value of 3 nickels and 1 dime	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.

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 Last Name	Student First Name	Student Middle Initial
Mailing Address		Apt#
City	State	Zip
Primary Phone ()		Primary Email
Current School	Current Grade as of Jan. 1, 2017 (circle)	4 th 5 th 6 th 7 th 8 th 9 th
Parent Name	Parent Signature	
*A Message from your ATS Representative		