



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

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### Congratulations!

Your school has nominated you to participate in Academic Talent Search (ATS) at Sacramento State. ATS offers exciting, challenging, and fun summer classes to academically advanced 4th through 9th grade students (grade level as of January 1, 2012). Since 1982, more than 37,500 students have taken advantage of the educational opportunities provided by ATS, and over 2,200 students applied last year to attend classes on the Sac State campus. In 2011, over \$42,000 in financial support was granted to ATS students.

To be eligible for ATS, all you need to do is be a current 4th through 9th grade student and take the ATS Qualifying Exam (*College Ability Test*) at the right level for your grade. Students in 4th and 5th grade take the “intermediate” level exam, and 6th–9th graders take the “advanced” level test. It’s that easy! **Taking the test automatically qualifies you for ATS.** The test will assess your academic abilities and takes a little over an hour. **Test scores do NOT affect your school grades** and are mailed directly to your home three weeks after you take the test. Taking the test does not require you to attend ATS; it simply gives you the option to do so.

Your School Representative (usually the person who gave you this form) can tell you when the test will be offered at your school. To register for the test, complete the bottom part of this sheet and return it to your School Representative. On the day of the test, bring the \$15 processing fee with you. 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 *Fee Waiver*.

**Again, congratulations on being nominated to participate in ATS!** Additional information about ATS can be found on the *Information for Students and Parents* sheet provided by your School Representative or on the ATS website listed below. We hope you will take advantage of this special opportunity.

Sincerely,

*Mary Kate Erickson-LeBlanc*  
Lead Program Coordinator

*Scarlet P. Maurin*  
Director

*Terry A. Thomas, Ph.D.*  
Executive Director

Cut here and return to your school • Cut here and return to your school • Cut here and return to your school • Cut here and return to your school

**FYI** Because classes are filled top score down, **ATS recommends taking the test every year.** Your highest scores (from the appropriate level of the exam) will always be accepted, so there’s no risk in retesting!



## ATS Test Sign-up Form for 4th–9th graders

- Have your parent/guardian **complete the back side of this form** and sign it so you can take the test.
- Return it to your ATS School Representative (usually the person who gave you this form).
- Bring \$15 cash, check, or money order (payable to ATS\*) to school **ON** the day of test.

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

A message from your ATS School Representative:

\* Make checks payable to “ATS.” Returned checks are subject to penalty fees per University Enterprises, Inc.

### What is the *College Ability Test*?

The *College Ability Test* is the same test that ATS has used for more than 25 years. Test results list data and rank comparisons that help identify special aptitudes which can be further developed. 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.

### 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 in the 4th or 5th grade, you will need to test again to take the “advanced” level exam this year. Because classes are filled top score down, **ATS recommends all students take the test every year** (but you are not required to do so). ATS will accept your highest scores from the appropriate level of the exam, so there is no risk in retesting!

### How much does it cost to take the test?

There is a \$15 processing fee (payable to “ATS”). This fee 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 *Fee Waiver*.

### What if I miss the test at school?

Testing is also available on the Sac State campus (for a fee of \$15 per student) on the following Saturday mornings:

- February 11
- February 25
- March 3
- March 17

## 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. **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.** The test helps assess your aptitude for learning— remember, the test results do not affect your school grades, so there is no risk in taking it.

### • 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.



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

Parent(s): Please complete & return this form to your School Representative to ensure your student receives his/her test results.

Student Name:	Last Name		First Name		Middle Initial					
Mailing Address:	Address				Apt #					
	City		State		Zip					
Primary Phone:	(      )		Current Grade as of Jan. 1, 2012 (circle):		4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
Current School:										
Parent Email:										
Parent Name (Printed):				Parent Signature:						

**Don't forget to bring \$15 cash or check (payable to ATS) to your school on the day of the test.**