



SACRAMENTO  
STATE

# Academic Talent Search [information for your school]

## [what is ATS?]

### ATS at a glance

- Provides exciting, fast-paced classes to 4th-9th graders
- Over 120 academically challenging classes offered at Sac State each summer
- More than 33,900 students have attended ATS over the past 28 years
- Over \$47,000 in financial support granted last year

### how your students can participate

- Students who take the Qualifying Exam are automatically eligible to apply to ATS
- Over 7,000 students take the test at over 300 area schools each year
  - 4th/5th graders take the "intermediate" exam
  - 6th-9th graders take the "advanced" exam
- Students can test at your school site—see cover letter for details

**Please complete & return  
the test confirmation form  
by November 13!**

### more info on back

- Who should take the test
- Info on costs involved (fee waivers available)
- Materials available for students
- Transportation and schedule options

- A unique educational opportunity for motivated and academically advanced 4th-9th grade students. Over 2,400 students attend each summer.
- A non-profit organization sponsored by Sacramento State (since 1982). ATS classes are supported by fees, which remain consistently lower than similar programs around the country.
- Over 120 academically challenging and fun summer classes offered on the Sacramento State campus, covering a variety of subject areas.
- More than 33,900 students have attended ATS over the past 28 years.
- ATS is a commuter program; however, there are some options available to students including carpooling and Regional Transit.
- Students who take the ATS Qualifying Exam (*College Ability Test*) automatically qualify to participate in the program.

## [how can testing benefit my students?]

- **No risk.** Test scores do not affect students' regular school grades.
- **No pressure.** Students do not need to study beforehand and current 4th-9th graders who take the exam automatically qualify to apply for ATS.
- **Practice opportunity** for students in taking a college admission-type test.
- **No "passing" score required.** Classes are available for all score levels.
- **No obligation.** Students who take the test are not required to attend ATS (it's their option to do so).
- **Preview of college.** ATS classes are held in classrooms and labs on the Sacramento State campus. Students have access to university facilities such as the University Library, University Union, and Hornet Bookstore.
- **New academic and creative challenges** in subjects ranging from Art and Computer Science to English, Math and Science. For example, 6th-9th graders have the opportunity to learn one year's worth of mathematics or foreign language in just five weeks.
- **Make new friends.** A way to meet other students who share the motivation to learn.

## [how can testing benefit my school?]

- **Receive a report** of students' test scores summarizing academic abilities and aptitudes that can be used as an additional assessment of students' progress.
- **Recognition** of being a part of a large network of schools that provide academically advanced students with access to extra educational opportunities. Over 7,000 students test annually at 300 schools.
- **Develop students' areas of interest.** Students will continue to learn and be challenged during the summer.
- **Motivating students.** Students have reported that after attending ATS, they return to school more motivated and prepared for the new academic term.
- **A letter of recognition** (if requested) will be sent acknowledging your efforts in providing support services to motivated students.

## [who should take the test?]

Students who are in 4th-9th grade as of January 1, 2010 (5th-10th grades in Fall 2010) and meet any of the following criteria:

- Students who score at the "advanced" level on the California Standards Tests.
- Students who score at the 90th percentile or above on subtests of the standardized achievement test (Stanford 9, CAT/6, CTBS, etc.).
- Students who participate in a GATE program or who have been identified as gifted.
- Motivated, mature, and enthusiastic students who are willing to meet an exciting academic challenge.
- Any students whose parent wants them to take the test and/or participate in ATS.

## [what are the costs involved?]

- The test processing fee is \$15 per student. This covers processing, scoring, and mailing results directly to students.
- ATS can provide you with easy-to-complete *fee waiver forms* for students who are unable to afford the testing fee.
- Course fees in 2009 ranged from \$114 to \$399, depending on the length of the class. This is relatively inexpensive compared to similar programs such as UC Berkeley's ATDP, Johns Hopkins' CTY, or Stanford's EPGY (which range from \$460 to \$5,600).
- Scholarships are available for students with financial need. Over \$47,000 in financial support was granted last year.

## [what is the summer schedule? can year-round students attend?]

Yes, year-round students can attend! ATS offers classes:

- **For 6th-9th graders:** Morning & afternoon classes in one, three, and five-week blocks  
Classes meet on varied days (Mon/Wed, Mon-Thurs, Fri only, Tues/Thurs, etc.)
- **for 4th/5th graders:** Morning & afternoon classes in multiple one-week sessions throughout summer  
Classes meet Monday-Friday

## [what ATS materials can I provide to students and parents?]

You may request the following by completing the *Test Confirmation and Material Request Form*:

- **Information Sheet for Students and Parents:** This provides an overview of ATS and other useful information that will help them determine if they would like to test.
- **Test Sign-Up Forms:** Ask parents to complete and return these forms to you. They provide details about the test, and the number of forms returned will tell you how many students want to test. There are two versions: one for 4th & 5th graders and one for 6th-9th graders.
- **ATS Summer 2009 4/5 and 6-9 Catalogs:** These are for reference only; the 4/5 and 6-9 versions can be requested individually. The catalogs give detailed information about ATS and the application process. The new catalogs for 2010 will be sent to students' homes and available online in late March.

## [what do I do now to help my students get involved?]

- Complete the enclosed *Test Confirmation and Material Request Form* and return it by November 13. Thank you!

*"I think the most important things I learned at ATS were independence, self-confidence, and responsibility. Meeting new friends and the class subjects were great. The knowledge I gained at ATS is already helping me in my regular school classes now!"*

– ATS student