MCAT® Information Session

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Cornell Career Services
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Outline

- MCAT Overview
- Essential Resources
- MCAT Facts and Figures
- MCAT 2015 Changes
- Timing, Preparation, Test Day
- Contacting MCAT
- Questions
The New MCAT®

“...the health system of tomorrow will require a different kind of physician. And that is why, in 2015, there will be a new Medical College Admission Test® (MCAT®).”

-Darrell G. Kirch, M.D., AAMC President and CEO

https://www.aamc.org/newsroom/reporter/march2012/276772/word.html
MCAT Overview
Medical College Admissions Test

• A tool used by medical schools as an important component of the admission decision.

• Tests for mastery of science:
  – Biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, biochemistry, and physics

• Tests for mastery of social and cultural concepts:
  – Psychology, sociology

• Plus problem-solving and critical thinking ability.

• MCAT score and GPAs (overall and BCMP) are weighed in an algorithm to determine whom to invite for an interview.
Common Misconceptions

• The MCAT is *just* a content test, summing up the courses taken during your undergraduate education.
  – MCAT Tests
    • Critical thinking
    • Ability to reason and integrate information
    • Creative problem-solving
    • Reasoning – design and execution; data-driven and statistical
Common Misconceptions

• The MCAT isn’t particularly predictive of my success in medical school.
  – Studies have shown that the MCAT is highly predictive of 1st and 2nd year grades in medical school, as well as performance on the U.S. Medical Licensing Exam.
Essential Resource

Application Home
Admission Requirements
Medical School Programs

AMCAS® (American Medical College Application Service®)
Fee Assistance Program (FAP)
Medical Career Fairs
Meet representatives from medical and health professions schools.
Learn about Medical Career Fairs

MCAT Exam Policies for U.S. and Canadian Medical Schools
View MCAT® Exam policies to see which exam(s) medical schools will accept for the 2018, 2017 and 2016 application cycles.
Download the report
AAMC on Student Doctor Network
Get information and tips to help you make the transition to medical school.
Read the latest article

Applicants

You're decided to dedicate your life to the practice of medicine. Now you need to:
- Find the medical school programs that are right for you.
- Take the MCAT® (Medical College Admission Test®)
- Apply to medical school through AMCAS® (American Medical College Application Service) or other service.

There are a lot of steps, but this site can guide you through the process.

Featured Resources
- Medical School Admission Requirements
- Financial Aid Fact Sheets for Applicants and Students
- Timeline for Application/Admission to Medical School
- Transfer Policies
- MCAT® Exam Policy Report for U.S. and Canadian Medical Schools

Programs and Services for Applicants
- Medical College Admission Test® (MCAT®)
- American Medical College Application Service® (AMCAS®)
- Fee Assistance Program
- The Medical Minority Applicant Registry (Med-MAR)
- Financial Information, Resources, Services and Tools (FIRST)
- Early Decision Program (EDP)
A Better Test for Tomorrow’s Doctors

Designed to help better prepare future physicians for the rapidly advancing and transforming health care system, the new Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) will officially launch on April 17, 2015.

Changes to the MCAT exam in 2015 preserve what works best about past exams and focuses on concepts and skills tomorrow’s doctors will need.

MCAT Essentials

Essential for a reason! The MCAT Essentials is your first step in understanding everything MCAT related. Inside you will find fundamental information about registration, test-day policies and procedures, scoring, and much more. Be sure to read through and keep bookmarked for easy reference.

Get started! >

Know What’s on the Exam

What’s on the MCAT2015 Exam? is a free, interactive tool to help you understand all of the content and skills tested on the new exam.

Quick Links

- Benefits of Testing in April 2015
- 2015 Testing Calendar and Score Release Dates
- Registration Deadlines
- MCAT Tips
MCAT Facts and Figures

- >85,000 tests administered each year

- Cost: $300 ($115 for FAP designees)
  - Surcharge for late registration ($50), change of testing site ($70-130), etc.
  - April examinees will receive a $150 Amazon gift card

- Duration
  - 7 hours, 33 minutes ("seated" time)
  - 6 hours, 15 minutes ("content" time)

- Fee Assistance Program
  - Not retroactive, apply prior to MCAT and AMCAS applications
  - Includes MSAR, MCAT, AMCAS (with 15 school designations)
  - Expires December 31 of the calendar year following award
MCAT Facts and Figures

• Offered
  – April through September, at designated test centers in all 50 states and in Canada.
  – No tests in October or November
  – Currently no tests scheduled in 2016 (January is a possibility)

• Closest test centers to Ithaca
  – Prometric Testing Centers:
    • Vestal (near Binghamton)
    • East Syracuse
    • MCAT Satellite Center at TC3 (Dryden)

• Attempts allowed
  – Maximum of 3 attempts in 2015 testing year (beginning April 2015)
  – Maximum of 4 attempts in two consecutive testing years (beginning April 2015)
  – Voids and “no shows” count toward attempts
MCAT Facts and Figures

- **Scoring**
  - Sections – 118-132
  - Total – 472-528

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Confidence Band</th>
<th>Percentile Rank of Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>124 - 126</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>126 - 128</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>129 - 131</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>123 - 125</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MCAT Total Score</strong></td>
<td><strong>506</strong></td>
<td><strong>504 - 508</strong></td>
<td><strong>76%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MCAT Facts and Figures

- **Scoring Choices**
  - *I wish to have my MCAT exam SCORED.*
  - *I wish to VOID my MCAT exam.*

- **When are scores available?**
  - 30-35 days after test date in Testing History (THx) Score Reporting System.

* April and May exam scores will be delayed
MCAT Facts and Figures

- **Scores Honored**
  - “Oldest MCAT considered” varies by individual schools (check MSAR)

- **Score Reporting**
  - Scores are automatically sent to AMCAS and inserted into your application
  - You release from THx System to other recipients (e.g., AACOMAS, CASPA, SOPHAS, etc.)
MCAT Facts and Figures

Mean MCAT Scores, Applicants and Matriculants 2004 - 2014

Source: AAMC, Data extracted from Table 17: MCAT Scores and GPAs for Applicants, and Matriculants to U.S. Medical Schools, 2000-2011. https://www.aamc.org/data/facts/applicantmatriculant/
When to Take the MCAT

- Take test soon after completing your coursework
  - Biology, Chemistry (General, Organic, Biochemistry), Physics, Math, Psychology, Sociology

- Allow time for self-directed learning on topics you have not yet studied

- Take test with lead time on the application cycle
  - If at all possible, know your score before you choose where you want to apply
  - Development of a good strategy is critical

- AAMC recommends taking in year of application; may not always be possible.

*You can't have confidence unless you are prepared. Failure to prepare is preparing to fail.*

*John Wooden*
When Not to Take the MCAT

- Before You’re Ready
- Late in the Application Season
- During Periods of High Demand
  - Prelims, final exams, etc.

- All of these situations allow medical schools to question your decision making skills and ability to self-assess
### MCAT® 2015 Subject Areas and Format

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MCAT® 2015 Subject Areas</th>
<th>No. of items / minutes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological and biochemical foundations of living systems</td>
<td>67 / 95 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical and physical foundations of living systems</td>
<td>67 / 95 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological, social, and biological foundations of behavior</td>
<td>67 / 95 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical analysis and reasoning skills based on readings in humanities and social sciences (includes ethics, philosophy, cross-cultural studies, and population health)</td>
<td>60 / 90 min</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to Prepare

- Use the “What’s on the MCAT 2015?” Interactive Tool
  - [https://www.aamc.org/students/services/343550/mcat2015.html](https://www.aamc.org/students/services/343550/mcat2015.html)

- Use *The Official Guide* to the MCAT 2015 Exam.

- Use the free e-MCAT practice resources.
  - Sample test
  - Practice Questions
  - Question Packs

- Study by targeting your weaknesses and reinforcing your strengths.

- Utilize the Khan Academy MCAT Video Collection
  - [https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/mcat](https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/mcat)

- Consider a prep course.
Test Day

• Rules Apply, So Know Them!
  – Arrival time.
    • Check-in begins 30 minutes prior to test time
    • Must provide proper identification
      – Current, government issued (ID, driver’s license, passport), photo, signature
      – Name must EXACTLY match registration
  – Allowed personal items.
    • In testing room – your ID, storage key/bag, scratch paper and pencils (provided by the testing center), a pair of foam, wireless earplugs (sealed and provided for inspection)
    • AAMC recommends you bring as few items as possible
  – Fingerprinting
  – No eating or drinking in the exam room
Concerns After the Exam

• If you believe conditions in the test center interfered with your performance, you **MUST**
  – Inform Test Center Administrator on day of test.
  • File a *Center Problem Report*
  – Upload the *Test Center Concern Form* to AAMC in the MCAT scheduling system no later than five calendar days following your exam

  – Investigation *will not* result in reversing your decision to either have your exam VOIDED or SCORED, nor will you be provided a refund or a free retest
Contacting MCAT

• **AAMC Services**
  – Phone: 202/828-0600
  – E-mail: mcat@aamc.org (No Attachments)
  – Hours of Operation
    • Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 9:00 am-7:00 pm ET
    • CLOSED Wednesday and Thursday 3:00 – 5:00 pm
    • Staff is limited on MCAT testing days from 7:30 am – 11:30 am

• **MCAT Security Tip Line**
  – Phone 202-903-0840
  – E-mail: mcatsecurity@aamc.org
Upcoming Programs of Interest

• How to Create Your List of Schools
  – Wednesday, March 11, 4:30 p.m., 253 Malott

• Health Careers Summer Activities
  – Thursday, April 16, 4:30 p.m., 142 Goldwin Smith Hall

• Writing Personal Statements for Applications
  – Thursday, April 23, 4:30 p.m., 122 Rockefeller

• Interviewing: Traditional and MMI
  – Wednesday, April 30, 4:30 p.m., 253 Mallot

• Completing AMCAS and Other Applications
  – Wednesday, May 6, 4:30 p.m., 115 Rockefeller

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Questions?

“Believe you can and you’re halfway there.”
Theodore Roosevelt