Annual MCAT Webinar for Prehealth Advisors
October 27, 2020

Moderator: Cynthia Searcy, Senior Director
MCAT Research and Development
Katherine Ford, Manager, MCAT Administration
Kara Gwaltney, Director, MCAT Security
Heather Williams, MCAT Product Manager
Today’s Agenda

• Welcome and 2020 Overview
• 2021 Testing Year & Registration
• 2021 MCAT Policies
• AAMC MCAT Official Prep Products and Resources
• AAMC Resources for Advisors
• Q&A
2020 Testing by the Numbers

• Exams administered from Jan. 17 – Mar. 14, and from May 29 – Sept. 28
  • 50% more capacity than a typical year

• More than 88,000 examinees took nearly 100,000 exams in 2020 (~2% increase)
  • >13,000 exams in Jan. – March 14
  • ~86,000 exams May 29 – Sept. 28

• About 1.5% tested with accommodations

• 92% of surveyed examinees were satisfied or very satisfied with the implementation of health and safety protocols; 5% responded neutrally
The demographic and regional makeup of 2020 examinees was similar to 2019

• More examinees tested in 2020 than in 2019
• The percentages by demographic group and region mirrors 2019
  • Race/ethnicity
  • SES
  • Region
• The demographic and regional representation of 2021 applicants also mirrors that of 2020 applicants
MCAT Scores from the Shortened Exam

• Examinees who took the shortened exam were tested on the same concepts and skills at the same levels of difficulty as those who took the full-length exam.

• Examinees received the same section and total scores reported with the same precision and confidence bands as compared to the full-length exam.

• Early analyses show scores from the shortened exam are comparable to the full-length exam.

• We are continuing to analyze the data and will share more at the 2021 spring NAAHP regional meetings.
The 2021 testing year will go from January through September

### 2021 Testing Year

- Return to the traditional length exam
- 31 exam dates - 1 additional date in January
- Scores reported on normal 30-35-day schedule
- Scores from January exams will be reported about in about 2 weeks *(update 11/04/20)*
- Three testing periods (January-March, April-June, July-September)

### For exams administered in January and March (testing periods 2 and 3 TBD)

- Strict health and safety protocols
- Exams offered at 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to limit the number of people in the test center and observe social distancing
- Rescheduling and cancellation fees waived
Testing with Accommodations will Reflect Improvements

The AAMC is committed to providing all individuals with an opportunity to demonstrate their proficiency on the MCAT exam, including ensuring access to persons with disabilities

Process improvements
• Scheduling January and March examinees in advance of the Nov. 10 opening.
• Work on other process improvements is ongoing.
Health & safety protocols will continue, with improvements

**Health and Safety Protocols**
- Strict health and safety protocols in place since May 29, 2020.
- In 2021, will continue applying safety protocols, compliance monitoring program, and remediation steps instituted in 2020

**Process improvements (in progress)**
- Enhanced communications, such as an email communication about health and safety protocols to examinees with upcoming test dates
- Allowing personal hand sanitizer bottles in the test room (upon inspection)
- Under investigation: additional protections, influenced by current and emerging information
2021 Testing Year
### 2021 US Score Release Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Date</th>
<th>Score Release</th>
<th>Test Date</th>
<th>Score Release</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 21, 2021</td>
<td>February 24, 2021</td>
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<td>August 3, 2021</td>
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<td>January 25, 2021</td>
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<td>August 24, 2021</td>
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<td>September 8, 2021</td>
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<td>April 23, 2021</td>
<td>May 25, 2021</td>
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<td>September 14, 2021</td>
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<td>May 1, 2021</td>
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<td>May 15, 2021</td>
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<td>May 20, 2021</td>
<td>June 22, 2021</td>
<td>September 3, 2021</td>
<td>October 5, 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 28, 2021</td>
<td>June 29, 2021</td>
<td>September 10, 2021</td>
<td>October 12, 2021</td>
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<td>June 4, 2021</td>
<td>July 7, 2021</td>
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<td>October 12, 2021</td>
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<td>June 18, 2021</td>
<td>July 20, 2021</td>
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</table>

Click to view 2021 Canadian Score Release Dates
AAMC Fee Assistance Program

The AAMC’s Fee Assistance Program helps those with financial need. It defrays the cost of preparing for and taking the MCAT exam and applying to medical school.

Eligibility

• Expanded eligibility for students with incomes up to 4 times the poverty level. AAMC increased approvals for the program by 76%

• Implemented a reconsideration process for examinees who previously applied to the program

• U.S. citizen, lawful permanent resident, DACA recipient, granted refugee/asylum status or person awaiting refugee or asylee status approval by the U.S. government and have a U.S. Employment Authorization Document (EAD card)

• Approval tied to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' poverty level guidelines

• Parental information required

(Deadlines: Application closes on December 17, 2020 and reopens in February 2021.)
AAMC Fee Assistance Program

MCAT Benefits
• Reduced registration fees
• Access to all 15 online AAMC MCAT Official Prep Products
• Stipend for updated evaluation for accommodations

Additional Benefits
• AMCAS application submission fee waiver (up to 20 schools)
• Complimentary access to the Medical School Admission Requirements website
MCAT Registration
Registration Dates: 2021 Testing Year

- **November 10, 2020**
  - January–March test dates

- **February 2021 (Date TBD)**
  - April–June test dates

- **May 2021 (Date TBD)**
  - July–September test dates
2020 Fall Registration

Preregistration: November 2, 2020 at 12:00 PM ET

- Students can complete required information in the MCAT Registration System
  - Contact information
  - Background
  - Agree to Terms
  - Examinees aren’t rushed
  - Test Center Location Availability Tool

- Pre-registration will end on November 9 at 5:00 PM ET

Registration: November 10, 2020 at 12:00 PM ET

- Students can select test date and location
- Implemented enhanced waiting room feature to improve the registration experience
# Registration Fees

Rescheduling and cancellation fees are waived for January and March dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base Registration Fee</td>
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<td>Reschedule Fee</td>
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<td>Cancellation Refund</td>
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<td>International Fee**</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fee Assistance International Fee**</td>
<td>$115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**These fees are in addition to the initial registration fee and are non-refundable upon registration cancellation. [MCAT Scheduling Fees webpage](#)
## MCAT Essentials: More than Required Reading

### Registration Essentials
- How to register, reschedule, cancel
- Policies for deadlines, fees, and refunds
- Test attempt limits

### Test Day Essentials
- Defining an MCAT-Accepted ID and instructions on providing it properly on test day
- Test day procedures and rules
- Violations and investigations

### Post Exam Essentials
- Sending and receiving scores
- Reporting test day anomalies

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How Often Can Students Test?

1 YEAR
- Up to 3 attempts in a testing year

2 YEARS
- Up to 4 attempts over 2 consecutive years

LIFETIME
- Up to 7 attempts in a lifetime

Voids and No-Shows count towards attempts
Testing with Accommodations

The AAMC is committed to providing all individuals with an opportunity to demonstrate their proficiency on the MCAT exam, including ensuring access to persons with disabilities.

- About 1.5% test with accommodations

- Commonly provided accommodations include:
  - Extra testing time
  - Extra break time
  - Separate testing rooms

- MCAT Accommodations Online System (MAO)
  - Allows examinees to submit applications and documentation online for secure and efficient processing
  - Stores all decision letters for easy access in the future

aamc.org/mcataccommodations
accommodations@aamc.org
Test Day
### Test Day: 7 ½ Hours

**Start Times:** 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Section</th>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test Day Certification Statement</td>
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<td>4 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorial (optional)</td>
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<td>10 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>95 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Break (optional)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>90 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Exam Break (optional)</td>
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<td>30 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>95 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>Break (optional)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior</td>
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<td>95 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>Void Question</td>
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<td>3 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>Satisfaction Survey (optional)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Approximate &quot;Seat&quot; Time</strong></td>
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<td>7 hrs, 30 min</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Health & Safety Protocols

- Requiring the use of face masks for all staff and MCAT examinees. (Anyone who does not comply with the policy will be removed from the test center.)
- Limiting the number of people in each MCAT test session.
- Observing social distancing between individuals in the testing room.
- Approving the use of gloves while testing (upon inspection).
- Allowing personal hand sanitizer bottles in the test room (upon inspection).
- Having hand sanitizer available during testing. Examinees will be asked to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before they enter the testing room.
- Cleaning and disinfecting regimens in between all testing appointments and throughout the day.
- Requiring examinees to acknowledge that they meet the below requirements and that they will follow health and safety guidelines while testing by providing their signature on the e-pad during check-in.
- Utilizing clear sneeze guards to create a barrier between test center staff and examinees during check in.
Monitoring Health and Safety

• End-of-day survey for every examinee
• Secret shopping program
• Confidential reporting system for examinees
• Follow up and develop remediation plans for test centers that do not adhere to protocols
What is an MCAT-Accepted ID?

Expired Identification will not be permitted for 2021.

Examinees should plan appropriately to update prior to the Bronze zone deadlines.
Check-In Policies

- Digital identification authentication
- Palm vein scans
- Electronic signatures
- Digital device bag
Examinee Agreement

Why it’s important?
• Protects integrity of the Exam
• Ensures MCAT scores are reliable and valid, and ensures a fair registration process

Examples of previous violations?
• Using unauthorized materials
• Proxy testing
• Posting test content online

What can happen?
• Cancelled scores
• Report sent to schools
• Registration privileges suspended
Discussing the MCAT Exam

Guidelines for Discussing the MCAT Exam

The AAMC has developed these guidelines to help examinees understand the terms under which you sit for the MCAT exam, the prohibition on disclosure of exam content, and how to appropriately share your exam experience.

When you sit for the MCAT exam, you must agree to the Examinee Agreement, which is essentially a non-disclosure and terms of use agreement for the exam. The text of the agreement is provided in the MCAT Essentials, which is required reading for all examinees. The agreement includes examples of prohibited conduct and the steps that AAMC will take to investigate any suspected violations.

In short, this means that when you discuss the MCAT exam:

You may comment on your general exam experience such as test center conditions or how you felt about a particular section, such as the biological sciences section.

You may NOT:

- Describe any passage or exam topic, question, incorrect response, correct answer, or graphic in greater or more specific detail than described in the What’s on the MCAT Exam interactive tool. This includes discussing or disclosing a topic list or describing the frequency or order in which such topics appear.
- Outline the steps or process to answer a question.
- Speculate about which passages are field-test or experimental items.
- Assist anyone else in doing any of the above.

While you may read or hear other guidelines that are not consistent with these statements, keep in mind that the information on this page comes directly from the AAMC and is meant to help you share your MCAT experience without violating the Examinee Agreement.

Click to read Guidelines for Discussing the MCAT Exam
AAMC MCAT Official Preparation Products & Resources

aamc.org/mcatprep
AAMC MCAT Official Preparation Products & Resources

Free Study Resources

Planning

Practice

- Content Outline, Road Maps, Study Plan guide
- >1000 videos and 3000 questions in the Khan Academy’s MCAT collection
Online Study Plan Guide Enhancements

- Progress Points
- New navigation pane with a Resources tab and Search feature
- Editable spreadsheets
AAMC MCAT Official Preparation Products & Resources

**FREE**
1. AAMC® MCAT® Official Prep Sample Test
2. AAMC® MCAT® Official Prep Practice Exams

**NEW**
1. AAMC® MCAT® Official Prep Section Bank
2. AAMC® MCAT® Official Prep Online Flashcards
3. AAMC® MCAT® Official Prep CARS Diagnostic Tool

- **October:** 15 online practice exams, question packs, section banks
- MCAT Official Prep CARS Diagnostic Tool
  - Video walkthroughs by a cognitive scientist on her approach to reading and answering two passage sets
  - 28 passage sets with 169 items
  - Strategies to help examinees improve critical analysis and reasoning skills
Premed Resources

Aspiring Docs
Find resources and inspiration to help you get started on your path to medicine. Subscribe here.

Premed Navigator
Get important information, resources, and tips to help you on your path to medical school—delivered right to your inbox each month. Subscribe here.

AAMC Minority Student Medical Career Fair
Friday, November 20, 2020
Cost: FREE
Register here
Advisors’ Corner sign up here

AAMC Virtual Fair
Date TBD

Premed Resources
aamc.org/premedresources

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AAMC Resources for Advisors

aamc.org/advisors
Advisor Hub

- MCAT percentiles
- MCAT test preparation resources
- Test day resources
- MCAT data and research
- Access the Advisor Information System and other pre-med resources
- Sign up to receive the Fall Mailing Email advisors@aamc.org
30% Discount on AAMC Test Preparation Products

- Prehealth advisors receive 30% off all online practice products and *The Official Guide to the MCAT® Exam*.
- Visit the AAMC Store [MCAT Resources for Prehealth Advisors](#) page for more information.
- New advisor? Complete the Contact Form or call AAMC Store at **202-828-0416** to receive the discount before purchasing.
E: advisors@aamc.org
W: aamc.org/advisors
T: 202-828-0950

W: aamc.org/mcat
T: 202-828-0600
Q&A Session

To Submit Questions
• Submit a question in the Q&A box at the bottom of the screen

Technical Support
• Email aamc@commpartners.com

AAMC Prehealth Advisor
• Email MCATAdvisors@aamc.org
Thank you!