Getting Students Ready to Take the MCAT Exam: Updates and Insights from the AAMC MCAT Program

NAAHP National Meeting 2022

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June 16, 2022
Agenda

• 2022 Testing Year Overview
• Preparing Students for the MCAT Exam
• Resources
• Q&A
2022 Testing Year
MCAT Examinee Highlights

- About 85K individuals test each year
- Approximately 1.5% test with accommodations
- About 10% are AAMC Fee Assistance recipients
- More than 90% take coursework in biochemistry, intro bio, chemistry, and physics, and organic chemistry
- More than half use MCAT Khan Academy resources and about 40% take a preparation course

www.aamc.org/newmcatguide
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The 2022 testing year goes from January through September

- 30 exam dates
- One administration a day (8:00 a.m. start time)
  - Double administrations on 3 dates at the end of the summer
- 30-35-day score reporting
- Rescheduling and cancellation policies and fees
- Monitoring pandemic conditions; health and safety protocols will be evaluated
2022 U.S. Testing Calendar and Score Release Dates

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Registration is Open for All Dates

Reminder!

Registration is open until 10 days before each test date.

Reschedule and cancel exams keeping in mind the last test date of the year is Sept. 10.
Scheduling Policies and Resources
MCAT Scheduling Tips for your Students

Testing Limits

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

Retesting Data
• 10% of students retest in a single year and 38% of examinees retest overall
• On average examinees increase 2-3 points
• Still variability in scores on retake attempts
MCAT Scheduling Tips for Your Students

• Available Appointment Notification Request
  • Helps examinees secure preferred test date and location if it becomes available
  • Can have up to 5 notification requests

• When possible, reschedule/cancel an exam early
  • Helps students who are on the notification lists secure exam appointments
Frequently Asked Questions about MCAT Scores in AMCAS

Students applying through AMCAS do not need an MCAT score to submit their application.

Students should include their exam date in the application.

Scores automatically transmit to schools.

www.aamc.org/mcatsrs
Student Resources
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**

Each household reported on the application has a 2021 total family income that is 400 percent or less than the 2021 national poverty level for that family size.

**New** - The Fee Assistance Program is open to everyone with a U.S.-based address.

**New** - Parental information required for students under age 26.

Benefits begin on the date of approval and expire on Dec. 31 of the following year.
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
• Registration is free for PREview
MCAT Resources for Students

Learn about policies and test day
www.aamc.org/mcat

Webinar overview of the testing year
www.aamc.org/premedresources

When is the Right Time to Take the MCAT Exam?
www.aamc.org/premednavigator
MCAT Validity Committee
Medical school admissions officers, faculty, and prehealth advisors work together to evaluate the MCAT exam
What do we know so far about the value of MCAT scores in predicting students’ likely performance in medical school?

- MCAT scores strongly predict medical student performance in preclerkship and clerkship courses, and scores from USMLE licensure exams (Step 1 and Step 2 CK).
  - Some students perform better in medical school than their MCAT scores predict, and others perform less well.
- MCAT scores predict performance better than undergraduate GPAs.
  - Together, they provide better prediction than either academic metric alone.
- Students with a wide range of MCAT scores and undergraduate GPAs pass the USMLE licensure exams (Step 1 and Step 2 CK) on the first attempt and graduate in four years.
- MCAT scores provide comparable prediction for students from different sociodemographic backgrounds
  - Students with different backgrounds, admitted with same MCAT score, have similar outcomes in med school

Hanson, Joshua T. MD, MPH; Busche, Kevin MD; Elks, Martha L. MD, PhD; Jackson-Williams, Loretta E. MD, PhD; Liotta, Robert A. MD; Miller, Chad MD; Morris, Cindy A. PhD; Thiessen, Barton MD; Yuan, Kun PhD. The Validity of MCAT Scores in Predicting Students’ Performance and Progress in Medical School: Results from a Multisite Study, Acad. Med: May 24, 2022 - Volume - Issue - 10.1097/ACM.0000000000004754
doi: 10.1097/ACM.0000000000004754

Outreach and Resource Development Expansions

**Study Plan Guide**
- Learning specialist designed
- Step-by-step guide
- Learning and study strategies

**“How to Prepare” Webinars**
- Overview of free resources and how to get started
- Delivered to more than 1,000 students
- SHPEP collaboration

**Med Student Tips to Prepare**
- 3 first-year medical students
- Tips, learning and study strategies, inspiration
- More than 600 attendees
Preparing Students for the MCAT Exam
AAMC MCAT Official Prep Products & Resources

- 15 online products + discounted bundles
- Fee Assistance Program recipients receive all online products
- Free resources: Content Outline, Sample Test, Study Plan guide
- >1000 videos and 3000 questions in the Khan Academy’s MCAT Collection
- Prehealth advisors receive 30% off all MCAT Official Prep products - aamc.org/mcatadvisor

www.aamc.org/mcatprep
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Growing portfolio of preparation products and resources

- Practice Exam 4
- Online Flashcards
- Online Study Plan Guide
- Expanded FAP
- Platform UX enhancements

- CARS Diagnostic Tool
- Made Sample Test Free
- Road Map to CARS in Khan Academy
- Updated Road Map to MCAT Content in Soc/Psychology
- Implemented Survey Strategy

- Developed rationales for all 4 options in Practice Exam 1 and the Sample Test
- Expanded our relationship with Khan Academy and linked to lessons from the Sample Test
- Created video walkthroughs for the Sample Test
- Launched MCAT Prep Webinars
- Started a YouTube Playlist

2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021

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Continuous research and feedback loops inform MCAT prep product development

Ad hoc studies
• Usability Study
• AAMC Learner Feedback Panel

UI/UX feature enhancements

Leveraging existing channels
• Post-MCAT Questionnaire
• End of Day Survey
• Landscape analysis
• Usage data

New product development
Continuous research and feedback loops inform MCAT prep product development

Survey strategy

“The CARS walkthroughs made the whole difference for me, following the strategy that the teacher used, my CARS scores have significantly improved.”

"These walk-through videos are extremely helpful, I wish there are more videos! "

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Focusing on free resource development and guidance

UI/UX Enhancements
• What’s on the MCAT Exam Content Outline
• Online Study Plan Guide
• New features in the MCAT Official Prep Hub and MCAT Prep products

Outreach Efforts
• Emphasizing the importance of creating a study plan and delivering more webinars
• How I used the Khan Academy to Prepare (student videos)
Coming soon...

Announcements for this year’s enhancements coming soon.

In the meantime, we want your feedback. Scan the QR code to take a brief survey on MCAT Preparation resources.

Stop by and visit us at the AAMC booth during the Health Professions Fair on Saturday.
Resources
Advisor Hub at www.aamc.org/advisors

- 30% discount on all MCAT Official Prep resources
- Resources on MCAT scores, data and research, recorded webinars
- Downloadable MSAR Reports on Medical school programs and requirements, including MCAT policies: www.aamc.org/msarreports
- And more on FIRST, AMCAS, and the Advisor Information System
Premed Resources

Premed Resources

We have created this collection to enable any advisor or student to access our most requested Premed materials.

The AAMC is dedicated to providing resources to aspiring physicians and advisors that will assist in guiding students on their journey to medical school. While working remotely, our outreach teams do not have access to any printed materials or mailing facilities.

Premed Webinars
Watch webinars containing resources, guidance, and tips about the AAMC's services (SHPEP, FAP, FIRST, MCAT, AMCAS) to help you conquer the medical school application process.

Choosing a Medical Career
Are you challenged with deciding whether a career in medicine is right for you? Check out the AAMC’s premed resources to learn about medically related experiences, preparing for the application process, and get inspired by personal stories from medical students, residents, and physicians.

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

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

www.aamc.org/premedresources

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Prehealth Advisors

As a prehealth advisor, you have a critical role in guiding your students on their individual paths to medical school. The AAMC provides accurate, reliable resources and tools on medical school admission requirements, financial aid, the application process, and more, to support you in providing the best guidance to your students.

Contact Us

E: mcatadvisors@aamc.org
W: aamc.org/advisors
T: 202-828-0950
Upcoming AAMC Presentations at NAAHP

Reinvigorating the System of Pre-Health Advising to Increase Diversity in Medicine

Friday, June 17
9:30 a.m. (Plaza Court 7)

Everything you Need to Know to Help Your Students Prepare for the 2022 AAMC PREview™ professional readiness exam

Sunday, June 19
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. (Plaza Ballroom Full)
Questions
Thank you!