Everything you need to know about the MCAT exam as a new advisor

NAAHP Regional Meetings
2023
Association of American Medical Colleges

• Represents over 150 medical schools in the United States and Canada, about 400 teaching hospitals, and nearly 80 academic societies

• Supports the mission areas of academic medicine: Medical Education, Patient Care, and Medical Research

• Supports learners throughout their medical education journey and careers

aamc.org
whatstartshere.aamc.org
Agenda

• About the MCAT® exam
• MCAT® scores
• MCAT® preparation resources
• Registration, scheduling, and exam day
• Resources
• Q&A
About the MCAT Exam
The MCAT Exam

Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)

- Standardized, multiple-choice
- Required by almost all U.S. & many Canadian medical schools

- Assesses:
  - Problem solving and reasoning
  - Critical thinking
  - Knowledge of scientific concepts
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems</td>
<td>59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skills Section</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills Section</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior Section</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Concepts Tested can be Found in…

- Introductory Biology, Physics, Psychology and Sociology
- General Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry
- Biochemistry
How is the exam organized

4 Skills Demonstrated

- Knowledge of Scientific Principles
- Scientific Reasoning and Problem-Solving
- Reasoning about the Design and Execution of Research
- Data-Based Statistical Reasoning
Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills

- Tests reasoning & comprehension
- Passages from humanities & social science disciplines:
  - Philosophy
  - Ethics
  - Population health
  - Studies of diverse cultures

*No disciplinary knowledge required*
MCAT Scores
MCAT score report

- Scores are received 30-35 days after test day
- Accessed through the MCAT Score Reporting System
- Can submit application before taking the exam by indicating test date in AMCAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Confidence Band</th>
<th>Percentile Rank of Score</th>
<th>Score Profile</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>123 - 125</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>122 - 124</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>126 - 128</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>126 - 128</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCAT Total Score</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>499 - 503</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
MCAT Preparation for Students
MCAT Official Prep Resources

- Study Plan Guide, Preparing for the MCAT Exam Webinars, Content Outline, Road Maps
- >1000 videos and 3000 questions in the Khan Academy’s MCAT collection

www.aamc.org/mcatprep
MCAT Official Prep Resources

- Online Bundle with all 14 online products
  - 6 full-length practice exams
  - 8 question sets
  - Discounted pricing for students and advisors
  - Free for Fee Assistance awardees

- Free Sample Test (unscored)
- Free Practice Exam (scored)

MCAT Official Prep Resources

AAMC MCAT® Official Prep Free Sample Test

AAMC MCAT® Official Prep Free Practice Exam

AAMC MCAT® Official Prep Online-Only Bundle

Free Sample Test
Free Practice Exam
Online Bundle with all 14 online products
30% Discount on Preparation Products

- Prehealth advisors receive **30% off** all online practice products and *The Official Guide to the MCAT® Exam*.
- New advisor? Complete the Contact Form to receive the discount before purchasing.

[www.aamc.org/mcatadvisors](http://www.aamc.org/mcatadvisors)
Prepare a Mock Exam Day

• Reserve a quiet room

• Computer and internet connection for each student

• One full-length practice exam for each student

www.aamc.org/mcatavisors
Registration and Scheduling
Review the MCAT Testing Calendar

MCAT testing year runs January – September (30 dates)
Selecting a date

- When do they want to apply to medical school?
- Will they want to leave the option for retesting?
- Do they understand and feel comfortable with the content tested?
Applying for AAMC Fee Assistance

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.

Deadlines
• Application is open now.
• Typically opens in February and closes in December.

Eligibility
• Open to everyone with a U.S.-based address can apply.
• Family household income must be 400 percent or less than the 2022 national poverty level for that family size.

Important to Know!
• Parental information required for students under age 26
• Benefits are not retroactive. Apply at least 10 days in advance of when a student plans to use the benefits
• Benefits are good from date of approval and expire the next calendar on Dec. 31.

www.aamc.org/fap
Applying for AAMC Fee Assistance

Benefits

• Reduced MCAT registration fees
• Access to all 15 online AAMC MCAT Official Prep Products
• Stipend for updated evaluation for MCAT accommodations
• AMCAS application submission fee waiver (up to 20 schools)
• Complimentary access to the Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR) website
• Registration is free for PREview

www.aamc.org/fap
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

accommodations@aamc.org
Registration is open for all dates in 2023

We host an annual webinar at the start of each testing year.

**Important to Know**
- Last testing date in 2023 is September 10.
- Students can’t reschedule into the next testing year.
- Rescheduling and cancellation fees apply.

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**Annual MCAT Webinar for Prehealth Advisors**
September 29, 2022

Moderator:
Jennifer Antonio, Senior Director, MCAT Business Operations

Speakers:
Katherine Ford, Manager of MCAT Administration
Kara Gwaltney, Director of MCAT Security
Lauren Bauser, Product Manager Director of MCAT Preparation

Click to watch the webinar recording.
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

In 2022, over 20% of appointments were made through "Notify Me."
Considerations for retaking the MCAT exam

There are 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

How well do students do when they retest?
- 10% of students retest in a single year and 38% of examinees retest overall
- Generally, examinees increase 2-4 points
- Still variability in scores on retake attempts

www.aamc.org/newmcatguide
Test Day
Test Day

- 7 ½ hours
- 8:00 a.m. start
- 3 optional breaks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Overview</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test-day certification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Break (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-exam break (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Break (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Void question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End-of-day survey (optional)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total content time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total “seated” time*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total seated time does not include check-in time upon arrival at the test center.
Test day reminders

- Read the MCAT Essentials
- Understand and Honor the Examinee Agreement
- MCAT Accepted ID
- Understand Test Center Rules
- Registered name must match MCAT-Accepted ID!
AAMC Resources for Advisors and Students
Advisor Hub at www.aamc.org/advisors

- 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
- Sign up for the monthly advisor newsletter (https://students-residents.aamc.org/prehealth-advisors/pre-health-advisors-be-added-our-mailing-list)
- FACTS (national applicant/matriculant data)
- And more on FIRST, AMCAS, and the Advisor Information System
Resources on content, policies, and scores

aamc.org/mcatprep

aamc.org/mcat

aamc.org/mcatadmissions
Premed Resources

- Webinars
- Career Info
- Financing
- Application
- Premed Events Calendar

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.

aamc.org/premedresources
Questions

Contact Us
E: mcatadvisors@aamc.org
W: aamc.org/advisors
   aamc.org/mcat
T: 202-828-0950
Thank you!