

MEDICAL COLLEGE ADMISSION TEST

What is the MCAT?

The Medical College Admission Test® (MCAT®) is a standardized, multiple-choice examination designed to assess the examinee's problem solving, critical thinking, and knowledge of natural, behavioral, and social science concepts and principles prerequisite to the study of medicine. The overall length of the computer-based test is seven and one-half hours, including time for breaks and other test-day activities.

How many times can I take the MCAT? Is it expensive?

The MCAT can be taken up to 3 times per calendar year, 4 times within a 2-consecutive-year period, or 7 times in a lifetime. Multiple sets of exam scores are handled differently depending upon the institution; for more information, visit the website for the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) at www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat. Rollins students interested in applying for graduate programs in any of the health-related fields can find more information on the Rollins Pre-Health Professions Advising website: <http://www.rollins.edu/prehealth/index.html>. The fee for each MCAT registration is \$300 and covers the examination as well as distribution of scores.

What can I expect to see on the MCAT?

MCAT has four multiple choice sections.

1. Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems (95 minutes), includes 59 questions:

- 25% first semester biochemistry
- 65% introductory biology
- 5% general chemistry
- 5% organic chemistry

2. Chemical and Physical Foundations of Living Systems (95 minutes), includes 59 questions:

- 25% first semester biochemistry
- 5% introductory biology
- 30% general chemistry
- 15% organic chemistry
- 25% introductory physics

3. Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior (95 minutes), includes 59 questions:

- 65% introductory psychology
- 30% introductory sociology
- 5% introductory biology

4. Critical Analyses and Reasoning Skills (90 minutes), includes 53 questions:

- Similar to other verbal reasoning assessments, this section includes short (500-600 word) passages
- Questions guide the process of comprehending, analyzing, and reasoning about passage content

Where and when do I take the test?

The MCAT is administered at Prometric Testing Centers. Testing centers have limited capacity. For the best chance of reserving your preferred date and location, it is recommended that you register at least 60 days in advance. To register, visit the AAMC website at <https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/register/> or the Prometric Testing Center website at www.prometric.com.

Take the MCAT in the calendar year prior to the year you plan to enter medical school.

How is the MCAT scored?

Five scores are received, one from each of the four sections plus one combined score. Scores are scaled and equated; raw scores are converted to a scale according to item difficulty. Section scores are 118-132; the aggregate score is 472-528.

When are scores available?

Typically, scores are available 30-35 days after your test date through the AAMC score reporting system.

How do I prepare for the MCAT?

AAMC recommends a multi-pronged approach to preparing for the MCAT.

- Visit the MCAT website to review the information available in the *Prepare for the MCAT Exam* section. The site includes *What's on the MCAT2015 Exam?* resources.
- Purchase *The Official Guide to the MCAT Exam* for statistics, tips, and 120 practice questions that simulate actual MCAT items.
- Review relevant course outlines, notes, and textbooks, particularly in the sciences.
- After studying the material available online and reviewing course materials, try taking one or more of the official MCAT Practice Tests. This will help you to determine the areas in which you may need further study. When you take a practice test, try to replicate an actual testing environment as closely as possible: minimize distractions and time yourself.
- Take the free practice test available online at www.e-mcat.com.

What are some good study strategies and test-taking tips?

- Practice test questions under timed conditions so that you can acclimate to the pace of the test.
- Review the testing policies and understand how the computer-based test works.
- Take a free Practice Exam each semester! Sign up through Handshake or by visiting the Center for Career & Life Planning.
- Do not spend too much time on any one question.
- Leave no question unanswered. Nothing is subtracted from your score if you answer a question incorrectly, so give it your best shot!
- Get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast before arriving at the test center.

