

## MCAT<sup>2015</sup>: Medical College Admissions Test

Compiled from the AAMC's MCAT<sup>2015</sup> website (<https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/mcat2015/>), AAMC's *Preview Guide for the MCAT<sup>2015</sup> Exam (Second Edition)*, and AAMC's *Official Guide to the MCAT Exam (2015 Exam)*, Fourth Edition

**Overview:** The MCAT is changing to keep up with rapid advances in science, transformations in the health care system, and diversifying populations. Tomorrow's doctors need to be prepared for these changes, and the MCAT<sup>2015</sup> will help shape what students will need to know before, and when they are in medical school. The MCAT<sup>2015</sup> will be administered starting Spring 2015.

Unlike the current MCAT, which builds questions from a standard set of courses, the MCAT<sup>2015</sup> will build questions from a set of competencies, which are concepts that students need to know and skills they need to perform. In addition to courses, students can acquire these competencies in many ways, including independent study or life experience. The MCAT<sup>2015</sup> competencies are listed in the *Preview Guide for the MCAT<sup>2015</sup>*, and it is each student's responsibility to ensure they have met the competencies before taking the exam.

### I. Anatomy of the MCAT<sup>2015</sup>:

Including content time and breaks, the MCAT requires 7½ hours to complete, including a lunch break. There are a total of four timed sections consisting of 255 multiple-choice questions.

#### **Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems**

Time: 95 minutes

Format: 67 Items

What it tests: Use of foundational concepts in the biological and biochemical sciences as well as scientific inquiry, reasoning, and research and statistics skills to solve problems that demonstrate readiness for medical school.

Preparatory Courses: BIOL 171/L, BIOL 172/L, BIOL 275/L, CHEM 161/L, CHEM 162/L, CHEM 272/L, CHEM 273/L, MATH 140+, BIOL 402/BIOC 441, research methods and statistics

#### **Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems**

Time: 95 minutes

Format: 67 Items

What it tests: Use of foundational concepts in the chemical and physical sciences as well as scientific inquiry, reasoning, and research and statistics skills to solve problems that demonstrate readiness for medical school.

Preparatory Courses: BIOL 171/L, BIOL 172/L, CHEM 161/L, CHEM 162/L, CHEM 272/L, CHEM 273/L, PHYS 151/L or PHYS 170/L, PHYS 152/L or PHYS 272/L, MATH 140+, BIOL 402/BIOC 441, research methods and statistics

#### **Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior**

Time: 95 minutes

Format: 67 Items

What it tests: Knowledge and use of the concepts in psychology, sociology, biology, research methods, and statistics that provide a solid foundation for learning in medical school about the behavioral and socio-cultural determinants of health and health outcomes.

Preparatory Courses: PSY 100, SOC 100, BIOL 171/L, BIOL 172/L, MATH 140+, research methods and statistics

## **Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills**

Time: 90 minutes

Format: 60 Items

What it tests: Critical analysis of information from a wide range of social sciences and humanities disciplines, including ethics and philosophy, cultural studies, and population health.

Preparatory Courses: ENG 100+, courses in the social sciences and humanities that require extensive reading and writing

### **II. Scoring:**

- Each of the four sections will be scored from a low of 118 to a high of 132, with a midpoint of 125. Scores for the four sections will be combined to create a total score. The total score will range from 472 to 528 with a midpoint of 500.
- For example, if an examinee scores 125 on the Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems section; 127 on the Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills section; 128 on the Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems section; and 129 on the Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior section, the total score will be **509**.
- For more information on how the MCAT<sup>2015</sup> exam will be scored, please visit the following link: <https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/mcat2015/admins/scores/>
- Since the MCAT<sup>2015</sup> is still in development and has not yet been administered, information on average scores for examinees and applicants as well as what scores are competitive for medical school admissions are currently not available.

### **III. Score Availability:** not available

### **IV. Test Format:**

The MCAT<sup>2015</sup> will be a Computer-Based Test (CBT).

### **V. Test Dates:** not available

### **VI. Test Registration:** not available

### **VII. Official Test Prep Material:**

To help students prepare for the MCAT<sup>2015</sup>, the AAMC will provide the following test-prep materials:

*Preview Guide for the MCAT<sup>2015</sup> (Second Edition)*, available now

*The Official Guide to MCAT<sup>2015</sup> Exam*, available in 2014

Practice exam on the AAMC website (available in 2014, one more available in 2015)

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Hours of Operation:  
MTRF: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (E.T.)  
W: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (E.T.)