**Overview:** Adding administrative and break time, the PCAT requires over 4 hours. There are a total of six timed sections consisting of 232 multiple-choice questions and one writing topic.

1. **Anatomy of the PCAT:**
   I. **Verbal Ability**
      - **Time:** 25 minutes
      - **Format:** 40 multiple-choice questions
      - **What it Tests:** General, non-scientific word knowledge using analogies (62%) and sentence completion (38%)
      - **Preparatory Courses:** English, English Literature, or courses that require Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences, or Social Sciences
   
   II. **Biology**
      - **Time:** 35 minutes
      - **Format:** 48 multiple-choice questions
      - **What it Tests:** The knowledge of the concepts and principles of general biology (50%) with an emphasis on human anatomy/physiology (30%) and microbiology (20%)
      - **Preparatory Courses:** BIOL 171/L & BIOL 172/L, MICR 130/140L or higher, PHYL 141/L & PHYL 142/L or higher
   
   III. **Chemistry**
      - **Time:** 35 minutes
      - **Format:** 48 multiple-choice questions
      - **What it Tests:** The knowledge of the concepts and principles of general chemistry (50%), organic chemistry (30%), and basic biochemistry processes (20%)
      - **Preparatory Courses:** MATH 140, CHEM 161/L & CHEM 162/L, CHEM 272/L & CHEM 273/L
   
   IV. **Reading Comprehension**
      - **Time:** 50 minutes
      - **Format:** 48 multiple-choice questions; 6 passages followed by 6-9 questions each
      - **What it Tests:** The ability of the student to comprehend, analyze, and evaluate passages.
      - **Preparatory Courses:** English, English Literature, or courses that require Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences, or Social Sciences
   
   V. **Quantitative Ability**
      - **Time:** 45 minutes
      - **Format:** 48 multiple-choice questions, presented in word-problem scenarios
      - **What it Tests:** Skills in arithmetic processes, including fractions, decimals, and percentages, and the ability to reason through and understand quantitative concepts and their relationships, including applications of algebra, probability and statistics, pre-calculus, and calculus.
      - **Preparatory Courses:** MATH 140 & MATH 215 or 241, Statistics
   
   VI. **Writing**
      - **Time:** 30 minutes
      - **Format:** Presents a prompt, or topic stating a problem that you will be asked to address by proposing a solution in an original essay.
      - **What it Tests:** Conventions of language and problem solving.
      - **Preparatory Courses:** Composition and Writing Intensive.
2. Scoring:
   o Each PCAT section is scored on a scale ranging from 200 to 600, with 600 being the highest. For each PCAT administration, the mean scaled scores are approximately 400 for each section.
   o The writing section is scored on a scale of 1.0-6.0, with 6.0 being the highest. Each writing score represents an average of scores assigned by two evaluators.
   o All multiple-choice questions are worth the same amount—one raw point—so there is no penalty for guessing *(That means you should always fill in an answer for every question, whether or not you get to that question!)*
   o Percentiles are based on the scores of first time test takers averaged over the past three years.
   o A score of 450 is considered competitive for most Pharmacy schools; top schools usually require scores above 450. You should research admission requirements for the schools to which you plan to apply.

3. Score Availability:
   o Your scored report will tell you—and your potential Pharmacy schools—not only your scaled scores, but also your percentile ranking for each of the five multiple-choice subtests, as well as a composite score for the combined multiple-choice subtests.
   o You will receive an unofficial preliminary multiple-choice score report immediately after completing the exam.
   o Your official score transcripts will be sent to your designated institutions via the U.S. Postal Service and your personal Score Report will become available online within five weeks following the test date, and will remain online for one year.

4. Test Format:
   - Computer-Based Testing (CBT)

5. Test Dates:
   - For the 2014-2015 testing cycle, the PCAT will be administered at Pearson VUE Test Centers on one or more dates during the months of July, September, October, November, and January.

6. Test Registration:
   - To register for the PCAT, visit www.PCATweb.info and use the Registration tab.
   - Registration Fee: $199
   - Within 24 hours after your registration is received, you will receive an email notice with information about accessing your Registration Confirmation and how to schedule your seat.

7. Official Test Prep Material: *Practice Exams* on PCAT website

**Pearson VUE Contact Information**

**Main Office**
Phone: 866-508-8836 or 800-622-3231 or Fax: 210-339-8710
Email: Scoring.Services@Pearson.com
Website: www.pearsonvue.com/pcat

**Oahu Branch**
Pearson Professional Centers – Honolulu HI
1441 Kapiolani Blvd, Suite 204
Honolulu, HI 96814
Phone: 808-944-5057

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