

PCAT

OVERVIEW

In recent years pharmacy schools have shifted their teaching focus away from an information heavy curriculum to one that is concept-based. The first year of pharmacy school is still a frenzied experience for most students. By taking the Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT®) it measures the abilities, aptitudes, and skills that students will utilize during pharmacy schools which will translate in to being a successful pharmacist.

Test Sections

Critical Reading	Writing
In pharmacy school, you will have to make sense of dense, unfamiliar prose. During the Reading Comprehension section, you will have 50 minutes to read 6 passages and answer 48 multiple-choice questions.	You will be asked to complete one scored Writing section on the PCAT– at the beginning of the exam. The Writing section is 30 minutes long and consists of a single prompt that will test your knowledge of language conventions and your problem-solving skills
Types of questions you will see...	Writing task will test you on...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehension (30%) • Analysis (40%) • Evaluation (30%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conventions of language • Problem Solving
Preparatory Courses: English, English Literature, or courses that require Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences, or Social Sciences.	Preparatory Courses: English composition, writing intensive and analytical writing courses in English, Philosophy, and other humanities and social sciences.

Quantitative Ability	Biology	Chemistry
Designed to test students ability to reason quantitatively. The goal of this section is to test their ability to apply given information, think logically, and draw conclusions.	Students will have to answer 48 questions relating to biology and its other disciplines. There will also be two 150-300 word passages, each with four associated questions, presented during the Biology section.	Students will have to answer 48 questions relating to chemistry and its other disciplines. With the multiple choice questions, students will also have two 150-300 word passages, each with four associated questions, presented during the Chemistry section.
Types of questions you will see...	Types of questions you will see...	Writing task you will be tested on...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Math (25%) • Algebra (25%) • Probability and Statistics (18%) • Pre-Calculus (18%) • Calculus (14%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Biology (50%) • Microbiology (20%) • Human Anatomy and Physiology (30%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Chemistry (50%) • Organic Chemistry (30%) • Biochemistry (20%)
Preparatory Courses: MATH 140, 241, 242	Preparatory Courses: BIOL 171/L & BIOL 172/L MICRO130/140L or higher PHYL 141/L & PHYL 142/L or higher	Preparatory Courses: MATH 140 CHEM 161/L & CHEM 162/L CHEM 272/L 7 CHEM 273/L Biochemistry 400+

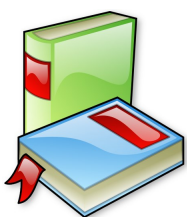
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SCORE DISTRIBUTION

Five sections will be scored from a low of 200 to a high of 600, with a midpoint of 400. The Writing section is scored differently with a low of 1 and high of 6. A score of 450 is considered competitive for most pharmacy schools.

SCORE AVAILABILITY

For examinees taking the PCAT exam will receive their official score report five weeks following their test dates. Scores will be held for five years.



TIPS FOR STUDYING WELL

- ✓ Learn as much as you can about the exam. Look on PCAT official website for more information.
- ✓ Study material covered on the exams by reviewing courses you have taken, studying guidebooks, or taking preparatory courses offered by private companies (e.g., Kaplan and Princeton Review for the PCAT).
- ✓ Take practice exams under realistic, timed conditions. The PCAT offers a sample test in a computer-based format on their website.
- ✓ Review the results of your practice exam to identify areas in which you need improvement and spend more time reviewing material in these areas. Identify tactical errors you may have made and begin to develop strategies for answering each type of question.
- ✓ Do your best the first time you take the exam. If you need to improve your scores, you can retake the exam up to 5 times, exams after that the PCAT may place a restriction on future registrations.
- ✓ Take time just before the exam to relax, get a good night's sleep, and eat a good nutritious breakfast. Scope out the exam location prior to your test day as well.



Computer Based Test



Registration Fee: \$210



Test Dates:
July, Sept-Oct, and Jan



Register a month prior to test dates.

BREAKDOWN

Test Section	Number of Questions	Time
Writing	1	30 minutes
Biological Processes	48	40 minutes
Chemical Processes	48	40 minutes
Rest Break	—	15 minutes
Critical Reading	48	50 minutes
Quantitative Ability	48	45 minutes
Total Test Time	—	3 hours and 40 minutes

RESOURCES

- ▶ [PCAT Candidate Information Booklet](#)
- ▶ [Official PCAT Sample Test](#)
- ▶ [PCAT Development and Structure](#)
- ▶ [PCAT Frequently Asked Questions](#)



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