

MCAT® Essentials for 2014 and January 2015

Required Reading

- Registration instructions
- Test-day policies
- Scoring details

...and suggestions to help you prepare for the MCAT exam, a list of contacts and online services, and other helpful information

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The MCAT® Essentials for 2014 and January 2015

Congratulations! Reading this guide is the first step in preparing yourself to take the MCAT® exam—and the first step toward a rewarding career in medicine.

The *MCAT Essentials* is the official policy and procedure guide to the MCAT exam. On the following pages, you will find fundamental information about registration, test-day policies, rules to protect the integrity of the exam, and post-test procedures. This includes a brief overview of exam content and scoring, basic suggestions to help you prepare, a list of contacts and online services, as well as other helpful information.

The information included in this guide is necessary for a smooth registration and testing experience. At the time of registration, you will be asked to certify that you have read, understand, and agree to comply with the policies and procedures contained within the *MCAT Essentials*.

If you are a returning examinee, you must read the *MCAT Essentials* guide associated with your new registration. The *MCAT Essentials* is subject to change. The version applicable to you is that which was in effect at the time of registration.

Please contact us if you have questions after reading the guide. You will find contact listings for MCAT staff and related resources in Appendix A.

All of us at the AAMC would like to wish you much success as you move forward with your career in medicine. The path you have chosen will have many challenges, but the rewards will long outweigh them.

Note: At the time of seat reservation, you must agree to all the policies and procedures contained within the MCAT Essentials.

Part 1: The Essential MCAT

The Medical College Admission Test® (MCAT®) is a standardized examination that has been part of the medical school admissions process for more than 80 years. Virtually all medical schools in the United States and many in Canada require applicants to submit recent MCAT exam scores as part of their application packet, and many health professions and graduate programs now accept MCAT scores in lieu of other standardized tests. Considering its widespread acceptance, it is no surprise that more than 85,000 students sit for the exam each year.

The MCAT exam tests examinees on the skills and knowledge medical educators and physicians have identified as key prerequisites for success in medical school and the practice of medicine. Content is divided into three scored multiple-choice sections, and one unscored multiple-choice section.

In conjunction with its member medical schools, the AAMC develops and administers the MCAT multiple times each year from late January through early September at hundreds of test sites throughout the United States and Canada, as well as selected locations throughout the world.

The AAMC owns all aspects of the exam. We may use scores for research and to create reports that summarize test takers' performance by year or population group, or other large groups. *Only you, the examinee*, may receive your individual test score and authorize its release to others.

Exam Content

The MCAT exam tests for mastery of basic concepts in biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, and physics. Additionally, it serves to assess examinees' capacity for problem solving and critical thinking. These concepts are presented in basic science courses offered at most undergraduate institutions. Typically, no advanced coursework is needed to do well on the MCAT exam.

Increasing diversity within the study of medicine is something the AAMC and our members actively promote and endeavor to advance. It is hoped that the content included and the skills tested will encourage people from broad educational backgrounds to apply, and that premedical students will be compelled to explore a wide variety of course offerings outside the natural sciences.

The four sections of the exam, in the order they appear, are:

- Physical Sciences
- Verbal Reasoning
- Biological Sciences
- Trial Section

The chart below provides an overview of the entire MCAT exam by segment.

Exam Overview		
Section	# of Questions	Time Allotted
Name Confirmation Screen		2 minutes
Examinee Agreement		10 minutes
Tutorial (optional)		10 minutes
Physical Sciences	52	70 minutes
Break (optional)		10 minutes
Verbal Reasoning	40	60 minutes
Break (optional)		10 minutes
Biological Sciences	52	70 minutes
Void Question		5 minutes
Break (optional)		10 minutes
Trial Section (optional)	32	45 minutes
Satisfaction Survey (optional)	12	10 minutes
Total Content Time		4 hours 5 minutes
Total “Seated” Time*		Approx. 5 hours 10 minutes

*Total seated time does not include check-in at the test center.

Note: Each of the three scored multiple-choice sections includes some experimental items. Experimental items, as well as questions contained in the Trial Section, do not count toward your score.

Physical Sciences

The Physical Sciences section assesses problem-solving ability in general chemistry and physics. All questions in this section are designed to evaluate your knowledge of basic physical sciences concepts and problem-solving skills.

The Physical Sciences section is divided as follows:

- Total of 52 questions
- 7 passage-based sets of questions
 - 4–7 questions per set
- 13 independent questions

Verbal Reasoning

The Verbal Reasoning section assesses your ability to understand, evaluate, and apply the information and arguments contained in each passage. Content is based in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.

The Verbal Reasoning section is divided as follows:

- Total of 40 questions
- 7 passages (approximately 600 words per passage)
 - 5–7 questions per passage

Participation in a variety of undergraduate courses in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences will enhance your performance on this section, as will familiarizing yourself with the types of critical thinking and reasoning skills these disciplines use. No advanced study is required.

Biological Sciences

The Biological Sciences section assesses problem-solving ability in the areas of biology and organic chemistry. All questions in this section are designed to evaluate your knowledge of basic biological sciences concepts and problem-solving skills.

The Biological Sciences section is divided as follows:

- Total of 52 questions
- 7 passage-based sets of questions
 - 4–7 questions per set
- 13 independent questions

Trial Section

The Trial Section is a **voluntary section** that asks you to test out questions for a future version of the MCAT exam.

The MCAT exam will change in 2015 to keep pace with changes in medical education and health care. Building the new exam will call for many new test questions. Medical schools would like your help in building the next version of the MCAT exam by answering the questions in the Trial Section.

On test day, you will have the opportunity to volunteer for the Trial Section. **It will be the last section of the test and take 45 minutes to complete.** You do not need to prepare for the Trial Section. The questions you will get are based on the answers that you provided during MCAT registration regarding the courses that you have taken. Whenever possible, the AAMC will assign questions from courses you have already completed.

You don't have to worry about not doing well, just try your best. No one will know how well you did but you—not the medical schools or your advisor. Your answers on the Trial Section will not contribute to your MCAT scores in any way. If you volunteer to participate, you will have an opportunity to preview content that medical school admissions officers want applicants to know. You also will receive the following if you put forth a good-faith effort:

- A \$30 Amazon.com® Gift Card* Claim Code** emailed to you within three to four weeks
- Feedback on your performance that will allow you to compare yourself to others who participated in the Trial Section

If you elect to void the scored portion of the MCAT exam, you will not be given the opportunity to participate in the Trial Section.

Please note that you cannot preregister for the Trial Section. However, you will be invited to take the trial section **ONLY** after you complete the core “scored” sections of the exam, select ***“I wish to have my MCAT exam SCORED,”*** and lastly, answer ***“yes”*** to the statement ***“Please indicate below if you would like to participate in the Trial Section.”***

We are grateful for your help! Medical schools will use the future version of the MCAT exam to select the first-year students who will join you when you're a seasoned medical student. Please help the medical schools select students who will be great colleagues for you and the next generation of health care providers.

To provide feedback to the AAMC after the Trial Section, please email us at mcat2015@aamc.org.

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Exam Scoring

You will receive a separate score for each of the first three content sections of the MCAT exam, as well as a total score. The following explains scoring in detail and highlights certain aspects of the process.

Note: Examinees who elect to void the scored portion of the MCAT exam will not receive a score on the exam and will not be given the opportunity to participate in the Trial Section.

Physical Sciences, Verbal Reasoning, and Biological Sciences

- These sections are scored from a low of 1 to a high of 15.
- Every form of the MCAT exam measures the same basic skills and concepts. However, each form is different in regard to the specific questions it uses. Because each form has the potential to be easier or slightly more difficult than another, raw scores are converted to a scale that takes into consideration the level of difficulty of the test questions on a given form. This conversion minimizes variability in the meaning of test scores across forms.
- There is no penalty for guessing.
- Your total score is the sum of the three individual section scores.

Trial Section

- This section is not scored, though examinees who put forth a good-faith effort in completing the Trial Section will receive feedback on their performance as well as a \$30 Amazon.com® Gift Card.

Part 2: Registration Essentials

Eligibility

Eligible Health Professions Graduate Programs

You may sit for the exam if you are preparing to apply to a health professions school. Eligible programs include:

- Allopathic
- Osteopathic
- Podiatric
- Veterinary Medicine

At the time of registration, you will be required to accept a statement verifying that you are taking the exam *solely for the purpose of applying to a health professions school*.

If you are **not** applying to a health professions school, or if you are a currently enrolled medical student, you need to obtain special permission to register for the exam.

International Students

There are no additional eligibility requirements for international students.

Special Permissions

Individuals not meeting the eligibility requirement above need to apply for special permission to take the MCAT exam. This includes one or both of the following:

- You wish to take the test for any reason other than applying to a health professions school
- You are a currently enrolled medical student hoping to change medical schools

To apply for special permission, please send an email explaining the reason(s) you wish to take the exam to mcats@aamc.org. We will attempt to review and respond to your request within five business days.

In consideration of potential periods of heavy volume, please be mindful of registration deadlines when submitting your request. *We cannot extend closing dates for any reason.*

Identification

AAMC ID

You will need an AAMC ID, an associated user name, and password to register for the MCAT exam.

If you have already created an AAMC ID, you must use this user name and password when registering for your MCAT exam. Note that you would have created an AAMC ID to access other products and services, such as the AAMC practice tests, MSAR® database, Fee Assistance Program, or AMCAS® application, so this AAMC ID (and associated user name and password) is part of your requisite identity.

If you do not have an existing AAMC ID, you will be directed to create a new user name and password when entering the MCAT Scheduling & Registration System.

If you forget your user name or password DO NOT create a new AAMC ID. Try resetting your password on the registration login page. If you are still having problems, contact the MCAT Resource Center at mcats@aamc.org, or 202-828-0690.

The following are violations of the AAMC's registration rules in which you may be subject to registration or score cancellation, suspension of registration eligibility, and investigation by the AAMC for providing false or misleading information at the time you create your AAMC ID (See page 27):

- Registering for the MCAT exam under another individual's AAMC ID
- Allowing someone else to register under your AAMC ID
- Allowing someone else to use your AAMC ID to take the MCAT exam
- Obtaining more than one AAMC ID
- Holding multiple reservations at the same time under different AAMC IDs
- Taking the MCAT exam more than three times between January 2014 through January 2015 using multiple AAMC IDs

Failure to follow the AAMC registration rules creates identity validation and verification issues, potential for mistakes in the assignment of score results, and generates other system disruptions.

Registration and Identification

Be very careful to **enter your first and last name(s)** in the MCAT Scheduling & Registration system **exactly** the way they appear on the ID you will use on test day.

The following are a few of the potential issues you may encounter regarding your ID, as well as steps to correct them:

- *After submitting your registration, you realize that the first and last name(s) you entered do not exactly match the ID you will use on test day.* You **MUST** change your name in the MCAT [registration system](#) to match your ID no later than the Bronze Zone registration deadline

associated with your test date. After that time, you will not be able to alter your name in the MCAT registration system and, therefore, will not be able to take the test.

- ***You are a New York state ID holder:*** If your ID has your initials, please contact us for instructions *prior* to the Silver Zone registration deadline associated with your test date at 202-828-0690.
- ***Two last names appear on your ID:*** If two last names appear on your ID, *both* names **MUST** be entered into the registration system.

Selecting a Test Date

Registration Details

- The MCAT exam is administered at hundreds of locations throughout the United States and select locations internationally. The most current list may be found in the [MCAT Scheduling & Registration System](#).
- The only way to register for the MCAT exam is online via the AAMC [Web site](#). Upon submission of the online registration form, you will receive an email confirmation with the details of your appointment, including the name that you used to register. Be sure to compare this name to your government-issued ID being used on test day; the name you used to register must exactly match the name on your government-issued ID in order to be admitted to the exam (See page 21: Providing Identification Test Day).
- If you do not receive email confirmation within 24 hours, please immediately contact the MCAT Resource Center at mcats@aamc.org, or 202-828-0690.
- To see a complete listing of testing locations, visit [MCAT Testing Center Locations](#).
- If a testing location is not listed within the Scheduling & Registration System, we are not offering the exam at that location for your preferred test date, or all of the seats at that location are currently reserved.

Online preregistration is required. Walk-in registration is not available.

Application Deadlines

- You are encouraged to take the MCAT exam in the same year you plan to apply for medical school. For example, if you are applying in 2014 for entrance to medical school in 2015, you should take the MCAT exam in 2014.
- The exam dates selected by the AAMC ensure scores are available in time to meet most medical school application deadlines.
- Application and admissions policies are not uniform for all institutions and are subject to change. You will need to research the institution(s) that you are interested in to ensure you meet their

current requirements. Please choose the test date that fulfills the requirements of the school(s) to which you are applying.

- You may find institution-specific information through [the Medical School Admissions Requirements](#) (MSAR) database, which outlines school requirements and is published by the AAMC. You also may contact schools directly.
- We strongly advise that you do not wait until September to take the MCAT exam for the first time if you need to test this year to meet an application deadline. If your scores do not match your expectations, you will not have any additional opportunity to test before the end of the year.

Registration Fees and Deadlines

Don't wait until the last minute to register! For the best chance of reserving your preferred test date and location, we strongly recommend you register at least 60 days in advance. Test centers have limited capacity and seats are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you do not find an available seat at your preferred location or on your preferred test date, we advise you continue to check the registration site as examinees may cancel or reschedule and seats may become available.

Please keep in mind that if you are registering, rescheduling, or canceling on the day of the registration deadline and experience computer problems, we may not be able to assist you in time to meet the deadline to secure your reservation.

We have introduced a new deadline and fee structure for this testing season. Refer to [Appendix D: Registration Fees and Policies](#) for an easy-to-use chart of all applicable fees and restrictions, and [Appendix E: Registration Deadlines](#) for details about specific deadline dates. There are three registration zones for each testing date in 2014 and January 2015: Gold, Silver, and Bronze. For each exam date, Gold Zone registration fees are lower and flexibility is higher. Conversely, fees are higher and flexibility is limited for the Bronze Zone.

- All deadlines for the Gold, Silver, and Bronze Zones are at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the day of the deadline.
- **GOLD ZONE fees** are required for reservations submitted approximately 1 month or more before the exam date:
 - \$275 for initial registration or \$100 for FAP recipients
 - \$65 for rescheduling a test center location and/or test date or \$25 for FAP recipients
- **SILVER ZONE fees** are required for reservations submitted approximately 2 to 3 weeks before the exam date:
 - \$275 for initial registration or \$100 for FAP recipients

- \$125 for rescheduling test center location and/or test date or \$45 for FAP recipients
- *The reschedule option is not available after this deadline has passed.*
- **BRONZE ZONE fees** are required for reservations submitted approximately 1 to 2 weeks before the exam date:
 - \$325 for initial registration or \$150 for FAP recipients
 - *The cancellation option is not available after this deadline has passed.*
- The International Registration fee is \$90 for all examinees during all registration zones, and is in addition to the cost of initial registration or rescheduling. International test sites include all countries, provinces, or territories outside the United States, Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Payment can only be made online with a major credit card (MasterCard or VISA), payable in U.S. funds.
- Your registration will be processed immediately upon submission.
- **The registration process cannot be reversed once completed.** You will be responsible for all fees. The AAMC may cancel your registration, withhold all scores, and/or disallow future registration and other services if payment is withheld.

The AAMC Fee Assistance Program (FAP)

The AAMC Fee Assistance Program (FAP) is for MCAT examinees and American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS®) applicants who, without financial assistance, would not be able to take the exam or apply to medical schools that use the AMCAS application.

You must be approved for FAP prior to registering for the MCAT exam to receive the reduced MCAT registration fees.

Additional MCAT exam preparation benefits for examinees who register after receiving FAP approval include:

- A free copy of the book, *The Official Guide to the MCAT® Exam*
- An authorization code for access to The Official MCAT® Self-Assessment Package

Regardless of how many FAP awards you receive, you will only receive MCAT exam preparation benefits one time. After you register for the MCAT exam using your FAP benefits for the first time, the authorization code will automatically be sent to you by email, followed by shipment of the book 2–3 weeks later.

For complete information regarding FAP, including eligibility requirements, application processes, benefits, and associated deadlines, please visit our [Web site](#).

Testing More Than Once

- Test early in the year (i.e., January–May) if you think you may want to test more than once within the year.
- Only **one** MCAT reservation may be held at a time.
- You may take the exam **up to three times** between January 2014 through January 2015.
 - A voided exam *does* count as one of the three allowed attempts, regardless of the reason for the void.
 - “No shows” also count as one of the three allowed attempts.

Changing Your Test Center or Testing Date

You may change your test date, test start time (if more than one MCAT exam is being offered on the same day), and/or test center, provided:

- Space is available. (The most current availability can be found online via the [MCAT Scheduling & Registration System](#).)
- You make the change prior to the Silver Zone registration deadline for your currently scheduled exam.
- Registration has opened for the desired MCAT exam date.
- Rescheduling into an exam date that is within the Bronze Zone requires an additional \$50 fee. This fee is the difference between the initial Silver Zone registration fee (\$275) and the initial Bronze Zone registration fee (\$325).

All requests to reschedule must be made online via the [MCAT Scheduling & Registration System](#). Please note that **additional fees will apply** regardless of how quickly the change is requested after your initial registration. No exceptions will be made. ([Appendix D: Registration Fee Structure and Policies](#))

Making all your changes at one time will save you some money. For example, if you make a simultaneous change to both test date and test center, you will be charged one rescheduling fee; however, if you make the changes separately, a fee will be assessed for each change.

Cancellations and Refunds

All cancellation requests must be made online via the [MCAT Scheduling & Registration System](#). You will receive an email confirming your cancellation. If you do not receive an email within 24 hours of your cancellation request, please contact the MCAT Resource Center immediately at mcats@aamc.org, or 202-828-0690.

The Bronze Zone registration deadline associated with your current exam date is the last day to cancel your reservation. If your reservation is not cancelled you must wait 48 hours after the exam to register again.

- **If you cancel *on or before* the Gold Zone registration deadline** associated with your exam date, you will receive a refund of \$135.
 - **If you are an FAP recipient**, your refund will be \$50.
- **If you cancel *after* the Gold Zone registration deadline**, you will not receive a refund.
- **If you decide to re-register for a date within the same calendar year that you cancelled**, you will have to pay the full registration fee.
- Additional fees paid for rescheduling or international sites are *nonrefundable*.
- In most cases, the refund will be automatic and applied to your original form of payment; however, the funds may not appear in your account for a few days, depending on the policy of your bank.

Selling or giving away your registration to someone else is strictly prohibited, as is switching registrations with another examinee. (See *AAMC ID* on page 11)

Note: The AAMC does not grant deadline extensions, and there is no appeal process.

Emergency Cancellation

Refunds due to an emergency cancellation may be requested after an exam *if one of the following occurs after the Silver Zone registration deadline*:

- You are hospitalized
- You experience a death in your immediate family
- You are unexpectedly called away to active military service
- You are unexpectedly called away for health care service duties related to a catastrophic event

The maximum refund is \$135 for standard reservations or \$50 for FAP registrants. You will be asked to provide documentation that includes the date of onset or deployment, the duration of the illness or service, funeral program or death certificate, and its impact on your ability to take the exam on your scheduled date.

You may contact the MCAT Resource Center by phone at 202-828-0690, or by email at mcat@aamc.org for more detailed rules and instructions. We will provide notification of approved refunds within two weeks of receipt of the required documentation.

Requests for emergency-related refunds must be received no later than three weeks after your scheduled test date.

Except for the limited emergency cancellation situations described above, *no refunds will be issued* for failure to sit for the exam or “no shows.” *No exceptions* will be granted for any reason, and there is no appeal process.

Note: Refunds are not guaranteed.

Absences/No Shows

If you do not attend an exam for which you are registered, neither your registration nor your absence will be reported to schools. However, it *will* count toward the maximum three attempts you are allowed within the testing year. In addition, your registration fee will not be refunded.

If you wish to schedule a new test date, registration will be available 48 hours *after* the date and time you missed. You will have to pay the full registration fee again—we cannot transfer the fees from the date you were absent to a new appointment date.

Registering for Another Test Date

Again, you may register for another test date 48 hours after your scheduled test date and time. This rule applies to all registered examinees, including examinees who sit for an exam, experience a problem at the test center, are turned away for improper ID, or do not show up for the exam for any reason.

Attempting to register for another test date prior to the 48-hour waiting period is a violation of MCAT policies.

Testing Appointments are Subject to Change or Cancellation

Testing appointments are subject to change or cancellation.

The AAMC and Prometric make every attempt to ensure all facilities are properly equipped and fully functional on test day. On those rare occasions when we experience technical or equipment issues preventing administration of the exam, it may be necessary to reschedule a small percentage of examinees to new locations and/or dates.

Infrequently, rescheduling is not possible. In this case, the examinee will receive a full refund. Please keep your contact information current so that we can contact you in the unlikely event that we need to notify you of a change.

The AAMC cannot arrange for make-up exams after the testing year ends, reimburse for lost wages, or compensate for travelling expenses.

Accommodated Testing

If you have a disability or medical condition that you believe requires an adjustment to testing conditions, we encourage you to apply for accommodated testing. We recommend that you submit documentation of your disability or condition at the time of registration. A decision regarding most requests will be made within 60 days of receipt of a “complete” application; therefore, you will want to submit a complete application well in advance of (but no later than 60 days before) the [Silver Zone registration deadline](#) associated with your preferred test date. This allows time for the review cycle and the time you need to confirm your accommodations.

Before submitting your request, we strongly encourage you to review the different [application time-frames and types](#).

We highly recommend that you register for a "standard" testing seat prior to requesting accommodated testing. This increases your likelihood of obtaining the date and test site you prefer. The MCAT Office of Accommodated Testing will notify you in writing within 60 days if your request has been approved and will provide you with additional steps to confirm your registration. Be sure to follow the instructions provided with your approval letter to avoid delays in processing your request. **If your request for accommodations is *not* granted**, your initial registration for the exam remains valid, and no further action is required. If you decide you want to cancel your registration, follow the cancellation and refund policies described on pages 15-16.

For more detailed information about the accommodations application and registration processes, visit the [MCAT Exam with Accommodations](#) page of our Web site.

Note: The accommodations pages of our Web site are required reading for all applicants seeking accommodated testing.

Use of Personal Information

You will be asked to consider the six options below and authorize release of contact and personal information when you register.

Identity Verification Consent

The MCAT program collects biometric and other identity data in order to identify applicants, help prevent fraud, and protect the integrity of the MCAT exam and the medical school admissions and matriculation process. The biometric and other identity data collected may include digital fingerprints, a test-day photo, digitization of your government-issued ID, and handwritten signature(s), and may be used for the following purposes: identification during the testing process, including future MCAT administrations; investigation and other responsive actions regarding MCAT-related or admissions-related fraud and other misconduct, or as required by law; and identification during the medical school admissions and matriculation process to U.S. medical schools. For more information about the use of your data in the medical school admissions and matriculation process, please read these [FAQs](#).

MCAT Recruiting Service

Choosing to release your scores to the MCAT Recruiting Service provides the AAMC with permission to include your contact and MCAT exam score information in recruiting reports.

The AAMC will only release your information for recruiting efforts by the following:

- Accredited medical schools located in the U.S. and Canada
- Schools of Osteopathic medicine
- Schools of Podiatry
- Schools of Veterinary Science
- Scholarship programs of the U.S. government (including the U.S. military)

Health Professions Advisor Release

Choosing the Health Professions Advisor Release permits the AAMC to include your scores and demographic information in a Web-based report that is distributed to your undergraduate health professions advisor(s). Advisors use this information when counseling students and may share your scores with members of their premedical committees and other individuals involved in preparing your letters of recommendation.

You may only release your scores to your advisor(s) at one undergraduate institution you have attended. If you chose to release your AMCAS application to your health professions advisor, your MCAT scores will be included regardless of how you answer during the MCAT registration process.

If an undergraduate institution does not have a designated health professions advisor, or has not identified the advisor to the AAMC, we cannot release your scores to the institution.

Medical Minority Applicant Registry (Med-MAR)

The [Medical Minority Applicant Registry \(Med-MAR\)](#) is a service of the AAMC designed to identify medical school applicants who are economically disadvantaged, or who self-identify as a member of a racial or ethnic group historically underrepresented in medicine.

Participation in Med-MAR is elected during the registration process. You will be prompted to accept or reject this offer.

You are eligible for Med-MAR if you meet one of the following two sets of criteria:

- You are a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, *and* you are economically disadvantaged
- You are a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, *and* you self-identify as a member of a racial or ethnic group historically underrepresented in medicine (African-American/Black, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander).

If you agree to participate, your name, address, age, state of residence, undergraduate college, undergraduate major, group identification, email address, and MCAT scores will be made available to all U.S. medical schools and other health-related agencies. The purpose of sharing this information with the aforementioned institutions is to help increase opportunities for minorities in medicine.

Registration is the only time you will be asked to participate in Med-MAR.

Release to Alternate Contact

For the protection of your private information, the MCAT Program Office will not accept inquiries from or provide information to third parties regarding your exam registration, administration and/or score delivery, unless specifically authorized to do so by you through the Release to Alternate Contact consent. Even if the office has a release on file, MCAT staff will not reveal certain details to third parties, such as your specific MCAT scores or other personal information such as Social Security Numbers, etc.

By completing this authorization, the AAMC will be released from any liability resulting from release of information to the person you designate. This release does not in any way obligate the AAMC to provide any information to the designated parties.

A separate release is required if you are applying for accommodations and would like the MCAT Office of Accommodated Testing to correspond with medical professionals or others on your behalf.

AAMC Products and Services

Choosing the AAMC Services and Products Release will allow your contact information to be used in sharing information about new and existing AAMC products and services.

Part 3: Test Day Essentials

Know the Basics

Time Zone

Know what time zone your test center adheres to, especially if you are crossing a state or county line. *It may be different from what you expect.* For example, daylight savings time is not adhered to by all states. There are also states in which only certain areas adhere to daylight savings time.

Current Address

Make sure you have the current address of your test center. The current address is available on our [Web site](#). On rare occasions, a test center may change its address; if such an address change occurs, the AAMC will make every effort to notify you before your test date.

It is best to plan ahead by locating the test center prior to test day—you won't be allowed to enter the testing room, but you will know how to get there and how long it will take.

Arrive 30 Minutes before the Scheduled Start Time

You must report to the test center at least 30 minutes prior to your appointment time in order to be admitted to the exam. The test center administrator will begin checking examinees in 30 minutes before the confirmed appointment time. If you arrive earlier, do not be alarmed if the test center is not yet open.

Check-in will include verification of your ID, assignment of a locker and key for your personal items, admissions procedures, and receipt of your seat assignment.

Most test centers will be open in the event of inclement weather, and examinees will be expected to report for their appointments. *Registration fees will not be refunded if you are delayed or unable to reach the test center,* so be sure to leave ample travel time to reach your test center safely.

Missed start times may occur for a variety of reasons. There are a few important things you should note regarding missed start times:

- If you arrive after your exam start time, *you will not be allowed to test.*
- There are no refunds granted for late arrivals or missed exams (“no shows”).
- You may register for another exam date 48 hours after your original test date and time. Just log in to the [registration system](#) to register for another test date. Please note that you will be charged the full registration fee.

Due to the nature of the check-in process, not all examinees will begin testing precisely at the scheduled start time.

It is not unusual to wait an additional half hour or more beyond the scheduled start time. This will not affect your total testing time.

Providing Identification on Test Day

- Only those examinees whose identity can be verified through qualifying forms will be admitted.
 - If you do not provide the proper identification, you will not receive a refund and the attempt to test will count towards your yearly three test limit.
- Qualifying forms of ID must meet the following conditions:
 - **The ID must:**
 - Be current (document must have expiration date that has not passed)
 - Have been issued by a government agency (driver’s license or passport)
 - Include a photo which can be used to positively identify you
 - Include your signature, which you will be asked to duplicate on test day
 - We cannot accept employee IDs, student IDs, library cards, or any other form of ID that does not meet the conditions listed above—even if these were issued by a government agency or government-sponsored institutions.
- **The first and last name(s) on your ID must exactly match the names with which you registered.** If you registered using a partial name, nickname, or any derivation of the name that appears on your official ID (including misspellings), *you will not be admitted to the testing room.*
- It is your responsibility to obtain and be prepared to present a qualifying form of identification to the Test Center Administrator.
- Know when your ID expires. If your identification will expire before your scheduled test date, you are responsible for obtaining an updated ID.
- Temporary IDs and ID application receipts will *not* be accepted at the test center because we are unable to validate their authenticity.
- If you will not have a current ID by your scheduled test date, change your test date. (See page 15)
- At the test center, your ID may be electronically swiped to check its validity, and a scanned image of the ID may be captured.
- Your consent to the AAMC’s identity verification procedures and uses is collected when you register for the MCAT exam. Electronic capture of your biometric data allows for easier and quicker return to the testing facility after breaks. See the [Identity Verification Web site](#) for more information about the AAMC’s collection and use of biometric information.
- If you are unable to provide the required identification (e.g., driver’s license or passport), or if you have any concern that your identification may not be acceptable, you **MUST** contact the MCAT Resource Center no later than the Silver Zone registration deadline for further assistance at 202-828-0690.

- Please see the [Registration Tips](#) section of our Web site for more information.

Voiding Your Exam

You have the option to void your MCAT exam if you do not wish for your test to be scored.

You will only have ONE opportunity to void your exam. When you finish your exam, you will be asked to select one of the following options:

*I wish to have my MCAT exam **SCORED**.*

*I wish to **VOID** my MCAT exam.*

Please note:

- Your exam will be voided *only if you request it on test day*.
- You cannot void scores at a later date for any reason.
- Voiding your scores on test day means that you will not receive scores.
- Scores cannot be reinstated at a later date for any reason.
- Your test will not be automatically voided if you fail to complete one or more sections.
- You will have five minutes to make your selection when the option to void your exam is presented on your computer screen. *If you do not click on one of the statements during that time, your exam will be scored.*
- If you click on one of the statements, but do not click NEXT, the selection you clicked on will be automatically submitted for you when the five minutes expire.
- Notifying the test center administrator of your intent to void your exam is not sufficient. You must select “I wish to VOID my MCAT exam” when the option is provided on your computer screen.
- Once you begin a section, your exam will be scored—regardless of whether or not you answered any questions. The only remedy for this is to choose “I wish to VOID my MCAT exam” when the option is provided on your computer screen.
- If you must leave due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances and have not started every section, the AAMC may void your scores for you if you submit a *Test Center Concern* (See page 37.)
- Information from voided exams is not included on any score reports.
- A voided exam *does* count as one of the three attempts you are allowed between January 2014 through January 2015. (See page 15.)
- Indication of a voided exam will be displayed in the MCAT THx system after the scheduled score release date, but your decision to void an exam is not released to any medical schools.

- Regardless of the reason you choose to void your exam, you must wait 48 hours from your original test date and time to register for a new test date.
- Examinees who void their MCAT exam will not be presented with an option to participate in the Trial Section.
- No refunds are provided for a voided test — regardless of the reason.

Reporting a Test Day Problem

If you experience a problem on test day and wish to have the AAMC look into it, you must do both of the following:

- 1) File a *Center Problem Report* with the test center administrator at your **facility at the time the problem occurs**.
- 2) Write to the AAMC to file an official *Test Center Concern*. (See page 37)

Note: The test center is not responsible for researching or resolving any problem(s) you experienced (only the AAMC can do that); however, filing the Center Problem Report is necessary for the AAMC to take action regarding your Test Center Concern. If you do not raise your concern with the test center administrator at the time the problem occurs, the AAMC may not be able to confirm the problem.

Test Day Rules

The AAMC is deeply committed to ensuring the accuracy and validity of test scores. In order to ensure the accuracy and validity of test scores and to provide fair and secure testing conditions for all examinees, the staff at each test center strictly adheres to a set of common procedures.

Below is a list of guidelines for you to follow on test day to help ensure that you are following the test day rules and procedures.

Testing Room Entrance and Exit

- Examinees will be checked in and allowed into the testing room one at a time by the test center administrator. You may bring only your ID, locker key, scratch paper and pencils provided by the test center, and a pair of foam earplugs (sealed and inspected by the test center administrator) into the testing room. All other items are prohibited and must be stowed in the provided locker, unless authorized by the AAMC prior to your test date.
- You will be scanned with a metal detector wand when you enter into the test room, as well as each time you re-enter the test room (i.e., following breaks). If you refuse, you cannot test.
- Upon entering the testing room, you may begin your exam. Due to volume and pre-administration procedures, actual starting times will vary by individual; please be prepared to wait up to one half hour. On rare occasions, wait times may extend past one hour.
- Every time you enter or leave the testing room, you must sign the Signature Log and present your ID. You also will be asked to provide your fingerprint.

- A digital image of your fingerprint will be taken at check-in. For more information, visit the [Identity Verification Web site](#).

In the Testing Room

- Follow all directions and verbal instructions of the testing staff.
- If you require assistance while taking the exam, raise your hand. The test center administrator will either come to you, or have you step outside the testing room for assistance.
- You will be assigned a seat upon entrance. Assignments are predetermined and requests for seat changes will not be granted. This seat must be maintained for the duration of the exam and you must return to your assigned seat when returning from a break.
- Once you begin, you are considered to have tested even if you void or do not complete the test. (See page 23 for information about voiding your exam.)
- You may not bring a timer or watch into the testing room. A testing clock will be visible on your monitor throughout the examination and will start counting down as soon as you begin your exam.
- Time is counted down by section. If you finish a section early, you may continue on to the next section, but *additional time will not be counted towards any subsequent sections or breaks*.
- You may not eat, drink, or smoke in the testing room.
- Be sure to dress comfortably and come prepared for varying room temperatures. You may find the testing room colder or warmer than you expected as energy-saving practices vary widely among testing centers.
- If you need to remove an item of clothing (e.g., sweater) during the exam, you will be instructed to place it in the secure area. *The exam clock will not stop during this time*.
- You may use your scratch paper for note taking during any timed section of the exam, including the tutorial and breaks. You may not rip, tear, or separate the scratch paper booklet or attempt to conceal or remove it, in part or in whole, from the exam room. Your provided scratch paper must remain on your desk and in one piece. If you require additional scratch paper while you are completing the exam, raise your hand to alert the test center administrator.

Breaks

- Optional 10-minute breaks are provided between each section.
- You must remain in the test center area, unless the restroom facilities are not located in the waiting area. Please ask the test center administrator for more information.
- You are permitted to bring your own snacks or drinks, which you may access on your breaks. These items must be stored in your locker when you are not on break.

- You may only access snacks, drinks, and medication during your breaks. Accessing any other personal items without explicit permission from the test center administrator is a security violation and will be reported to the AAMC.
- If you need to access food, drinks, or medication, remove the item from any bag, purse, or backpack you may have brought to the testing center. The bag **MUST** remain in the provided locker at all times.
- You are not permitted to study or access cell phones or other electronic devices during the exam or while on break.
- Follow the exam schedule carefully. (See page 6) Taking excessively long breaks can lead to repercussions, including lost exam time and loss of the ability to void the exam.

Other Security Rules and Procedures

- The only personal items you may bring into the testing room are your ID and a pair of foam earplugs (sealed and inspected by the test center administrator). **Nothing else is permitted.**
 - If you have an item you need for medical reasons, you must request and obtain approval from the AAMC prior to test day. See page 18 for information on requesting medically necessary items.
- You may be asked to turn your pockets inside-out to show they are empty.
- Access to the test center is restricted to test center personnel, examinees, and authorized observers.
- You may not wear hats or scarves (except for religious purposes) during the test. If your clothing has a hood, it must not cover your head at any time.
- You may not remove your shoes or sandals during the test.
- Your photo ID must be visible on your desk at all times.
- You must conduct yourself in a civil manner while in the testing center. Aggressive, disruptive, or uncooperative examinees will be asked to leave and will not receive a refund.
- Attempting to gain an unfair advantage by any means is absolutely prohibited.

Prometric Testing Center Regulations

The AAMC contracts with Prometric, an outside vendor, for administration of the MCAT exam. For a list of Testing Center Regulations maintained at each [Prometric](#) testing center, or more information about the company, please visit their Web site.

Violations and Investigations

Examinee Agreement

In addition to agreeing to the policies contained herein when you register for the exam, you will also be asked to accept the MCAT Examinee Agreement on test day.

The Examinee Agreement sets forth terms under which you agree to sit for the MCAT exam, including a prohibition on discussion or disclosure of exam content, and appears before the optional tutorial and before the first test section. *If you do not indicate that you agree to abide by the terms of the Examinee Agreement, or if you do not respond within the ten minutes provided, you will be unable to test and you will not receive a refund.*

The agreement will appear on five screens, including the prohibited items screen, an introduction and instructions on the first screen and three statements to which you must agree on the following screens. You must indicate your agreement to all of these statements on the last screen. The Examinee Agreement also applies to the optional Trial Section at the end of the exam:

Page 1 of 4

Before you continue with this exam, you must agree to each of the statements on the following screens, adherence to which is necessary if we are to maintain for you and other examinees a fair and secure testing process. Each of these statements reflects a requirement that has previously been communicated to you in the MCAT® Essentials, which sets forth MCAT® testing policies. If you do not agree to these terms within the allotted time of 10 minutes, you will not be permitted to test today. You will not receive a refund.

Page 2 of 4

I certify that I am the person whose name and address appear on the registration. I further certify that I am the person whose name appears on the identification I presented for admission to the testing room. I am taking the MCAT® exam solely for the purpose of applying to an allopathic, osteopathic, podiatric, public health, veterinary medicine, or other health professions school, or alternatively, if I am taking the exam for any other purpose, I have applied for and received special permission to take the MCAT exam as set out in MCAT® Essentials.

I have read and will comply with the terms set forth in MCAT® Essentials, including, but not limited to, the rules and regulations concerning test-day procedures, the ban on bringing study materials or other prohibited information or items into the testing room, and other prohibited conduct before, during, or following the exam administration. I have read, understand, and agree to the limited remedies available to examinees in the event of any errors in test delivery or administration, scoring, or score reporting.

Page 3 of 4

I am aware that the MCAT® exam is a confidential exam, and that its contents are being disclosed to me today in a limited context to permit me to test and for no other purpose. I have been informed that the MCAT exam and exam questions are copyrighted and that they are protected by U.S. and international copyright and trade secret laws.

I agree that I will not discuss or disclose MCAT exam content orally, in writing, on the Internet, or through any other medium. I agree that I will not copy, reproduce, adapt, disclose, or transmit exams or

exam questions, in whole or in part, or assist anyone else in doing the same. I further agree that I will not reconstruct exam content from memory, by dictation, or by any other means, for the purpose of sharing that information with any other individual or entity.

I understand that prohibited acts include, but are not limited to: describing questions, passages, or graphics from the exam; identifying terms or concepts contained in exam questions; sharing answers to questions; referring others to information I saw on the exam; reconstructing a list of topics on the test; and discussing exam questions, answers, passages, graphics, or topics on Internet “chat” rooms, message boards, forums, or through other means.

Page 4 of 4

I understand and agree that any alleged violation of this Examinee Agreement or any alleged activity that may compromise the validity, integrity, or security of the MCAT® exam will be investigated. I also understand and agree that if I provide false information, violate the terms of this Examinee Agreement, any other terms or conditions stated in the MCAT® Essentials, or any test center rules and regulations, engage in any activity that may compromise the validity, integrity, or security of the MCAT exam, or fail to fully cooperate in any investigation of a violation of the Examinee Agreement or the terms and conditions of the MCAT® Essentials, including a post-exam identity verification:

- That the AAMC may issue a report of the factual findings of the investigation to legitimately interested parties*
- That I might be subject to a civil lawsuit and/or criminal charges*
- That my scores may be canceled, before or after the scores are reported, without a refund; and*
- That I may be banned from taking the MCAT exam for a limited time or permanently*

Information about the AAMC’s investigation process may be found here: <http://www.aamc.org>.

I agree to comply with the terms of the Examinee Agreement and understand the consequences for failing to comply.

Investigation Procedures

- **If the AAMC receives information that any individual has engaged in irregular behavior or any conduct that may compromise the integrity of the MCAT exam (including copyright infringement or violation of the terms of the Examinee Agreement), MCAT exam officials will investigate the claim and may issue a report of the factual findings of the investigation.**
- **Any examinee who is the subject of an investigation by the AAMC shall: fully cooperate with the AAMC’s investigation, produce all documents and materials requested by the AAMC, and submit to an in-person interview conducted by or on behalf of the AAMC at the association’s request. Examinees shall truthfully and completely answer all questions posed during**

investigative interviews conducted by or on behalf of the AAMC. An examinee's refusal to cooperate with the AAMC's investigation or presentation of false or misleading information to the AAMC or its representatives in the course of an AAMC investigation shall constitute a serious and material breach of the Examinee Agreement and shall serve as a separate and independent basis for the AAMC to take action against the examinee as described below.

- If a report of the incident is to be issued, the AAMC first notifies the examinee about available options, which may include the opportunity to submit a statement explaining the examinee's actions, request reconsideration, or appeal the AAMC's decision.
- At its sole discretion, the AAMC may elect to send the report documenting the incident, with any attachments provided by the examinee, to legitimately interested parties, including all persons or agencies to which the examinee has instructed that scores be sent, both presently and in the future.
- The AAMC also may elect to cancel an examinee's test scores when there is reason to believe that the scores are invalid, or that the examinee has engaged in behavior that violates the Examinee Agreement. The AAMC also may elect to suspend an individual's eligibility to test for a limited period of time or permanently.
- The AAMC may, at its sole discretion, file a civil lawsuit against an examinee for material breaches of the Examinee Agreement that cause damage to the AAMC and/or a third party. In addition, the AAMC may, at its sole discretion, refer an examinee to one or more federal, state, or local prosecuting attorneys for criminal investigation and prosecution when it has a reasonable basis to conclude that the examinee may have committed a crime in the course of violating the Examinee Agreement.

Arbitration for Investigation Disputes

There is one exclusive remedy available to examinees who wish to appeal or otherwise challenge a decision made by the AAMC to send an investigation report to legitimately interested parties. That remedy is binding arbitration obtained through written submissions before a single arbitrator under the JAMS Streamlined Arbitration Rules and Procedures in the District of Columbia. Examinees electing to proceed with arbitration understand that they may incur fees as determined through the arbitration process. **The sole issue for arbitration shall be whether the AAMC acted reasonably and in good faith in making its decision.**

Registration Violations

The investigations process as described in the MCAT Examinee Agreement also applies to registration rules violations. Examples of violations include, but are not limited to:

- Providing false or misleading information at the time you create your AAMC ID
- Using another examinee's AAMC ID
- Allowing someone to use your AAMC ID
- Obtaining more than one AAMC ID for any purpose, including holding more than one exam registration at the same time or taking the MCAT exam more than three times between January 2014 through January 2015

If we find that you are in violation of any rule pertaining to AAMC IDs, we may cancel your registration or test scores, and you will not be eligible for a refund.

Testing Irregularities

The AAMC reserves the right to investigate any behavior by any examinee which may be considered detrimental to a fair and secure testing process, or which impacts the testing environment, security, and integrity of the exam. If an examinee violates procedures or engages in any irregular behavior, it will be reported to the test center administrator and to the AAMC.

At the AAMC's discretion, the investigation process, as described in the Examinee Agreement, may apply to any rules violation. The AAMC also may investigate any indicators that scores may not be valid, such as unusual similarities in the answers of other examinees.

Examples of prohibited actions include, but are not limited to:

- Giving or receiving assistance
- Copying the work of another examinee
- Using prohibited aids (e.g., desktop timers, watches, calculators, or other electronics)
- Impersonating an examinee or engaging someone else to take the examination for you
- Presenting false, altered, or tampered identification to attempt to gain admission to the test center
- Tearing or ripping scratch paper, attempting to remove scratch paper from the testing room
- Attempting by any means to duplicate, record, or memorize test content, answer documents, or any other test materials
- Failing to follow the test center administrator's instructions after being warned
- Creating a disruption of any kind
- Destruction of test center property
- Verbally or physically harassing or threatening test center or AAMC staff

- Violating test center regulations or procedures
- Violating state, federal, or local laws, regulations, or policies
- Being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- Soliciting, discussing, or disclosing exam content, or otherwise violating the terms of the Examinee Agreement
- Examinees may not provide false or misleading information about their MCAT exam, score or testing history to any institution

Note: Video surveillance is used in all test centers.

Consequences for examinees found to be in violation may include, but are not limited to:

- Registration or score cancellation without a refund
- Suspension of registration eligibility
- Submission of an investigation report to legitimately interested parties
- Being subjected to a civil and/or criminal law suit
- Being banned from taking the MCAT exam for a limited time, or permanently

Discussion of the MCAT Exam

The AAMC developed a set of guidelines to help you understand the terms under which you sit for the MCAT exam, the prohibition on disclosure of exam content, and how to appropriately share your exam experience.

- **What IS permitted:**
 - Commenting on your general exam experience, such as test center conditions, or how you felt about a particular test section
- **What is NOT permitted:**
 - Discussing or posting the text (full or partial) of a test question and/or answer
 - Reconstructing an exam question (in whole or in part), list of topics, or exam question arrangement tested in a particular section
 - Mentioning a specific topic that was tested on an exam
 - Outlining the steps or process to answer a question
 - Speculating about which passages are field-test or experimental items

- Assisting anyone else in doing any of the above

While you may read or hear other guidelines inconsistent with these statements, keep in mind that the information contained herein, and in the binding MCAT Examinee Agreement, is directly from the AAMC. By following these guidelines, it is possible to share your MCAT experience without committing a violation.

Now that you know more about MCAT security policies, test your knowledge by playing the interactive [MCAT security video game!](#)

Reporting Violations

The MCAT exam is administered under strict supervision and security measures. Nevertheless, some examinees choose to disregard the rules in an effort to gain an unfair advantage.

Please report to the test center administrator and/or the AAMC any questionable behavior you observe, or have reason to believe has occurred or may occur, including but not limited to examinees:

- Receiving assistance or copying from another test taker
- Taking a test for someone else
- Having access to secure test questions before or after the exam
- Presenting false, altered, or tampered identification to attempt to gain admission to the test center
- Attempting to record or otherwise capture test questions during the exam
- Using notes or unauthorized aids

It is in the interest of all examinees to report the questionable behavior of others. Engaging in any of the above-listed actions could provide an unfair advantage to an unethical and potentially unqualified examinee not only on the test, but as a medical school applicant as well.

We encourage you to report violations of questionable behavior to the AAMC; however, we recognize that anonymity is sometimes important to individuals who report alleged wrongdoing. You may anonymously report violations to us by making clear in your email or telephone call that you wish to remain anonymous. If you report such activity anonymously, we will not disclose your identity unless required to do so by a subpoena or court order. **Please report all potential violations to 202-903-0840, and/or MCATSecurity@aamc.org.**

Part 4: Post-Test Essentials

Receiving and Sending Scores

Score Reporting through AMCAS® Service

The [AMCAS](#) system is a centralized application processing service developed by the AAMC to make the process of applying to participating medical schools easier and more uniform. Almost all U.S. medical schools participate in the AMCAS system. If you are applying to medical school through the AMCAS system, the AAMC will automatically send your scores to the schools you have selected.

The AMCAS service is only available to first-year applicants to allopathic medical schools.

If you wish to apply to a participating medical school, you must complete an AMCAS application and submit it to the AAMC. Advanced standing and transfer applicants should contact medical schools directly for application information.

If you take the MCAT exam after you have submitted your AMCAS application (for example, you submit your application in June and take the exam in September), your new test date and scores will be sent automatically to the schools in which you applied.

If you have particular questions concerning MCAT exam scores within an AMCAS application, or about AMCAS procedures in general, please send an email to amcas@aamc.org.

Note: See Appendix C for information on how medical schools use MCAT exam scores in their admissions process

Releasing Test Scores

Your test scores will be available approximately 30-35 days after your test date and can be accessed by signing in to the AAMC's testing history system. See the [Registration Deadline & Score Release Schedule](#) for tentative release dates.

If you are applying to medical school through the AMCAS system, there is no extra step you need to take to insert your scores into the AMCAS system. Please note that medical schools want to see your entire testing history, which means that you cannot withhold your scores from the AMCAS service.

Medical schools will accept scores dating back two or three years. In the event that you have taken the exam previously, check the application policies of each school that you are interested in to see if they will accept your previous scores.

AAMC staff will not provide scores over the phone. The AAMC and the MCAT Program Office are not responsible for any claims for damages resulting from delayed transmission of test scores for any reason.

MCAT Testing History (THx) System

You will be able to view your scores in the [Testing History \(THx\) Score Reporting System](#) between 5:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m. EST, approximately 30-35 days after your test date. *The THx system is also where you go to release your scores to institutions not participating in AMCAS service.*

Through the THx system, you have the ability to print official score reports and send them to whomever you wish (e.g., schools not listed in the system, application services—other than AMCAS service). Recipients can verify official score reports online, and there is no additional charge to examinees for use of this system.

MCAT exam scores from 1991 to the present may be accessed through the THx system at <https://services.aamc.org/mcatthx>.

Rescoring Exams

The AAMC and the MCAT Program Office maintain a variety of quality-control procedures to ensure the accuracy of scores and score reporting, and the possibility for error in the scoring process is extremely remote. If you believe that a scoring error has been made, however, you may request that your answers be rescored by hand.

Approximately three weeks after we have received your request, you will receive your results in writing. The response letter will either confirm that your original scores were correct as reported, or inform you of the corrected scaled scores for each test section. We will not disclose your raw scores or provide any additional feedback on your exam performance.

Rescoring Fees (USD)	
PS, BS, and VR sections (one fee for all three sections)	\$60

If you wish to have your exam rescored, please send a letter and payment to:

Attention: MCAT Rescoring Service
 Association of American Medical Colleges
 2450 N Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20037-1127

Your letter must be postmarked no later than 30 calendar days following the score release date and must include the following:

- Your full name
- Your AAMC ID number
- Mailing address
- Telephone number
- Email address

- Date of test
- Explanation for why you feel rescoring is necessary
- Full fee payment in the form of a check, money order, or credit card
 - *If you are paying by credit card (MasterCard or VISA), you must provide the 16-digit card number, card holder's name, expiration date, amount authorized, and the card holder's signature.*
 - *If you are paying by check or money order (in U.S. funds), please make it payable to: Association of American Medical Colleges.*

Other options for document submission may become available during the test year. Please refer to our [Web site](#) for more information.

Retaking the Exam

If you feel that your scores are low or do not accurately reflect your abilities, you may wish to take the MCAT exam again. Examinees are allowed to test up to three times between January 2014 through January 2015 (See page 15.) We encourage you to read the section about retaking the exam in *The Official Guide to the MCAT® Exam*, and to discuss your options with your premedical advisor prior to registering for another test date.

Use of Multiple Scores in the Admissions Process

Each school has their own method of accounting for multiple scores. According to a recent survey of medical school admissions officers, ways in which multiple sets of scores are figured include:

- All sets of scores are weighed equally and improvements noted
- Consideration is given to only to the most recent set of scores
- An average is taken of all sets of scores
- Only the highest set of scores is considered
- A combination of the highest individual section scores across administrations is considered

For information about an individual institution's procedure, contact the institution's admissions office directly.

If you are not accepted to medical school and intend to reapply, take the time to identify all areas in which you may need to improve. While the MCAT exam is only one of the criteria medical schools consider, it may be helpful to use your scores to identify academic areas in which you may need further study.

When an Error Occurs

The AAMC and the MCAT Program Office take great care to ensure registrations are properly processed and exams are properly prepared, handled, and scored. In the unlikely event that an error occurs, the AAMC will, if possible, correct it.

In cases where the test service is not delivered or completed, the AAMC may permit the affected examinee(s) either to retest at no additional fee, or receive a partial or full refund of the registration fee.

Note: The remedies described below are the exclusive remedies available for errors in registrations, exam information, scoring (including score reporting), testing disruptions, or potential compromises to exam content by one or more examinees through prior access.

Disruptions in Testing and Potential Compromises

Events leading to any of the following may be considered cause for the AAMC to examine the situation:

- Cancellation or interruption of testing, or deviation from required testing procedures
- Possible advance access to exam content by one or more examinees
- Other disruptions or compromises to the normal testing process

If the AAMC concludes that corrective action is warranted, you may be offered the option to either retest at no additional fee, or receive a full or partial refund of your registration fee.*

Note: Examinees choosing to retest must retake the entire exam to produce a valid score.

* If affected examinees are found to have caused or been involved in the conduct that resulted in corrective action, the AAMC may withhold either or both of the aforementioned options, and may pursue the investigations process as described on pages 28-29.

Test Center Closures or Workstation Outages

For those examinees unable to complete their exam due to test center closures or workstation outages, the AAMC will make every effort to reschedule a new test date. If rescheduling is not possible, especially late in the year when fewer testing opportunities remain, your registration fee will be fully refunded.

After you are rescheduled to a new test date, the same cancellation policies, change fees, and deadlines apply; therefore, if you decide to make any additional changes or cancel, you must do so by the deadlines associated with the new date and submit any applicable fees.

In the event that the AAMC or Prometric cancels your appointment for any reason, you must reschedule to a new test date or request a refund *within the same testing year in which the cancellation occurred.*

Note: We are unable to approve requests to schedule a new appointment or approve a refund after the testing year ends.

Test Center Concerns Reported by Examinees

If you believe that test center conditions interfered with your performance on the exam, you **MUST** do both of the following:

- Request that the test center administrator file a *Center Problem Report*, which the AAMC will use in its investigation
- Request that the AAMC research the incident by submitting a *Test Center Concern*

Test Center Concerns must be received by the AAMC via fax or postal mail **no later than five calendar days following your exam**. Concerns received after five calendar days will not be investigated.

To request an investigation of your test center concern, please fax or mail your letter to:

Attention: Test Center Concerns

Association of American Medical Colleges
 2450 N Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20037-1127
 Fax: 202-828-4799

We will need the following information to process your request:

- Your full name
- Your AAMC ID number
- Mailing address
- Telephone number
- Email address
- Date of test
- Location of test center
- Detailed description of problem

***Note:** If you fax your letter, be sure to keep the confirmation that prints at the end of the transmission. If you decide to send it by mail, for your benefit, be sure to send it in a form in which the AAMC's receipt can be tracked and/or verified (e.g., the USPS offers a return receipt option, and all the mailing services offer tracking in some form). You also should follow up within the five-day period with a call to the MCAT Resource Center (202-828-0690) to confirm our receipt and processing.*

Other options for document submission may become available during the test year. Please refer to our [Web site](#) for more information.

Test Center Concerns submitted in a timely manner will receive a written response detailing the findings of our investigation. If a testing irregularity is confirmed, you may provide the written response to any interested party as documentation of the incident.

The AAMC will not reverse your decision to void or score your exam as a result of a confirmed test center problem. No exceptions will be made to this policy under any circumstances. Furthermore, examinees who complete their exam and submit it for scoring despite the occurrence of a testing irregularity are not eligible for a refund or a free retest.

Test Question Challenges

Please notify the MCAT Program Office immediately if you discover a question you believe to be flawed or ambiguous.

Test Question Challenges must be received by the AAMC via fax or postal mail **no later than five calendar days following your exam**. Challenges received after five calendar days will not be investigated.

MCAT exam officials will provide a written response to test question challenges submitted in a timely manner. You may expect a written response within two to three weeks from the date we receive your correspondence.

To submit a test question challenge, please fax or mail your letter to:

Attention: Test Question Challenges

Association of American Medical Colleges
 2450 N Street, NW
 Washington, DC 20037-1127
 Fax: 202-828-4799

We will need the following information to process your request:

- Your full name
- Your AAMC ID number
- Mailing address
- Telephone number
- Email address
- Date of test
- Question number, if known
- Section of exam (Physical Sciences, Verbal Reasoning, Biological Sciences, or Trial Section)
- Detailed description of problem

Other options for document submission may become available during the test year. Please refer to the [Test Center Concern Web site](#) more information.

Contacting Us

MCAT specialists are available to assist you with the registration process, test day procedures, and score reporting. In order to help ensure resolution of your question or concern before your test date, *contact us no later than the Silver Zone registration deadline associated with your test date*. Please allow two business days for a reply to your email.

MCAT Resource Center

202-828-0690

mcat@aamc.org

Hours:

Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (ET)

Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. (ET)

Saturdays, limited hours on test dates only

These hours are subject to change. Please visit our [Web site](#) for the most up to date information.

To report violations or questionable behavior to the AAMC, please contact the MCAT Security Tip Line:

MCAT Security Tip Line

202-903-0840

mcatsecurity@aamc.org

Note: The months of July, August, and September are peak testing months. During this time, you may experience longer than usual wait times.

Appendix A: Contacts and Online Resources

Accommodations

<https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/accommodations/>

Email: accommodations@aamc.org

American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS®)

www.aamc.org/amcas

Email: amcas@aamc.org

Phone: 202-828-0600

AMCAS
Association of American Medical Colleges
2450 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037-1127

Exam Scores

<https://services.aamc.org/mcatthx>

Fee Assistance Program (FAP)

www.aamc.org/fap

Email: fap@aamc.org

Phone: 202-828-0600

AAMC Fee Assistance Program
Association of American Medical Colleges
2450 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037-1127

General Questions

Email: mcat@aamc.org

Phone: 202-828-0690

MCAT Office
Association of American Medical Colleges
2450 N Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037-1127

Practice Tests

<https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/preparing/>

Appendix B: Preparing for the MCAT® Exam

The following are some tips and best practices to help you outline a plan to prepare yourself to take the MCAT exam.

- Begin with a careful review of the information available on the [Preparing for the Exam](#) section of the MCAT Web site. The site includes the content outlines, a description of skills assessed, and information about the AAMC MCAT prep products and resources.
- As you are beginning your MCAT preparation, you may want to purchase [The Official Guide to the MCAT® Exam](#). This introductory guidebook provides an overview of the exam, has information on registration, test day, scoring, and contains passages and questions from actual MCAT exams not seen on other AAMC MCAT prep products. The questions include solutions and tips from the test developers. Consider completing a free e-MCAT practice test available online at www.aamc.org/freemcatpractice to establish a baseline score. You can simulate the actual test under timed conditions to get an estimated score.
- After you have completed your coursework to prepare yourself for the MCAT exam, you can analyze your MCAT knowledge with [The Official MCAT® Self-Assessment Package](#). You will answer real MCAT questions (not found on any current practice tests) in biology, organic chemistry, physics, general chemistry, or verbal reasoning, and receive feedback about your relative strengths and weaknesses in MCAT content. You can use these data to develop a study plan. You also can review your responses and the solutions to every question. View the video tutorials at www.e-mcat.com to learn more about how self-assessment can help you.
- After you have studied your weaker areas assessed in the self-assessment package, take additional follow-up e-MCAT Practice Tests at www.e-mcat.com to monitor your progress. Seven tests are available for purchase and all questions are from previous MCAT exams. The e-MCAT Practice Tests may be customized to complete only certain sections, content areas, types of skills, or have the entire test timed. The tests provide immediate scoring, solutions, and detailed feedback in a score report. Each e-MCAT Practice Test (like the operational exam) includes a tutorial that may be helpful regardless of the level of your computer skills. Each program or system is different, and the tutorial will help acquaint you with the format and functionality of the computerized MCAT exam.

Appendix C: How Medical Schools Use MCAT Scores

There can be significant variation from one college to the next when it comes to undergraduate grading scales and courses. The MCAT® exam helps admissions officers by providing them with a standardized measure for all examinees.

While this measure is valuable, there are many other factors admissions officers draw from when considering an applicant. Other factors admissions officers may consider include:

- Undergraduate GPA
- Breadth and difficulty of undergraduate coursework
- Selectivity of the degree-granting undergraduate institution
- Information from your medical school interview
- Letters of recommendation from advisors, faculty members, community leaders, research sponsors, or employers
- Extracurricular activities (e.g., student governance and community service)
- Medical-related work experience, research, or volunteer service
- Experience navigating through cultural barriers or challenges
- Contribution to a medical school’s diversity, broadly defined (e.g., background, attitudes, experiences, etc.)
- Personal statements
- Institutional application forms

How the Use of MCAT Scores Varies among Medical Schools

If you’ve seen one medical school ... you’ve seen one medical school.

Medical schools vary greatly in terms of goals, purposes, and admissions criteria. There is no single method practiced by all medical schools for considering MCAT scores. The degree to which each institution weighs scores, as well as all the other factors, is a reflection of that particular school’s mission and processes; therefore, what one institution considers critical, another could deem less significant.

Ultimately, it is up to you to ascertain which schools value your particular strengths and, conversely, which ascribe lesser weight to your weaker areas.*

**You may find the MSAR® guide, published by the AAMC and [available for purchase](#), a helpful tool in uncovering which institutions most closely align with your qualifications.*

Appendix D: Registration Fee Structure and Policies

Registration Fees (in USD)					
GOLD ZONE		SILVER ZONE		BRONZE ZONE	
Approx. 1 month or more prior to the exam*		Approx. 3–4 weeks prior to the exam*		Approx. 1–2 weeks prior to the exam*	
*Exact registration deadlines for each zone can be found in Appendix E: Registration Deadlines. All deadlines are at 11:59 PM ET on the day of the deadline.					
Initial Registration	\$275	Initial Registration	\$275	Initial Registration	\$325
Date and/or Test Center Reschedule Fee**	\$65	Date and/or Test Center Reschedule Fee**	\$125	No Reschedule Option	N/A
Cancellation Refund	\$135	No Cancellation Refund	N/A	No Cancellation Refund	N/A
International Fee**	\$90	International Fee**	\$90	International Fee**	\$90
Fee Assistance Program (FAP) Recipients (in USD)					
FAP Registration	\$100	FAP Registration	\$100	FAP Registration	\$150
FAP Reschedule**	\$25	FAP Reschedule**	\$45	No FAP Reschedule Option	N/A
FAP Cancellation Refund	\$50	No FAP Cancellation Refund	N/A	No FAP Cancellation Refund	N/A
FAP International Fee*	\$90	FAP International Fee*	\$90	FAP International Fee*	\$90
ADDITIONAL BENEFITS		ADDITIONAL BENEFITS		ADDITIONAL BENEFITS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More flexibility for dates and locations 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No increase in registration fee 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can cancel reservation, but no refund 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can reschedule exam date and/or location for the lowest fee 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can reschedule exam date and/or location for a fee 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can cancel reservation and get a partial refund 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can cancel reservation, but no refund 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower reschedule and cancellation fees for FAP recipients 					
**These fees are <u>in addition to</u> the initial registration fee.					
❖ Payment can only be made with a major credit card (MasterCard or VISA), payable in U.S. funds.					
❖ Your registration will be processed immediately upon submission.					
❖ The registration process cannot be reversed once completed. You will be responsible for all fees. The AAMC may cancel your registration, withhold all scores, and/or disallow future registration and other services if payment is withheld.					
❖ International test sites include all countries, provinces, or territories outside the United States, Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.					
❖ Rescheduling into an exam date that is within the Bronze Zone requires an additional \$50 fee. This fee is the difference between the initial Silver Zone registration fee (\$275) and the initial Bronze Zone registration fee (\$325).					

Appendix E: Registration Deadlines

Exam Dates	GOLD ZONE BEGINS	GOLD ZONE DEADLINE	Morning Administration 8:00 a.m.	Afternoon Administration 1:00 p.m.	Two Administrations 8:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.	<i>All deadlines are at 11:59 p.m. ET on the day of the deadline.</i>
			SILVER ZONE BEGINS	SILVER ZONE DEADLINE	BRONZE ZONE BEGINS	
Thursday, January 23, 2014	October 16, 2013	December 23, 2013	December 24, 2013	January 7, 2014	January 8, 2014	January 16, 2014
Saturday, January 25, 2014	October 16, 2013	December 26, 2013	December 27, 2013	January 9, 2014	January 10, 2014	January 21, 2014
Saturday, March 22, 2014	October 16, 2013	February 20, 2014	February 21, 2014	March 6, 2014	March 7, 2014	March 17, 2014
Saturday, April 5, 2014	October 16, 2013	March 6, 2014	March 7, 2014	March 20, 2014	March 21, 2014	March 31, 2014
Friday, April 11, 2014	October 16, 2013	March 12, 2014	March 13, 2014	March 26, 2014	March 27, 2014	April 4, 2014
Thursday, April 24, 2014	October 16, 2013	March 25, 2014	March 26, 2014	April 8, 2014	April 9, 2014	April 17, 2014
Thursday, May 8, 2014	October 16, 2013	April 8, 2014	April 9, 2014	April 22, 2014	April 23, 2014	May 1, 2014
Saturday, May 17, 2014	October 16, 2013	April 17, 2014	April 18, 2014	May 1, 2014	May 2, 2014	May 12, 2014
Thursday, May 22, 2014	October 16, 2013	April 22, 2014	April 23, 2014	May 6, 2014	May 7, 2014	May 15, 2014
Saturday, May 31, 2014	October 16, 2013	May 1, 2014	May 2, 2014	May 15, 2014	May 16, 2014	May 27, 2014
Thursday, June 5, 2014	February 11, 2014	May 6, 2014	May 7, 2014	May 20, 2014	May 21, 2014	May 29, 2014
Friday, June 13, 2014	February 11, 2014	May 14, 2014	May 15, 2014	May 28, 2014	May 29, 2014	June 6, 2014
Saturday, June 21, 2014	February 11, 2014	May 22, 2014	May 23, 2014	June 5, 2014	June 6, 2014	June 16, 2014
Wednesday, July 2, 2014	February 11, 2014	June 2, 2014	June 3, 2014	June 16, 2014	June 17, 2014	June 25, 2014
Saturday, July 12, 2014	February 11, 2014	June 12, 2014	June 13, 2014	June 26, 2014	June 27, 2014	July 7, 2014
Thursday, July 24, 2014	February 11, 2014	June 24, 2014	June 25, 2014	July 8, 2014	July 9, 2014	July 17, 2014
Friday, July 25, 2014	February 11, 2014	June 25, 2014	June 26, 2014	July 9, 2014	July 10, 2014	July 18, 2014
Friday, August 1, 2014	February 11, 2014	July 2, 2014	July 3, 2014	July 16, 2014	July 17, 2014	July 25, 2014
Saturday, August 2, 2014	February 11, 2014	July 3, 2014	July 4, 2014	July 17, 2014	July 18, 2014	July 28, 2014
Thursday, August 7, 2014	February 11, 2014	July 8, 2014	July 9, 2014	July 22, 2014	July 23, 2014	July 31, 2014
Friday, August 15, 2014	February 11, 2014	July 16, 2014	July 17, 2014	July 30, 2014	July 31, 2014	August 8, 2014
Thursday, August 21, 2014	February 11, 2014	July 22, 2014	July 23, 2014	August 5, 2014	August 6, 2014	August 14, 2014
Wednesday, August 27, 2014	February 11, 2014	July 28, 2014	July 29, 2014	August 11, 2014	August 12, 2014	August 20, 2014
Thursday, September 4, 2014	February 11, 2014	August 5, 2014	August 6, 2014	August 19, 2014	August 20, 2014	August 28, 2014
Saturday, September 6, 2014	February 11, 2014	August 7, 2014	August 8, 2014	August 21, 2014	August 22, 2014	September 2, 2014
Wednesday, September 10, 2014	February 11, 2014	August 11, 2014	August 12, 2014	August 25, 2014	August 26, 2014	September 3, 2014
Friday, September 12, 2014	February 11, 2014	August 13, 2014	August 14, 2014	August 27, 2014	August 28, 2014	September 5, 2014
Thursday, September 18, 2014	February 11, 2014	August 19, 2014	August 20, 2014	September 2, 2014	September 3, 2014	September 11, 2014
Tuesday, October 21, 2014	February 13, 2014	September 22, 2014	September 23, 2014	October 6, 2014	October 7, 2014	October 14, 2014
Saturday, October 25, 2014	February 13, 2014	September 25, 2014	September 26, 2014	October 9, 2014	October 10, 2014	October 20, 2014
Friday, November 7, 2014	February 13, 2014	October 8, 2014	October 9, 2014	October 22, 2014	October 23, 2014	October 31, 2014
Thursday, January 8, 2015	February 13, 2014	December 9, 2014	December 10, 2014	December 23, 2014	December 24, 2014	January 2, 2015
Saturday, January 10, 2015	February 13, 2014	December 11, 2014	December 12, 2014	December 26, 2014	December 27, 2014	January 5, 2015
Tuesday, January 13, 2015	February 13, 2014	December 15, 2014	December 16, 2014	December 29, 2014	December 30, 2014	January 6, 2015
Thursday, January 15, 2015	February 13, 2014	December 16, 2014	December 17, 2014	December 30, 2014	December 31, 2014	January 8, 2015
Friday, January 23, 2015	February 13, 2014	December 23, 2014	December 24, 2014	January 7, 2015	January 8, 2015	January 16, 2015

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2450 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-1127
T 202 828 0690 **F** 202 828 4799
www.aamc.org/mcat