

Welcome to the 2010 MCAT® Essentials!

Welcome to the 2010 MCAT® Essentials, and to this exciting and challenging stage of your professional journey.

We here at the AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) and the MCAT exam staff in particular, wish you the best of success as you prepare to sit for the test. With that in mind, we ask that you please be aware of the following as you read this guide:

- ***This document is the official MCAT exam policy guide*** and provides fundamental information about registration, test-day policies, and post-test procedures. In addition, we have included a brief overview of exam content and scoring, some basic suggestions to help you prepare for the exam, a list of contacts and online services, and other helpful information.
- ***The MCAT exam staff will be happy to clarify any rules or procedures that require further explanation.*** While we cannot assist you if you fail to follow policy, we can certainly help you understand any requirements that are unclear to you. You will find contact listings for staff and related resources in Appendix A, and we encourage you to get in touch with us prior to registering for the exam if you need our assistance.

Once again, best wishes from the AAMC as you take this critical step toward a successful and rewarding medical career.

Required Reading

Please note that you are required to read the 2010 MCAT Essentials before you register for the exam.

At the time of registration, you will be required to certify that you read this material and understand the policies and procedures contained in it. In addition, please be aware that if you are a returning examinee, you must read the Essentials guide associated with your new registration. The *Essentials* are subject to change. The version of the *Essentials* that is applicable to you is that which was in effect at the time of your registration. Please print this document for your records.

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Part 1: About the MCAT® Exam

The Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) is a standardized examination that consists of three multiple-choice sections and a writing assessment. Its purpose is to test the skills and knowledge that medical educators and physicians have identified as key prerequisites for success in medical school and the practice of medicine.

The exam has been part of the medical school admissions process for more than 60 years, and today all medical schools in the United States and most in Canada require applicants to submit recent MCAT exam scores. In addition, many other health professions and graduate programs accept MCAT exam scores in lieu of other standardized tests. Considering its widespread acceptance, it is no surprise that more than 70,000 students sit for the exam each year.

The AAMC, in conjunction with its member U.S. medical schools, develops and administers the MCAT exam and owns all aspects of it. Consequently, the AAMC may use scores for research and reporting, but only you, as the examinee, may receive your individual test scores and authorize their release to others.

Please research the specific application and admissions policies for the institution(s) in which you are interested for their current requirements. Unfortunately, the AAMC cannot grant refunds of MCAT exam fees for failure to comply with school policy.

Exam Content

Beyond testing for the mastery of basic concepts in biology, general and organic chemistry, and physics, the exam also assesses capacity for problem solving and critical thinking as well as general writing skills. By testing for these varied skills, medical school faculty hopes to encourage undergraduates with broad educational backgrounds to consider careers in the health professions and to persuade premedical students to explore a wide variety of course offerings outside of the natural sciences—as well as to identify those candidates most likely to be successful in the study of medicine. That is why the exam consists of the following diverse sections:

- Physical Sciences,
- Verbal Reasoning,
- Writing Sample, and
- Biological Sciences

The chart below provides an overview of each of these four sections, including the number of questions and the time allotted to that segment. More detailed information on each section follows below.

Test Section	Questions	Time
Tutorial (optional)		10 minutes
Examinee Agreement		10 minutes
Physical Sciences	52	70 minutes
Break (optional)		10 minutes
Verbal Reasoning	40	60 minutes
Break (optional)		10 minutes
Writing Sample	2	60 minutes
Break (optional)		10 minutes
Biological Sciences	52	70 minutes
Void Question		5 minutes
Survey (optional)	12	10 minutes
Total Content Time		4 hours, 25 minutes
Total “Seat” Time		5 hours, 25 minutes
Total time does not include check-in time on arrival at the test center.		

Section Analysis

Physical Sciences and Biological Sciences

The Physical Sciences section assesses problem-solving ability in general chemistry and physics, and the Biological Sciences section evaluates these abilities in the areas of biology and organic chemistry. Each section contains 7 passage-based sets of questions and 13 independent questions. Each passage-based set consists of four to seven questions.

The questions, both passage-based and independent, evaluate your knowledge of basic physical and biological science concepts and your facility at problem solving using these concepts. They do not test your ability to memorize scientific facts.

Verbal Reasoning

The Verbal Reasoning section evaluates your ability to understand, evaluate, and apply information and arguments presented in prose style. The test consists of seven passages, each of which is about 600 words long, taken from the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. Each passage-based set consists of five to seven questions, assessing your ability to extrapolate information from the accompanying passage.

Please note that each multiple-choice section will include some experimental items that do not count toward your score.

Writing Sample

The Writing Sample consists of two 30-minute essays, each of which addresses specific topics that require an expository response and assesses skill in the following areas:

- Developing a central idea,
- Synthesizing concepts and ideas,
- Presenting ideas cohesively and logically, and
- Writing clearly, with the ability to follow accepted rules of grammar, syntax, and punctuation consistent with the level of a timed, first-draft composition.

Topics do not assess subject-matter knowledge in or pertain to the content of biology, chemistry, or physics; the medical school application process or reasons for the choice of medicine as a career; or social and cultural issues not in the general experience of college students.

Information about preparing for the exam and how medical schools use scores may be found in Appendix B.

Part 2: The Essential Essentials

Each year we hear from disappointed examinees who could have avoided disappointment if they had only read the MCAT Essentials and heeded our advice. We don't want this to happen anymore than you do. So while you are responsible for reading and understanding all of the policies and procedures provided throughout this document, including “Part 3: The Complete Essentials,” we've listed below for your convenience the most frequently overlooked Essentials.

These are the rules that AAMC staff and the Test Center Administrators are required to strictly enforce. While we don't spend much time here explaining the reasons behind the policies—we'll be happy to explain if you contact us—we have provided here the most critical information necessary for a smooth registration and testing experience. Examinees who do not follow the instructions below may have difficulty taking the exam and will not be eligible for rescheduling or refunds.

Using Your AAMC ID

Since we consider your AAMC ID part of your identity as you use our services, it's very important that you neither register for the MCAT exam under another examinee's AAMC ID nor allow someone else to register under your AAMC ID. Not only are such actions violations of our registration rules, we also consider them akin to taking the exam for someone else. Additionally, you may not obtain more than one AAMC ID. Consequences may be registration or score cancellation, suspension of registration eligibility, and an investigation report to the institutions receiving your applications.

Selecting a Test Date

If you absolutely need to test this year to meet an application deadline, do not chose a September test date. On rare occasions, we experience problems with servers or workstations and sometimes we experience other events outside of our control, such as inclement weather. Although these events are unfortunate (affecting less than .05% of examinees each year) and no fault of examinees, the AAMC cannot arrange for make-up exams after the testing year ends. Our only remedy for confirmed problems that should have been within the test center's control will be a refund of registration fees.

Additionally, we also suggest you test early in the year, January through May, if you think you may want to test more than once within the year.

Registering for the Exam

Don't wait until the last minute to register for the test. For the best chance at reserving your preferred test date and location, we recommend you register 60 days or more in advance of the exam day. Additionally, if you are registering on the last day of registration and experience computer problems, we may not be able to assist you in time to meet the deadline.

Make sure that you enter your name in the registration system in EXACTLY the same way it appears on the ID you'll use on test day. Have your ID out when you are entering your name into the registration system. If you realize after submitting your registration that there is not an exact match, you are welcome to change your name in the [registration system](#) to match your ID, as long as you make the change by the [late registration deadline](#) associated with your test date. (New York State ID holders: if your ID has your initials, please contact us at (202) 828-0690 prior to the regular registration deadline associated with your test date for instructions.)

Visit our website for additional [Registration Tips](#).

Reporting on Test Day

Getting to the Test Center

Know the time zone for your test center, which may be different from what you expect. Some states, for example, do not follow daylight savings or have some areas that follow it and others that do not. Know what your test center follows, especially if you are crossing a state or county line. Although we can't vouch for any particular resource, there are several Web sites available to help you figure out the time zone for your test location. Unfortunately, the MCAT Resource Center Staff are not familiar with the time zones for each of the over 400 test sites.

Before heading out to the test center, make sure you have the current address. Sometimes test center addresses change. We make every effort to notify you before test day, but if you don't have the email or didn't get the phone message, our [Web site](#) should display the current address.

Make sure you get to the testing center 30 minutes before your scheduled start. The Test Center Administrator will begin checking in examinees a half hour before the appointment time on your confirmation. They will check your identification, take your fingerprints and help you get settled into your workstation. For many reasons, some examinees miss their start times. If this happens to you – it happens to the best of us – go into the [registration system](#) two days after the test date you missed to register **and pay** for another test. You should also plan ahead of time by locating the test center prior to test day – you won't be allowed to enter the center, but you can make sure you know how to get there and how long it will take to get there.

Providing Identification

Make sure you bring proper identification. Here are a few things you need really need to know for test day about identification:

- It is the examinee's responsibility to obtain and provide eligible identification at the test center. Your identification must be in the form of a current (unexpired), major government-issued ID that includes a photo that the Test Center Administrator can use to positively identify you, an expiration date, and your signature. We know some ID's do not have signatures, so if your identification meets all of the other requirements, we can

accept a supplemental ID with a signature if you provide it along with your valid government-issued identification.

- A "major" form of ID is typically a driver's license or passport. These are the types of ID's we are able to validate. Regretfully, we cannot accept employee ID's, student ID's, library cards, etc., even if they have been issued by governmental or government-sponsored institutions. If you have an ID that is not a driver's license or passport, but you think it may be eligible, you must contact us no later than the [regular registration deadline](#) for your test date to seek permission to use it on test day.
- The Test Center Administrator will look for an exact match of the name on the identification you present with the name that appears on the test day list. If the list has a partial name, nickname, or any derivation of the name that appears on your identification (including misspellings), the administrator is not allowed to admit you to the testing room.
- Know when your ID expires. If your identification will expire by your test day, you are responsible for obtaining an updated ID. Please note that temporary ID's and ID application receipts will not be accepted at the test center because we are unable to validate their authenticity. Also know how long it takes to get a new ID in your state. Some states, such as Texas, mail ID's about 6 weeks after you submit your request. If you find that you will not have an updated ID by your test date, you will have to change your test date and be responsible for applicable fees.

Reporting a Problem

Submit a test center concern if you need AAMC to research a problem that you experienced on test day. There are two things you need to do if you experience a problem on test day: 1) file a Center Problem Report with the test center administrator, and 2) Send your test center concern to the AAMC. While the test center is not responsible for researching or resolving any problems you experienced – only the AAMC can do that – the problem report is necessary for the AAMC to follow-up on your concerns. See page 26 for more instructions on submitting a test center concern.

Registering for another Test Date

You may register for another date 48 hours after your scheduled test date. This rule applies to **all registered examinees**, including examinees who experience a problem at the test center, are turned away for improper ID, or simply do not show up for the exam.

Releasing your Test Scores

To see how you did, sign into our score reporting system a month after your test date to get your scores. You will be able to view your scores in the Testing History (THx) Score Reporting System 30 to 35 days after your test date, between 5 pm and midnight Eastern time. See the [Registration Deadline & Score Release Schedule](#) for the tentative release dates. The [Testing History \(THx\) System](#) is also where you will release your scores to institutions that do not participate in the American Medical College Applications Service (AMCAS).

If you're applying to medical school through the [American Medical College Application Service \(AMCAS\)](#), we'll automatically send your scores to the schools you've selected.

There is no extra step you need to take to insert your scores into AMCAS. Additionally, since the medical schools want to see your entire testing history along with the many other credentials you submit in your application, this also means that you cannot withhold your scores from AMCAS.

Contacting us

Contact us before it's too late for us to help you. For most questions or concerns, this typically means that you should reach us no later than the regular registration deadline associated with your test date. MCAT Specialists are available to assist you with the registration process, test day procedures and score reporting. For general inquiries related to any of these topics, contact us at mcats@aamc.org, or (202) 828-0690. Our MCAT Resource Center is open Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm Eastern, with the exception of Thursdays when we are open from 9 am – 3 pm. In addition, we are also open during Saturday test days for limited hours.

You may need to reach us because you have a specific concern about a test item, a test center, or your scores. Detailed instructions for these topics are available in the MCAT Essentials. If you have any questions about procedures provided in the Essentials, please contact an MCAT Specialist.

Part 3: The Complete Essentials

Registering for the Exam

The MCAT exam is administered multiple times from late January through early September, and offered at hundreds of test sites in the United States, Canada, and throughout the world. After you have read the material in MCAT Essentials, you will be able to register online for the exam at the AAMC Web site.

Please note that online preregistration is required and that walk-in registration is not available.

When Should You Take the Exam?

You will want to take the exam the year in which you will apply for medical school, so that, for example, if you are applying in 2010 for entrance to medical school in 2011, you should take the exam in 2010. (Medical schools will, however, accept scores dating back two or three years. In the event you have taken the exam previously, we recommend that you check the application policies of each school in which you are interested.)

Eligibility

You may sit for the exam if you are preparing to apply to a health professions school. These include schools of:

- Allopathic,
- Osteopathic,
- Podiatric, and
- Veterinary Medicine.

You may take the exam up to three times in one calendar year, although you may register for only one test date at a time.

You must register under your own AAMC ID. If we find that you have registered under another person's AAMC ID, or that you have obtained multiple AAMC ID's, we may cancel your registration or test scores and you will not be eligible for a refund.

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, however, you are not applying to a health professions school, or if you are a currently enrolled medical student, you may obtain "special permission" to register for the exam. (See Page 14 for more information.)

International Students

If you are an international student, you are welcome to register for the exam provided that you meet the eligibility requirements described above.

Early Registration Encouraged

Please register early for the test date that you prefer, as test centers have limited capacity and registrations are processed in the order they are received. Please visit our Web site for the [2010 Deadlines & Registration Schedule](#).

Exam Dates and Registration Deadlines

Exam Dates

The AAMC selected exam dates to ensure that scores are available to meet most medical school application deadlines. Please choose the test date that fulfills the requirements of the school(s) of your choice. ([The Medical School Admissions Requirements](#) handbook published by the AAMC outlines school requirements. If you prefer, you may contact the school directly.)

Registration Deadlines

You must register through the online program hosted by the AAMC.

- The [regular registration deadline](#) is 14 calendar days prior to the test date.
- If you miss the regular deadline, you may be able to register during the [late time period](#), up to seven days prior to the test date. A late fee will apply. (The AAMC will be unable to grant fee assistance, ADA accommodations, or special permission during late registration.)

Registration Fees

The following chart lists fees associated with MCAT exam registration. Please note that payment must be in the form of a credit card (MasterCard or VISA), payable in U.S. funds. We will process your registration immediately upon submission.

Regular Registration	\$230
International Test Site*	\$65
Late Registration*	\$55
Date Reschedule*	\$55
Change of Test Center*	\$55
*These fees are added to the regular registration fee.	

International sites include all countries, provinces, or territories except Canada, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The registration process cannot be reversed once it has begun, and thus you will be responsible for all fees. If you reverse the credit card charge, or if payment is declined for any reason, you must provide an alternative form of payment on request. Otherwise, the AAMC must cancel your registration, withhold all scores, and disallow future registration and other services until arrears are made current.

AAMC Offers Fee Assistance Program

The AAMC Fee Assistance Program (FAP) aids individuals with extreme financial limitations who otherwise could not take the exam. The program reduces the regular testing fee for eligible individuals from \$230 to \$85.

Please be aware that you must receive a final FAP approval before you register. Visit www.aamc.org/students/applying/fap for complete information on the FAP, including eligibility, the application process, and associated deadlines.

NOTE: FAP eligibility decisions are tied directly to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' poverty-level guidelines. For the 2010 calendar year, applicants whose total family income is 300 percent or less of the poverty level for their family size are eligible for fee assistance.

Exam Locations

The MCAT exam is offered at hundreds of locations throughout the world. We suggest you rely on the most up-to-date list found on the [MCAT Scheduling and Registration System](#).

Changes and Cancellations

Test Center or Date Changes

You may change your test date and/or test center, provided that space is available, you make the change prior to the [regular registration deadline](#) associated with your initial test date, and you are rescheduling into the current calendar year. Additional fees will apply (see chart on page 11). If you make a change in both test date and center simultaneously, a single charge of just \$55 will be levied; however, if you make separate changes, you will be charged individually for each, resulting in a total charge of \$110.

You will be charged for a change regardless of how quickly it is requested after your initial registration. We regret we cannot make exceptions to this rule.

Cancellations

If you decide not to sit for the exam after you have registered for it, you will be eligible for a refund of \$115 if you cancel your registration by the [regular registration deadline](#). If you received fee assistance from the AAMC, the refund will be \$85.

Please cancel your registration online via the [MCAT Scheduling & Registration System](#).

Requests for cancellations after the deadline may be considered for special, personal circumstances, however, refunds cannot be provided. Examinees who wish to cancel after a deadline should submit a written request to the MCAT Resource Center no later than 48 hours before the exam date. The request must indicate that the examinee understands no refund will be issued. Emails are acceptable. Documentation may be required to support the request.

Special Note: Selling or giving away your registration to someone else is strictly forbidden since your registration is made under your AAMC ID. Please see “Using Your AAMC ID” on page 6 for more information.

Cancellation Refund

Make your refund request by canceling your exam online at least 14 days before your test date. In most cases, the refund will be automatic and applied to your original form of payment; however, the funds may not appear on your account for a few days. Please note that the AAMC does not grant deadline extensions, or have an appeal process.

AAMC and its test-site vendor, make every attempt to ensure facilities and equipment are available on test day. We may need to reschedule a small percentage of examinees, however, to new locations and/or dates when an event occurs necessitating such action. Very infrequently, rescheduling is not possible and the only option is a refund. Therefore, appointments are subject to change or cancellation. 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.

Emergency Refunds

If you become hospitalized, experience a death in your immediate family, or are unexpectedly called away to active military service or other health-care service duty for a catastrophic event after the regular registration deadline, you may request an emergency refund. We will ask you to provide documentation that includes the date of onset or deployment, the duration of the illness or service, and its impact on your ability to take the exam on your scheduled date. Please contact the MCAT Resource Center for more detailed rules and instructions. We will ask you to provide documentation that includes the date of onset or deployment, the duration of the illness or service. Please contact the MCAT Resource Center at (202) 828-0690 or mcats@aamc.org for more detailed rules and instructions. We will process approved refunds within two weeks of receipt of the required documentation.

Note about H1N1 (swine flu): In recognition of the extraordinary impact H1N1 may have on our examinees and in keeping with recommendations from the U.S. Government’s Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we are encouraging examinees who believe they have the swine flu to stay at home and reschedule the exam. Special testing dates have been established for this purpose. Rescheduling fees will apply. Please contact the MCAT Resource Center if you find yourself in this situation, so that we may help you reschedule into one of the special dates.

Absences

If you do not attend an exam for which you are registered, neither your registration nor your absence will be reported to schools. Additionally, the registration will not count toward the maximum three attempts you are allowed within the testing year. If you wish to schedule a new test date, registration will be available two days after the date you missed. All fees for the new registration will apply—unfortunately, we cannot transfer the fees from the date you were absent to a new appointment.

Registering For Another Test Date

You may register for another test 48 hours after your test date. This waiting period applies regardless of your individual circumstances, i.e., it applies whether you took the exam, were absent from your scheduled date, or voided your exam. Further, it applies regardless of the reason for your absence or void.

Special Accommodations

Accommodations will be made for examinees with disabilities or other health conditions, pending review and approval from the MCAT Office of Accommodated Testing. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, you will be required to submit documentation of your disability or condition at the time of registration. We will notify you in writing if your request has been approved, providing you with additional steps to confirm your registration. *(Please make certain that you follow the instructions provided with your approval letter to guarantee your accommodations.)*

If your request for accommodations is not granted, your initial registration for the exam remains valid. In this instance, you must decide whether to keep your registration (in which case no further action is necessary), or to cancel your registration. If you cancel in accordance with the cancellation and refund policies described above, you will receive a 50 percent refund.

Since there’s much more to say about the accommodations application and registration processes, we can’t explain it all here. Please visit [“Applying for Accommodations”](#) on our Web site, which includes applications procedures, processing times and other important and helpful information. The accommodations Web pages are required reading for all applicants.

Special Permissions

There are two circumstances in which you must apply for special permission to take the MCAT exam: (1) you wish to take the test for any reason other than applying to a health professions school, or (2) you are a currently enrolled medical student.

To apply for special permission, please send an e-mail request to mcataamc.org, stating the reason(s) you wish to take the exam. The MCAT exam office will attempt to review and respond to your request within five business days, although heavy volume may delay our ability to reply within this time frame. We therefore ask that you be mindful of registration deadlines, as staff cannot extend closing dates for any reason.

Score Release Options

Primary Release

When you register for the MCAT exam, you authorize release of your scores to the AAMC and its affiliated institutions for research purposes. (As part of the registration process, you will be required to check “YES” when asked about release of information.) Please be assured that these institutions will maintain the confidentiality of your scores at all times and will not report them in any personally identifiable way, except with your permission.

Secondary Release

If you are applying for medical school, you and the American Medical College Application Service* (AMCAS) will receive your scores automatically. Beyond that, though, there are three different score release options, described below, which you will be asked to consider and decide on at the time of registration. These options relate to services that may benefit you as you pursue admission to medical school and provide the opportunity to have your MCAT exam scores and contact information sent to the institution or agency described. The costs of these services, which are detailed below, are included in the basic registration fee.

**For a description of the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS®), please see page 24.*

Health Professions Advisor

This release gives the AAMC permission to include your scores and demographic information in a Web-based report to undergraduate health professions advisors, who find such data useful when counseling students. In addition, advisors may share your scores with members of their premedical committees or others involved in preparing letters of recommendation.

The MCAT Scheduling & Registration System allows you to release to advisors at only one institution. If you attended more than one school and you use the American Medical School Application Service (AMCAS®), you will have an opportunity within AMCAS to release to

additional schools. Also, if you did not release to your advisors at the time you registered for the exam, you may do so later within the AMCAS application.

In some instances, undergraduate institutions have not designated an official health professions advisor (or have not identified the advisor to the AAMC), and in these cases, we cannot release your scores to these institutions.

Med-MAR

This release is for use by disadvantaged students and under-represented minorities who plan to apply to medical school. It gives the AAMC permission to include your scores and biographical information in the Medical Minority Applicant Registry (Med-MAR), a service created to enhance admission opportunities for individuals from groups currently under-represented in medicine.

Med-MAR distributes Web-based basic biographical information on prospective medical school applicants to admission offices of AAMC members (and certain health-related agencies) who wish to increase opportunities for economically disadvantaged students and those from under-represented groups. The registry is updated after each score release, at no cost to students or to medical schools.

You are eligible for Med-MAR if you are a (1) U.S. citizen or permanent resident visa holder, and (2) member of a racial or ethnic group currently under-represented in medicine and/or economically disadvantaged.

MCAT Recruiting Service

This release gives the AAMC permission to include your contact and MCAT exam score information in reports produced by the MCAT Recruiting Service. Accredited U.S. and Canadian schools of medicine, osteopathic medicine, podiatry, and veterinary medicine, along with scholarship programs of the U.S. government (including those of the U.S. military), may request information about examinees and use that information to send you material as part of their recruiting efforts.

Please note that you cannot change your response to the three release options described above after you have submitted your registration.

Taking the Exam: Test-day Procedures and Regulations

Admission and Identification

You must report to the test center at least 30 minutes prior to your appointment time in order to be admitted to the exam. When you arrive at the center, you will verify your identity, proceed through admission procedures, and receive your seat assignment. In the event of inclement weather, most test centers will be open and examinees are expected to report to their appointments. Registration fees will not be refunded to examinees who are delayed or unable to reach the test center.

The Test Center Administrator will admit only those examinees who can be positively identified through qualifying forms of identification. Please be prepared to provide personal identification in the form of a current, valid government-issued ID containing an expiration date, your photo, and signature (e.g., a driver's license or passport) in which the name matches that of your registration exactly. We regret we cannot accept employee ID's, library cards, school ID's, or other similar forms of identification, even if issued by a governmental or government-sponsored institution. We also cannot accept temporary ID's. If you are unsure if your ID meets our requirements, please contact us well in advance of test day. Please see our [Registration Tips](#) for more information.

In addition, you must accept the terms of the Examinee Agreement. If you do not indicate that you agree with this statement, or if you do not answer this question within the five minutes provided, you will be unable to test and you will not receive a refund. See page 19 for detailed information about the agreement.

These measures help prevent fraud and protect the integrity of the exam. The Test Center Administrator will capture your identification electronically, including your fingerprints and photograph (biometrics). If you refuse to provide fingerprints or photo, the Test Center Administrator will not be able to admit you to the testing room. Electronic capture of your biometric data allows for easier and quicker return to the testing facility after breaks. The biometric and other identity data will be retained by the AAMC and made available for identity verification at future MCAT administrations, should you choose to retake the examination. Should you continue to pursue a medical career, these data may permit you to verify your identity when you arrive at a medical school, board exams or health care facility. Please see our Web site for more information on [biometrics](#).

Please take the following actions, if necessary:

1. If you cannot obtain government-issued identification, you must contact the MCAT Office prior to registering for the exam.
2. If your photo ID does not have your signature on it, you must bring a second form of identification that does have your signature.
3. If the name on your identification does not match your registration (you were recently married, for example), you must bring official proof of your name change. The proof must be an original document that includes both the old and new names.

Test Center Regulations and Procedures

The AAMC is deeply committed to ensuring the authenticity and validity of test scores. In order to do so, and to provide fair, equal, and secure testing conditions for all examinees, the staff at each test center will adhere to the following common procedures:

- The Test Center Administrator will check examinees into the testing room one by one to begin the exam. The actual starting time of the exam will vary for individuals due to volume and pre-administration procedures; therefore, please be prepared to wait up to an hour, possibly a little longer.
- The center will provide scratch paper or dry erase boards, ear covers (industrial), and pencils. No other testing aids are allowed. The Test Center Administrator will collect your scratch paper before you leave.
- With the exception of earplugs (see below), you may bring no personal items into the testing room other than your ID. You must store personal belongings, including telephones, pagers, books, handbags, and food in the secure area that will be provided for you. You are encouraged to leave personal items at home on test day, neither AAMC nor the testing contractor are responsible for loss of damage to personal belongings.
- You may bring your own earplugs to wear with or without the headphones provided at the test center. They must be in the original, unopened package and must be presented to the Test Center Administrator for inspection.
- You must sign in and out on the Signature Log and present identification each time you enter and leave the testing room.
- A digital image of your fingerprint will be taken, and your identification will be rescanned each time before entering the test room.
- The Test Center Administrator will assign you to a seat, which you will maintain for the duration of the exam.
- Access to the examination room will be restricted to test center personnel, examinees, and authorized observes.
- Once the examination begins, you are considered to have tested even if you void or do not complete the test. Please see Page 21 for information on voiding the exam.
- The testing clock will begin to count down as soon as the examination is started. The timer is visible on your testing monitor throughout the examination, and time is counted down by section. If you end 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. The day includes three optional 10-minute breaks between each section. You may wish to bring snacks for your breaks, since eating facilities may not be located near the test site or may not be equipped to handle large crowds.
- To protect the security of the exam questions, examinees may not study or use cell phones or other messaging devices during breaks.
- You may not wear caps during the test. Earplugs are permitted, but upon arrival at the test center they must be presented to the Test Center Administrator for inspection in their original sealed packaging.
- Energy-saving practices vary widely, and you may find the testing room colder or warmer than you expected. You should therefore dress comfortably and be prepared for varying room temperatures. If you remove an item of clothing (for example, a sweater) during the exam, you will be instructed to place it in the secure area. The exam clock will not stop during this time.

We take care to ensure that registrations, the exam, and the answers are properly processed and scored. In the unlikely event that a mistake occurs in processing registrations, scoring, or in reporting scores, the error will be corrected, if possible. If this is not possible, the examinee will be permitted to either retest at no additional fee or to receive a refund of his or her examination fee.

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 agreement will appear on four screens, including an introduction and instructions on the first screen and three statements to which you must agree on the following screens. Below is the full text of the agreement:

Page 1

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. Please indicate your acceptance to the statements by clicking the appropriate buttons.

Page 2

I certify that I am the person whose name and address appear on the registration. 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 agree to the terms set forth in *MCAT® Essentials*, including but not limited to, the rules and regulations concerning test-day procedures; the remedies available to examinees in the event of any errors in test delivery or administration, scoring, or score reporting; and the ban on bringing study materials or other prohibited information or items into the testing room and on other prohibited conduct before, during or following the exam administration.

Page 3

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.

Examples of prohibited acts include, but are not limited to: describing questions, passages or graphics from the exam; discussing exam questions on web “chat” rooms or through other means; identifying terms or concepts contained in exam questions; sharing answers to questions; referring others to information you saw on the exam; or reconstructing a list of topics tested.

Page 4

I understand 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 and may be reported to interested parties. I also understand that I might be subject to a civil lawsuit and/or criminal charges if I violate this Agreement.

Investigations Process

- If a claim of violation of test-day procedures or post-test conduct (including copyright infringement or violation of the terms of the Examinee Agreement) arises, MCAT exam officials will investigate the claim and may issue a report of the factual findings of the investigation.
- If a report of the incident is to be issued, the AAMC notifies the examinee first, providing information about any available options, which may include the opportunity to submit a statement explaining the examinee’s actions, to request a reconsideration or to appeal the AAMC’s decision.
- In its sole discretion, 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 may also 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 this Examinee Agreement. AAMC may also elect to suspend an individual’s eligibility to test, for a limited period of time or permanently.

Additional Security Information

Test Day Irregularities

The AAMC may investigate any action that negatively impacts the testing environment or the security and integrity of the exam. If an examinee violates procedures or engages in any irregular behavior, it will first be reported to the Test Center Administrator and then to the AAMC. At AAMC's discretion, the investigations process, as described above in the MCAT® Examine Agreement, may apply to any rules violation. Examples of prohibited actions include, but are not limited to:

- giving or receiving assistance,
- copying another examinee's work,
- using prohibited aids (e.g., desktop timers, calculators, other electronics),
- attempting to take the test for someone else,
- 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,
- leaving the testing room without permission,
- failing to follow the supervisor's instructions after being warned,
- creating a disruption of any kind,
- violating test center regulations or procedures,
- violating local laws, regulations, or policies, and
- being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.

The AAMC may also investigate unusual similarities in the answers of examinees at the same test center or other indicators that scores may not be valid.

Exam Registration

The investigations process as described in the MCAT® Examine Agreement may also apply to registration rules violations. Examples of such violations include but are not limited to:

- using another examinee's AAMC ID or allowing someone to use your AAMC ID,
- obtaining multiple AAMC ID's for the purpose of:
 - registering for more than one exam at a time,
 - registering for more than three exams in one testing year,
 - avoiding score release rules.

Voiding Your Exam

The AAMC offers you an option to void your MCAT exam if you are uneasy with your performance and do not wish your test to be scored. This opportunity occurs only at the end of the exam, when you will be asked to select one of the following two options:

- “I wish to have my MCAT exam scored.”
- “I wish to VOID my MCAT exam.”

Please note the clarifications below:

- Voiding your scores on test day means that you will not receive scores. Scores cannot be “unvoided” at a later date.
- If you begin each section but do not complete one or more of them, your test will not be voided unless you request it. To “begin” means that you have answered at least one question in the multiple choice sections and that you have opened the Writing Sample. If you intend to void the test before completing it, and do not know how to proceed to the screen to select the void option, inform the Test Center Administrator, who will provide instructions for doing so. 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” on the void screen to have your exam voided.
- If you have begun each section, whether you answered questions or not, your exam will be scored if you do not elect to void on the void screen. If you do not begin each section and must leave due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances, we may void your scores on your behalf; however, you should make every effort to follow the void instructions above to prevent confusion about your intentions.
- You will have five minutes to make a selection on the void screen. If you do not select one of the statements above during that time, your exam will be scored. You may not void scores at a later date.
- If you have selected one of the statements but do not submit your response within five minutes, the selection you made will be automatically submitted for you. You may not change the selection later.
- The AAMC will not approve refunds for voided tests, regardless of the reason for the void.

The AAMC will not report your participation in the test to AMCAS or to non-AMCAS schools if you void your scores. We will, however, regard you as having attended the test and will therefore count the attempt toward one of the three permitted each year.

Test Question Challenges

If you discover a question you think is flawed or ambiguous, please notify the MCAT Program Office.

You have the right to a written response from MCAT exam officials. To ensure this response, we must receive your communication—via fax or regular mail—no later than five days following your test date. In your correspondence, please include your name and address, your AAMC ID or Social Security Number (SSN/SIN), the location of the center where you tested, the question number, the section of the test in which the item was found, and a detailed description of the nature of the problem.

You may expect a response within four to six weeks from the date we receive your correspondence. Please note that we cannot accept challenges by email.

Please address your communication to:

Attention: Test Question Challenges
Association of American Medical Colleges
2450 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-1127
Fax: (202) 828-4799

Receiving and Sending MCAT Exam Scores

Exam Scoring

The four sections of the MCAT exam each result in a separate score. The Physical Sciences, Verbal Reasoning, and Biological Sciences sections, each comprised of multiple-choice questions, are scored between a low of 1 and a high of 15; the Writing Sample section, consisting of two essays. Each essay is scored twice on a scale of 1-6 (and ultimately converted to an alphabetic scale). The following explains the scoring in more detail and highlights certain aspects of the process:

Physical Sciences, Verbal Reasoning, and Biological Sciences

- Although all test forms of the exam measure the same basic skills and concepts, each form contains different questions. Since one form may be slightly more difficult or slightly easier than another, we convert the raw scores to a scale that takes into consideration the difficulty of test questions. Regardless of the particular test form used, equal scaled scores will represent the same level of skill mastery.
- Your raw score on the Writing Sample is the sum of four individual scores. Two scores are assigned to your first essay, and two are assigned to your second essay.
- There is no penalty for guessing.
- Taking into consideration the relative difficulty or ease of specific questions on your form as described above, your raw scores are converted to a scaled score ranging from a low of 1 to a high of 15. This conversion minimizes variability in test scores and tends to provide a more stable and accurate assessment of your abilities, since two examinees of equal ability would be expected to get the same scaled score even though there might be a slight difference in their raw scores.

Writing Sample

- Each essay is scored twice and your total raw score on the Writing Sample is the sum of the four individual scores.
- Each individual score ranges from 1 to 6.
- Your total raw score is converted to an alphabetic scale ranging from J (the lowest) to T (the highest).
- The same alphabetic score can result from different combinations of individual scores. For example, a candidate whose individual scores are 4 and 5 on the first topic and 4 and 4 on the second—for a raw score of 17—would receive the same alphabetic score as a candidate who scored 3 and 3 on the first topic and 5 and 6 on the second.

MCAT Testing History (THx) System

The AAMC offers an online score-reporting capability via the MCAT Testing History (THx) System by which you may view your most recent MCAT exam scores as soon as the AAMC releases them—at no charge.

In addition to that, and also at no charge, you may send THx score reports online to application services (besides AMCAS), as well as podiatry, veterinary, and public health programs. You may also print an Official Score Report to send to whomever you wish to receive your scores. (Recipients can verify examinee printed official score reports online, allowing examinees to send an official score report anywhere they wish.)

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

Please be aware that AAMC staff will not provide scores to examinees over the phone, nor will the AAMC or the MCAT Program Office be responsible for any claims or damages resulting to any person from delayed transmission of test scores for any reason whatsoever.

Score Reporting through AMCAS (American Medical College Application Service)

AMCAS®, a centralized application processing service of the AAMC, was developed to make the process of applying to participating medical schools easier and more uniform. AMCAS® applies only to first-year entering-class applicants to allopathic medical schools.

If you wish to apply to a medical school that participates in the AMCAS®—and almost all medical schools currently do—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), AMCAS® will send updated application information to the schools to which you applied, specifying your new test date and scores.

You may obtain AMCAS information either from your advisor or directly from the AAMC Web site at www.aamc.org/amcas. If you have particular questions, either concerning MCAT exam scores within an AMCAS application or about AMCAS procedures in general, please direct your question(s) to amcas@aamc.org.

Please see Appendix C for information on how medical schools use MCAT exam scores in their admissions process.

Score Reporting to Non-AMCAS Institutions

If you want your scores sent to a non-AMCAS school or application service, please use the online MCAT THx system (<https://services.aamc.org/mcatthx>) when your scores are released. If the school to which you want your scores sent is not listed, you may print a copy of your scores from the THx system and mail them directly.

To obtain MCAT exam scores prior to 1991, please use the form available at www.aamc.org/students/mcat/sendscores/thxapplication.pdf. It can be either faxed or mailed; a small payment will be required.

Requests for Rescoring Tests

The AAMC and the MCAT Program Office maintain a variety of quality control procedures to ensure the accuracy of scores and score reporting. If, however, you think that a scoring error has occurred, you may request that your multiple-choice answers be rescored by hand. You will receive the results of this rescoring in writing, and 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. Raw scores will not be disclosed.

If you wish to use this service, please write to:

Attention: MCAT Rescoring Service
Association of American Medical Colleges
2450 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-1127

Rescoring Fees	
Multiple-Choice sections (one fee for PS, BS, and VR combined)	\$55
Writing Sample	\$55
Entire Exam	\$110

In order for AAMC staff to process or respond to requests for rescoring, your letter must include:

- Your full name,
- AAMC ID number
- Mailing address,
- Telephone number, (cont.)

- E-mail address,
- Date of test,
- Sections of the test you wish rescored—either the three multiple-choice sections and/or the Writing Sample.
- Explanation for why you feel rescoring is necessary, and
- Check, money order, or credit card information (MasterCard or VISA 16-digit card number, expiration date, and amount) for the full fee. If you are paying by credit card, you must also provide your signature. Checks and money orders should be made payable in U.S. funds to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Note: Your letter must be postmarked no later than 30 days following the score release date.

We will begin processing rescoring requests once all scoring and data analyses following the test date have been completed and your scores have been reported to you. You will receive the results of rescoring the multiple-choice answers about four weeks after we receive your request. Due to the time involved in imaging the essays (and the nature of the essay scoring process), essay rescoring may require up to four months. We will, however, notify you of the outcome as soon as possible.

Remedies for Errors

The AAMC and the MCAT Program Office take great care to ensure that exam registrations are properly processed, and that exams are properly prepared, handled, and scored. In the unlikely event that a mistake occurs during the registration process; in preparing, handling, processing or scoring an exam; or in reporting scores, AAMC will correct the error, if possible, or may permit the affected examinee(s) to either retest at no additional fee or to receive a refund of his or her examination fee. Please 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 through prior access to exam content by one or more examinees.

Disruptions in Testing and Potential Compromises

The AAMC and the MCAT Program Office take steps to ensure standardized administration on test day. If events occur that result in the cancellation or interruption of testing or a deviation from required testing procedures, raise concerns about possible advance access to an exam's content by one or more examinees, or otherwise disrupt or compromise the normal testing process, the AAMC will examine the situation and determine if corrective action is necessary, including score cancellation(s) or non-scoring of answers. If the AAMC concludes that action is warranted, each affected examinee will be offered the option to either retest at no additional fee (normally on a future test date) or to receive a refund of his or her examination fee.* If the AAMC offers a retest, examinees who select that option must retake the entire exam in order 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 these options and may pursue the investigations process as described above in the Examinee Agreement.

Test Center Closures or Workstation Outages

If a test center is closed or an individual workstation is out, an effort will be made to reschedule all affected examinees. If this is not possible (especially late in the year when fewer testing opportunities remain), registration fees will be refunded. We regret we are unable to add test dates at the end of the year.

If you should be rescheduled due to a test center or workstation problem, the same cancellation policies, change fees, and deadlines will apply to the new date. This means that if you then decide to change or cancel your new date, you must do so by the [regular registration deadline](#) associated with the new date and pay any applicable fees.

Test Center Concerns Reported by Examinees

If you believe test center conditions interfered with your performance on the exam, you should report your concerns to the Test Center Administrator, who will file a Center Problem Report. The MCAT Office uses these reports in its investigations. If you would like a written response about a concern, you may ask the MCAT Office to research your concern. Please be aware that you must send your correspondence—either by fax or regular mail only—no later than five days following your exam, if you would like a response by the time scores are released. We will investigate any concern received within 10 days following an exam, however the processing time may be longer. Complaints received after 10 days will not be investigated.

When writing to us, please include the following information:

- your full name,
- AAMC ID number or Social Security Number (SSN/SIN),
- mailing address,
- telephone number,
- e-mail address,
- date of test
- location of test center,
- detailed description of problem.

Attention: Test Center Complaints
Association of American Medical Colleges
2450 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-1127
Fax: (202) 828-4799

We may need up to six weeks to conduct our research. We will notify you by regular mail of the result. Regardless of the result, scores will not be changed or voided.

Appendix A: Contacts and Online Resources

Accommodations	<p>www.aamc.org/students/mcat/accommodations/</p> <p>Email: accommodations@aamc.org</p>
General Questions Item Challenges Rescore Requests Test Center Complaints	<p>Email: mcats@aamc.org</p> <p>Phone: (202) 828-0690</p> <p>MCAT Office Association of American Medical Colleges 2450 N Street, NW Washington, DC 20037-1127</p> <p><i>Please use a subject or attention line stating the reason you are writing to us.</i></p>
Exam Scores	<p>https://services.aamc.org/mcatthx</p>
Practice Tests	<p>www.aamc.org/students/mcat/preparing/</p>
Publications	<p>www.aamc.org/publications</p>
Fee Assistance Program	<p>www.aamc.org/fap</p> <p>Email: fap@aamc.org</p> <p>Phone: (202) 828-0600</p> <p>AAMC Fee Assistance Program Association of American Medical Colleges 2450 N Street, NW Washington, DC 20037-1127</p>
American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS®)	<p>www.aamc.org/amcas</p> <p>Email: amcas@aamc.org</p> <p>Phone: (202) 828-0600</p> <p>AMCAS Association of American Medical Colleges 2450 N Street, NW Washington, DC 20037-1127</p>

Appendix B: Preparing for 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 sample topics, a description of skills assessed, test items, and answer keys for the Physical Sciences, Verbal Reasoning, and Biological Sciences section of the exam. The Writing Sample section includes sample essays and score explanation, and describes how to organize and compose responses.
- You may also want to purchase [The Official Guide to the MCAT Exam](#) for exam statistics, tips on coming up with the right solutions, and passages and questions from actual MCAT exams with detailed explanations of both correct and incorrect answers.
- In addition, you will also need to review relevant course outlines, notes, and textbooks, particularly in the sciences.
- After you have studied the material online and reviewed course material, you should take one or more of the official **MCAT Practice Tests** in order to help determine the areas in which you may need further study. When you take a practice test, try to replicate an actual testing environment as closely as possible. Minimize distractions, time yourself, and take the sections in their standard order (Physical Sciences, Verbal Reasoning, Writing Sample, and Biological Sciences).
- **A free practice test is available online at www.e-mcat.com.** This practice test provides optional interactive feedback that you can turn on or off, automated scoring, and a sophisticated diagnostic summary report across content areas. It also permits you to select an entire examination or section only, and to customize items selected by content area, type of skill, type of reading passage, or item difficulty.
- Although little computer skill is required to complete the computerized MCAT exam, you can acquaint yourself with the format and functionality through the tutorial at the beginning of the practice tests.

More About the Exam Sections

Physical Sciences and Biological Sciences

The scientific competency that you will be expected to demonstrate involves fundamental principles and concepts in biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, and physics that are presented in basic science courses offered at most undergraduate institutions. Consequently, because the depth of knowledge you will be expected to exhibit is limited, it is unlikely that you will improve your performance by enrolling in advanced science courses in preparation for the MCAT exam.

Verbal Reasoning

In this section, you will read a series of passages that will contain all the information you need to answer the accompanying questions. Participation in a variety of courses in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences during your undergraduate studies will enhance your performance. Please be aware that you need not specialize in any of these areas, but you should become familiar with the types of critical thinking and reasoning skills used in these disciplines.

Writing Sample

The best preparation for the Writing Sample is course work in expository writing or composition, which enables you to become acquainted with the components of a well-written, well-organized essay. You may also benefit from taking courses in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences that have strong writing requirements. In responding to the Writing Sample, you should be certain that you address the given topic, respond to the specific writing tasks, and fully develop your ideas into a complete, unified essay.

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. (It may be beneficial to discuss your decision with your premedical advisor and also take a look at [The Official Guide to the MCAT Exam's](#) section on retaking the exam).

The AAMC recommends retaking the MCAT exam only if:

- There exists an unusual discrepancy between your college grades and MCAT exam scores,
- Your course work in areas covered on the test was inadequate,
- You misunderstood the directions or incorrectly recorded your answers,
- You had a serious illness at the time of the test, or
- A member of a medical school admissions committee recommended that you retest.

How are Multiple Scores Used?

According to a survey of medical school admissions officers, schools use multiple sets of scores in several ways:

- Some schools weigh all sets of scores equally and note improvements,
- Others consider only the most recent set of scores,
- Still others take an average of all sets of scores, or
- Finally, some schools use only the highest set of scores or the highest individual sections scores.

Of the four methods used by medical schools, the first (using all sets of scores equally and noting improvements) is the most common. You may wish to contact an institution's admission office directly for information about its procedures.

How Can You Use the Scores If You Are Not Admitted to Medical School?

If you are not accepted to medical school, you may use the exam to help identify the academic areas in which you may need further study. You should remember, however, that the MCAT exam is only one of the criteria medical schools consider, so you should identify all areas in which you may need to improve if you intend to reapply to a medical school.

Appendix C: How Medical Schools Use MCAT Scores

A survey of medical school admission officers showed that the MCAT exam serves three main functions:

1. Identification of applicants who are likely to succeed in medical school and those likely to experience academic difficulty,
2. Assessment of applicants' specific strengths and weaknesses, and
3. Supplementation to applicants' transcripts and letters of evaluation.

Still, the MCAT exam is just one of a set of criteria that schools use to compare qualifications of applicants, and the emphasis that committees place on MCAT scores (as well as the range of acceptable scores) varies from school to school. In general, MCAT scores are considered in combination with a number of other factors, including:

- undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, and graduate grade-point averages,
- breadth and difficulty of undergraduate course work,
- letters of evaluation from undergraduate advisors or others,
- personal comments on application forms,
- involvement in extracurricular activities such as student governance and community service,
- involvement in and quality of health-related work and research,
- participation in other activities demonstrating motivation, responsibility, maturity, integrity, resourcefulness, tolerance, perseverance, dedication to service, citizenship, or other relevant non-cognitive characteristics,
- compatibility between the applicant's characteristics and professional goals and the institutional mission,
- knowledge of health care issues and commitment to health care,
- medical school interview results, and
- state or county of legal residence.