

MEDICAL COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE TEST (MCAT)

RECENT CHANGES

As you probably know, there were recent changes to the MCAT in 2015.

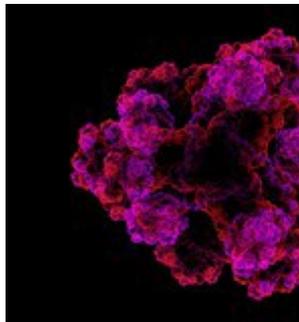
- More intensive critical reasoning/analysis section
- New social sciences section
- Admissions Committee review “percentiles” in each category instead of total scores

MCAT SECTIONS

Biological and
Biochemical
Foundations of
Living Systems
Section



Chemical and
Physical
Foundations of
Biological
Systems Section



Psychological,
Social, and
Biological
Foundations of
Behavior
Section



Critical Analysis
and Reasoning
Skills Section



WHAT WILL THE BIOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL FOUNDATIONS OF LIVING SYSTEMS SECTION TEST?

The Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems section asks you to solve problems by combining your knowledge of biological and biochemical concepts with your scientific inquiry and reasoning skills. This section tests processes that are unique to living organisms, such as growing and reproducing, maintaining a constant internal environment, acquiring materials and energy, sensing and responding to environmental changes, and adapting. It also tests how cells and organ systems within an organism act independently and in concert to accomplish these processes, and it asks you to reason about these processes at various levels of biological organization within a living system. This section is designed to: test introductory-level biology, organic chemistry, and inorganic chemistry concepts; test biochemistry concepts at the level taught in many colleges and universities in first-semester biochemistry courses; test cellular and molecular biology topics at the level taught in many colleges and universities in introductory biology sequences and first- semester biochemistry courses; test basic research methods and statistics concepts described by many baccalaureate faculty as important to success in introductory science courses; and require you to demonstrate your scientific inquiry and reasoning, research methods, and statistics skills as applied to the natural sciences.

Number of Questions: 59 (note that questions are a combination of passage-based and discrete questions)

Time: 95 minutes

WHAT WILL THE CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL FOUNDATIONS OF BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS SECTION TEST?

The Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems section asks you to solve problems by combining your knowledge of chemical and physical foundational concepts with your scientific inquiry and reasoning skills. This section tests your understanding of the mechanical, physical, and biochemical functions of human tissues, organs, and organ systems. It also tests your knowledge of the basic chemical and physical principles that underlie the mechanisms operating in the human body and your ability to reason about and apply your understanding of these basic chemical and physical principles to living systems. This section is designed to: test introductory-level biology, organic and inorganic chemistry, and physics concepts; test biochemistry concepts at the level taught in many colleges and universities in first- semester biochemistry courses; test molecular biology topics at the level taught in many colleges and universities in introductory biology sequences and first-semester biochemistry courses; test basic research methods and statistics concepts described by many baccalaureate faculty as important to success in introductory science courses; and require you to demonstrate your scientific inquiry and reasoning, research methods, and statistics skills as applied to the natural sciences.

Test Section: Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems

Number of Questions: 59 (note that questions are a combination of passage-based and discrete questions)

Time 95 minutes

WHAT WILL THE PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIAL, AND BIOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF BEHAVIOR SECTION TEST?

The Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior section asks you to solve problems by combining your knowledge of foundational concepts with your scientific inquiry and reasoning skills. This section tests your understanding of the ways psychological, social, and biological factors influence perceptions and reactions to the world; behavior and behavior change; what people think about themselves and others; the cultural and social differences that influence well-being; and the relationships between social stratification, access to resources, and well-being. The Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior section emphasizes concepts that tomorrow's doctors need to know in order to serve an increasingly diverse population and have a clear understanding of the impact of behavior on health. Further, it communicates the need for future physicians to be prepared to deal with the human and social issues of medicine. This section is designed to test psychology, sociology, and biology concepts that provide a solid foundation for learning in medical school about the behavioral and sociocultural determinants of health; test concepts taught at many colleges and universities in first-semester psychology and sociology courses; test biology concepts that relate to mental processes and behavior that are taught at many colleges and universities in introductory biology; test basic research methods and statistics concepts described by many baccalaureate faculty as important to success in introductory science courses; and require you to demonstrate your scientific inquiry and reasoning, research methods, and statistics skills as applied to the social and behavioral sciences. Test Section Number of Questions Time Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior 59 (note that questions are a combination of passage-based and discrete questions) 95 minutes

WHAT WILL THE CRITICAL ANALYSIS AND REASONING SKILLS SECTION TEST?

The Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills section of the MCAT exam will be similar to many of the verbal reasoning tests you have taken in your academic career. It includes passages and questions that test your ability to understand what you read. You may find this section to be unique in several ways, though, because it has been developed specifically to measure the analysis and reasoning skills you will need to be successful in medical school. The Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills section achieves this goal by asking you to read and think about passages from a wide range of disciplines in the social sciences and humanities, followed by a series of questions that lead you through the process of comprehending, analyzing, and reasoning about the material you have read. Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills passages are relatively short, typically between 500 and 600 words, but they are complex, often thought-provoking pieces of writing with sophisticated vocabulary and, at times, intricate writing styles. Everything you need to know to answer test questions is in the passages and the questions themselves. No additional coursework or specific knowledge is required to do well on the Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills section, but you, as the test taker, may find yourself needing to read the passages and questions in ways that are different from the reading required in the textbooks you used in most pre-health courses or on tests like the SAT Critical Reading exam. Passages for the Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills section— even those written in a conversational or opinionated style—are often multifaceted and focus on

the relationships between ideas or theories. The questions associated with the passages will require you to assess the content, but you will also need to consider the authors' intentions and tones and the words they used to express their points of view. This section is designed to test your comprehension, analysis, and reasoning skills by asking you to critically analyze information provided in passages; include content from ethics, philosophy, studies of diverse cultures, population health, and a wide range of social sciences and humanities disciplines; and provide all the information you need to answer questions in the passages and questions themselves.

Test Section: Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills

Number of Questions: 53 (note the questions are all passage-based)

Time 90 minutes

MCAT BOOKLET

For more information about specific sections and the overall MCAT, review the AMCAS manual at

https://aamc-orange.global.ssl.fastly.net/production/media/filer_public/f7/e5/f7e57fb2-44fa-4c00-83dd-c17cee034c47/mcat2015-content.pdf

SCORING MODEL

You will receive five scores from your MCAT exam: one for each of the four sections and one combined total score.

Section Scores: Each of the four sections--Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems; Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems; Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior; and Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills--is scored from a low of 118 to a high of 132, with a midpoint of 125. Test takers will receive scores for each of the four sections.

Total Score: Scores for the four sections are combined to create a total score. The total score ranges from 472 to 528. The midpoint is 500.

MCAT Total Score	Percentile Rank
528	100
527	100
526	100
525	100
524	100
523	100
522	99
521	99
520	98
519	98
518	97
517	96
516	95
515	93
514	91
513	89
512	87
511	85
510	83
509	80
508	77
507	74
506	71
505	68
504	64
503	61
502	57
501	54
500	51
499	47
498	43
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**MD: 87-100th Percentile
(512-528)**

**DO: 57-100th Percentile
(501-511)**

**ISRAELI: 43-100th Percentile
(498-500)**

Any student who receives less than the suggested percentiles above, should e-mail Mrs. Wood-Hill at woodhill@yu.edu immediately upon receiving their grades to discuss their situation.

While we review the MCAT scores for all applicants, we expect applicants with the above-mentioned scores to initiate contact with us immediately upon receipt of their scores.

Students who have borderline scores face the difficult decision about whether to repeat the MCAT exam. In such cases, especially in light of the new testing calendar for the MCATs, we suggest you register to retake the test, even though you won't get a refund if you decide not to retake it. This registration will ensure you have the opportunity to take it on a day and at a place that is convenient for you.

2017 Schedule for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT®)



			MCAT Admin	Score Release
JAN			January 19	February 21
FEB			January 28	February 28
MAR			March 31	May 2
APR			April 22	May 23
MAY			April 28	May 30
JUN			May 13	June 13
JUL			May 18	June 20
AUG			May 19	June 20
SEP			June 1	July 6
			June 16	July 18
			June 17	July 18
			June 29	August 1
			June 30	August 1
			July 21	August 22
			July 22	August 22
			July 27	August 29
			July 28	August 29
			August 3	September 5
			August 11	September 12
			August 18	September 19
			August 19	September 19
			August 24	September 26
			September 1	October 3
			September 2	October 3
			September 9	October 10

Be Prepared—

May

- ✓ 1 Thursday date (18th)
- ✓ 1 Friday date (19th)

June

- ✓ 2 Thursday dates (1st, 29th)
- ✓ 2 Friday dates (16th, 30th)

Updated: September 21, 2016