

The MCAT

The **Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT)** is a 7.5 hour exam, required by all medical schools, with 4 sections: (1) Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems; (2) Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems; (3) Psychological, Social and Biological Foundations of Behavior; and (4) Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills.

MCAT FAQ:

How is the MCAT scored? What is a good score?

Each of the 4 sections is scored between 118-132, with the mean/median at 125 and the total score from 472-528, for a mean of 500. 511 is the mean for all USF matriculated applicants to MD schools while 506 is the mean for all USF matriculated applicants to DO schools.

What classes do I need for the MCAT?

It is **highly recommended** that you finish all of the pre-med prerequisites before taking the MCAT, including biochemistry. Also, why introductory psychology is not a requirement for medical school, we highly recommend taking this course for the related Psychology/Sociology MCAT section.

When should I take the MCAT?

When you are ready and have finished all the required courses needed for the MCAT. Most test-takers prefer to study and take the test over summer (Aug/Sept test dates), when their schedule is lighter and not in competition with a full semester of activities. The latest we recommend taking the MCAT is April/May in the year you intend to apply.

How long should I study for the MCAT?

The average MCAT test-taker studies 30 hours per week for 3-4 months before taking the MCAT. Make sure to find a test date that gives you enough time to efficiently prepare.

Should I sign-up for a test prep company?

While there is no evidence that using a test prep company results in a better score, we do find that some students prefer the structure and resources that are provided. We recommend assessing what type of student you are- are you a self-starter? Can you create a structure around studying on your own? However you study, financially investing in some resources is common- whether online materials or in-person test prep.

USF has partnered with Blueprint MCAT to offer test-takers 50% listed price. Please email mdutton2@usfca.edu for more info.

RESOURCES

[AAMC MCAT](#) - Official site

[MCAT Reddit](#)-

[Khan Academy MCAT](#)

[ExamCrackers MCAT](#)

[Kaplan MCAT](#)

[The Princeton Review MCAT](#)

[MCAT Bros](#)

[UWorld](#)

[Anki Flashcards](#)

[CurveSetter](#)

[Blueprint](#)

[Jack Westin](#)

[MCAT Review Sheets](#)

[Sketchy](#)

[How you Will Crush the MCAT](#) (recommended by USF test-taker)

Have you taken the MCAT and would like to give feedback on your process to help other USF test-takers? Please email Director, Pre-Health Professions Advising, Marie Dutton at mdutton2@usfca.edu.