

## MCAT – The Medical College Admission Test

This standardized test, administered by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), covers topics necessary for the study and practice of medicine. The MCAT is a computer-based multiple-choice test taking about seven hours. The national average is 500 out of 528. Students who earn a spot at the most competitive medical schools score above 515. **More than 85,000 students take the MCAT each year.**

### What is on the exam?

The test applies scientific concepts to real-world scenarios while assessing knowledge, problem-solving, AND critical thinking. Students must analyze, evaluate, and interpret the information provided.

The exam is composed of the following sections:

1. Biological & Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems
2. Chemical & Physical Foundations of Biological Systems
3. Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior
4. Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills

### Registering for the MCAT

Go to the registration link, <https://students-residents.aamc.org/register-mcat-exam/register-mcat-exam>, to sign up for the exam. There are numerous test dates available in the U.S. and worldwide. Do not wait to register. You may miss getting your preferred test date. Dates fill.

1. Create an account on AAMC (useful for more than just test registration)
2. Ensure that your information matches your ID since an exact match is required on test day.
3. Choose “Find Seat” to determine availability at the selected location.
4. Pay the registration fee - \$330 for standard registration. There is a \$120 additional charge for international registrations. Note: International fees are non-refundable upon cancellation.

### How to Study for the MCAT

Break down each section into types of questions. Each requires a different strategy. Determine your strengths and weaknesses. Focus on each area until you master that part. Figure out what works for you so you can strengthen your skills, manage your time wisely, and improve your score.

Reduce your anxiety by being completely prepared. There are a finite number of sections and specific areas in each. Know them like the back of your hand.

#### 1. Biological & Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems

You have 95 minutes and 59 multiple-choice questions. You need to know introductory biology, organic chemistry, and biochemistry. Concepts may include: Cellular & Molecular Biology

##### **Breakdown:**

- \*65% Introductory Biology
- \*25% First-Semester Biochemistry
- \*5% General Chemistry
- \*5% Organic Chemistry

#### 2. Chemical & Physical Foundations of Biological Systems

You have 95 minutes and 59 multiple-choice questions. You need to know mechanics, thermodynamics, and electrochemistry, along with biochemistry and molecular biology

##### **Breakdown:**

- \*30% General Chemistry
- \*25% First-Semester Biochemistry
- \*25% Introductory Physics

- \*15% Organic Chemistry
- \*5% Introductory Biology

### 3. Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior

You have 95 minutes and 59 multiple-choice questions. You need to know social structures, behavior, and perception. Taking classes or reviewing concepts in Psychology and Sociology is helpful, particularly the behavioral and sociocultural determinants of health.

**Breakdown:**

- \*65% Introductory Psychology
- \*30% Introductory Sociology
- \*5% Introductory Biology

### 4. Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills

You have 90 minutes and 53 questions. This section, focused on comprehension, is different than the other three. Nine 500-600 word reading passages contain complex and thought-provoking concepts. Read and answer questions quickly and accurately. Note: the passages contain advanced vocabulary and writing styles. The sections require test takers to analyze the author’s intention, tone, and point of view regarding concepts in ethics, philosophy, culture, health, and ideas in social science and humanities.

**Breakdown:**

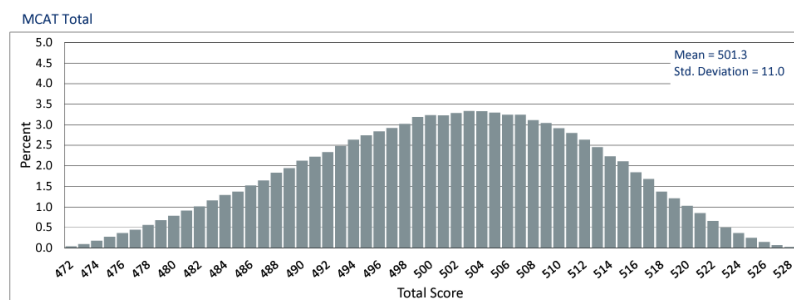
- \*50% Humanities
- \*50% Social Sciences

### Test Day Tips

On test day, arrive early, bring your ID and admissions ticket. To remain calm, confident, and focused during the test, utilize breaks between sections to eat, drink water, rest, and use the restroom. Use your own watch to pace yourself and keep track of time rather than rely on a supervisor. Each section is timed. You cannot return to previous sections.

## Percentile Ranks from AAMC for tests through April 2024. Where do you stand?

Summary of MCAT Total and Section Scores  
Percentile Ranks in Effect May 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024  
N = 281,321



Total Score	Percentile Rank
472	<1
473	<1
474	<1
475	1
476	1
477	1
478	2
479	3
480	3
481	4
482	5
483	6
484	8
485	9
486	11
487	12
488	14
489	16
490	18

Total Score	Percentile Rank
491	20
492	23
493	25
494	28
495	31
496	33
497	36
498	39
499	43
500	46
501	49
502	52
503	56
504	59
505	62
506	66
507	69
508	72
509	75

Total Score	Percentile Rank
510	78
511	81
512	83
513	86
514	88
515	90
516	92
517	94
518	95
519	96
520	97
521	98
522	99
523	99
524	100
525	100
526	100
527	100
528	100