

# Preparing for the MCAT

## Format

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The MCAT comprises four sections:

1. *Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems* (59 questions/95 minutes)
2. *Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills* (53 questions/90 minutes)
3. *Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems* (59 questions/95 minutes)
4. *Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior* (59 questions/95 minutes)

Total Questions: 230

Total Content Time: 6.25 hours

Total "Seat" Time: 7.5 hours

## Studying for the MCAT

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Typically, students start studying for the MCAT several months before taking the test. Many successful students set aside time each day for study. We recommend treating your study as you would a four- or five-credit-hour class. Whether through self-study or an MCAT prep course, the common denominator of success is significant study time. Here are a few resources to get you started:

*The Official Guide to the MCAT Exam (MCAT2015)* is now available for purchase from [aamc.org](http://aamc.org). This book contains 120 practice questions, along with advice on preparing for the exam itself.

The **Official MCAT2015 Sample Test and the official MCAT Practice Exam** are available from [aamc.org](http://aamc.org).

**Khan Academy MCAT Collection** is a collaborative project made with the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). It contains videos and review questions for the MCAT2015 Exam. Resources can be found at <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/mcat>.

A complete list of AAMC/MCAT resources may be found at:

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/online-practice-mcat-exam/>

## Registering for the MCAT

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Registration is available through the AAMC website ([aamc.org](http://aamc.org)).

\* Most students take the MCAT by May or June of the year they are applying in, at the latest. MCAT test dates are limited, so register for your test date well in advance. Spring and summer test dates are typically available for registration around February.

## Paying for the MCAT

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The registration fee is subject to change. To find the current pricing, visit

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

**Fee Assistance** is available for qualifying students. To find out more about the AAMC's Fee Assistance Program (FAP) visit [www.aamc.org/fap](http://www.aamc.org/fap).

## FAQs

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MCAT FAQs may be accessed at:

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/faq/mcat-faqs/>