

Most professional schools require an aptitude test as part of the application process. Be sure to follow all the test day rules and learn everything you can about your aptitude test. **Timing of the test:** For undergraduates wishing to begin professional school in the fall following graduation, the test should be taken in the spring/summer prior to entering their final year as an undergraduate, approximately 15-months prior to starting a professional school program. **Score Release:** When provided the opportunity, please release your score to your Health Professions Advisor (Pre-Professional Advising). By providing access you allow us to better help Purdue students. Pre-Professional Advising maintains the confidentiality of your score and will only release scores in aggregated form with no names attached.

Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)

The MCAT is sponsored by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). The test is computerized and consists of 4 multiple-choice sections: Natural Sciences with 2 sections (Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems and Chemical and Physical Foundations of Living Systems); Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior; and the Critical Analysis and Reading Skills. The multiple choice sections are each scored from 118-132 with a midpoint of 125. The total score range is 472-528. Scores are available approximately one month following the test and are generally good for 3 years. The MCAT can be taken only three times in a year and no more than 4 times in 2 years and only 7 times total.

- **Who:** Applicants to allopathic, osteopathic, podiatric schools, some anesthesiologist assistant programs, and a few veterinary medicine programs
- **When:** Offered on specific dates January to early September (register early, 60+ days in advance)
- **Cost:** \$320* if register at least 29 days in advance
- **Fee Assistance through the AAMC:** <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/applying-medical-school-process/fee-assistance-program/>
- **Competitive Score:** Generally above 125 in each section with an overall score above 500. Most MD programs require 509+ and DO programs a 505+
- **More Information on MCAT:** <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/taking-mcat-exam/>
- **MCAT Essentials:** https://aamc-orange.global.ssl.fastly.net/production/media/filer_public/08/48/08489b8a-10ba-4e4b-86f6-51870c977976/aamc-2020-mcat-essentials_2.pdf

Law School Admission Test (LSAT)

The Law School Admission Test, sponsored by the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC), is offered 6-7 times each year. The test is required at most law schools in the United States, Canada, and a growing number of other countries. The test consists of five, 35 minute sections of multiple choice questions. A writing sample is administered separately. The writing sample is not scored but is sent to all law schools to which you apply. The LSAT may be taken 3 times in a single testing year (June-May), 5 times in 5 years and a lifetime total of 7 times. The LSAT Flex exam does not count toward lifetime testing limits. Schools will receive scores from all attempted tests. LSAT scores are valid for 5 years. LSAT scores range from 120 to 180 and arrive 3 to 4 weeks after the test. The test is taken on a SurfaceGo tablet.

- **Who:** Applicants to law school
- **When:** Currently offered in June, July, August, October,

November, January, February, and April at designated testing centers throughout the world

- **Cost:** \$200.00*
- **Competitive Scores:** Range from 155-170+ depending on the school
- **Fee Waivers:** <https://www.lsac.org/jd/lsat/fee-waivers>
- **More Information on LSAT:** <https://www.lsac.org/lsat>
- **Registration deadlines** for each test are one month prior to the exam

Graduate Record Exam (GRE)

The GRE general computerized test measures verbal reasoning, quantitative skills, critical thinking, and analytical writing skills. Scores for the verbal and quantitative reasoning sections range from 130 to 170 while the analytical writing score is reported on a range of 0 to 6. You can retake the test up to 5 times in a continual year. You must allow 30 days between tests. Results are mailed 10 to 15 days after the test. GRE scores are valid for 5 years.

- **Who:** Veterinary, PT, OT, PA & many other graduate programs require this test
- **When:** Almost any day of the year (schedule well in advance)
- **Cost:** \$205 for first 4 schools (plus \$27 fee for each additional score report)*
- **Fee Reduction Program:** https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/about/fees/reductions/
- **Good scores:** Varies widely, 80th percentile would be 150 to 160 in verbal/quantitative, & 4.2 in analytical writing – generally you want to be above the national average
- **More Information on GRE:** <http://www.ets.org/gre>

Physician Assistant College Admission Test (PA-CAT)

The PA-CAT began in May 2020. Currently very few are requiring this new exam and very little is actually known about it. The test takes about 4.5 hours and consists of 240 items covering 9 academic areas: anatomy, physiology, general biology, biochemistry, general chemistry, organic chemistry, microbiology, behavioral science, genetics, and statistics.

- **Who:** Applicants to PA programs
- **When:** Unknown
- **Cost:** \$228
- **Good scores:** Unknown
- **More Information on PA-CAT:** <https://www.pa-cat.com/about-the-pa-cat/>

Dental Admission Test (DAT)

The DAT standardized test, sponsored by the American Dental Association (ADA), measures academic ability, comprehension of scientific information, and perceptual ability. There are four sections: survey of natural sciences (biology, general and organic chemistry), perceptual ability, reading comprehension, and quantitative reasoning. You can retake the test 90 days from your initial test date, but must apply to retake it after 3 attempts. All sections are scored on a scale from 1 to 30. The national average is 17. Unofficial scores are available immediately following completion and are generally good for 3 years. [To register](#), obtain a DENTPIN at <https://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dentpin>

- **Who:** Applicants to dental school
- **Cost:** \$475 (includes all schools you select at time of application)*
- **Partial Fee Waiver** <https://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-admission-test/dat-fee-waiver-information>
- **Competitive Score:** Typically, 18 to 20 & above are competitive
- **More Information on DAT:** <https://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-admission-test>
- **Sample Questions:** https://www.ada.org/~media/ADA/Education%20and%20Careers/Files/dat_test_sampleitems.ashx
- **DAT Guide:** https://www.ada.org/~media/ADA/Education%20and%20Careers/Files/2020_DAT_Guide.pdf?la=en

Optometry Admission Test (OAT)

The OAT is the standardized exam required by all optometry programs in the United States & Canada. It is sponsored by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO). To take the exam, students must submit an application at www.opted.org. The computerized exam consists of 4 sections: survey of natural sciences (biology, general, and organic chemistry), reading comprehension, physics, & quantitative reasoning. After 3 tests, you must apply to retake the exam. A minimum of 90 days must be allowed between test dates. Scores range from 200 to 400, 300 is the national average. Unofficial scores are available immediately following the exam. Scores are generally valid for 2-3 years depending on the school. To register, obtain an [OAT Pin](#) <https://www.ada.org/en/oat/pin>

- **Who:** Applicants to optometry programs
- **When:** Almost any day of the year (schedule 60 to 90 days in advance)
- **Cost:** \$490 (includes all schools you select at time of application)*
- **Partial Fee Waiver:** [https://www.ada.org/en/oat/oat-](https://www.ada.org/en/oat/oat-fee-waiver-information)

*All costs current as of July 2020

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[fee-waiver-information](#)

- **Competitive Score:** 300 is the average, accepted scores range from 330 to 350
- **OAT Guide:** https://www.ada.org/~media/OAT/Files/2020_OAT_Guide.pdf?la=en

Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT)

The PCAT is the standardized exam sponsored by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). It is designed to measure general academic ability & scientific knowledge. The exam has 240 multiple choice questions & 2 writing topics. The subtests are: verbal ability, biology, chemistry, reading comprehension, and quantitative ability. Multiple choice results are scored from 200 to 600 with the writing samples scored from 1 to 5. The test may be taken 5 times. An unofficial score is provided immediately following the exam. [Register for the exam](#) <https://tpc-etesting.com/pcat/>

- **Who:** Applicants to pharmacy programs (not all require it)
- **When:** Offered on only specific test dates (register early)
- **Cost:** \$210 for first 3 schools (\$20 for additional score reports)*
- **Fee Assistance:** at this time, fee assistance is not offered
- **Competitive Score:** 425 or higher will give you a competitive edge
- **PCAT Candidate Booklet:** http://pcatweb.info/downloads/CIB_MNL_FNL_online.pdf
- **Sample Questions:** <https://www.pcatweb.info/downloads/about/PCATTestBlueprintandSampleItems.pdf>

PCAT not required for [Purdue's College of Pharmacy](#): <https://www.pharmacy.purdue.edu/>

CASPer Situational Judgement Test

While not an aptitude test, CASPer is required by a number of healthcare programs. Typically it is required before you would go to an interview. It is not really something you can study for, but you can become familiar with the format of the test by following instructions on the CASPer website. To take this test you will need a quiet place to take it and a computer with a webcam and microphone.

- **Who:** Applicants to some healthcare programs
- **When:** Summer/Fall of application year
- **Cost:** \$12 to take the test plus \$12 per school
- **Score:** You will not know your score
- **Additional information on CASPer:** <https://takecasper.com/>