

Many professional schools require an entrance exam as part of the application process. Be sure to learn everything you can about your national exam and follow all the test day rules. **Timing of the test:** For undergraduates hoping to begin professional school in the fall following graduation, the test should be taken in the spring/summer prior to entering their final year of classes, approximately 15-months prior to starting a professional program. **Score Release:** When provided the opportunity, please release your score to Pre-Professional Advising. This allows us to better help Purdue students. Pre-Professional Advising maintains the confidentiality of your score and will only use scores in aggregate form with no names attached.

*All costs accurate as of March 2025

Field Specific Admission Tests

Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)—Sponsored by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), the MCAT is required at all U.S. allopathic (MD) and osteopathic (DO) medical school, and most Canadian medical programs. Podiatric medical schools and some anesthesiologist assistant programs also require the MCAT.

- **The Test:** 4 multiple-choice sections: National Sciences (Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems and Chemical and Physical Foundations of Living Systems); Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior; Critical Analysis and Reading Skills
- **When:** Offered on specific dates January to early September (register early, 60+ days in advance)
- **Test Modality:** Taken on computer at a test center
- **Where:** [Pearson VUE test centers](https://home.pearsonvue.com/) <https://home.pearsonvue.com/>
- **Cost:** \$345* 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/>
- **Accommodations:** <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/taking-mcat-exam/mcat-exam-accommodations/>
- **Scoring:** The sections are 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.
- **Competitive Score:** Above 125 in each section with an overall score above 500. Most MD programs require 509+ and DO programs a 505+
- **MCAT Information:** <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/taking-mcat-exam/>
- **MCAT Essentials:** <https://students-residents.aamc.org/media/11711/download>
- **Test Repeat Rules:** Can take it 3 times in 1 year. No more than 4 times over 2 years and 7 times total. Schools receive scores on all test attempts.

Law School Admission Test (LSAT)—required at most law schools in the United States and Canada and is sponsored by the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC).

- **The Test:** Consists of 2 parts. Four 35-minute multiple choice sections plus a writing sample administered separately. The multiple-choice sections include Reading Comprehension, Logical Reasoning and an unscored section that could be in any one of these areas.
- **When:** Typically offered in a test cycle of April, June, August, September, October, November, January, February, and April.
- **Test Modality:** Taken as a remote test on a computer of your choice with strict monitoring and room requirements or in a testing center.
- **Where:** Taken as a remote test in pre-approved locations. Also available at [Prometric](https://www.prometric.com/) test centers. <https://www.prometric.com/>
- **Cost:** \$238.00* Can also sign up for Score Preview for \$45 which allows 6 days to cancel score.
- **Fee Waivers:** <https://www.lsac.org/jd/lsat/fee-waivers>
- **Accommodations:** <https://www.lsac.org/lsat/lsac-policy-accommodations-test-takers-disabilities>
- **Scoring:** LSAT scores range from 120 to 180 and are available in 3-4 weeks after the test. The writing sample is not scored but is sent to schools. Scores are valid for 5 years.
- **Competitive Scores:** Range from 155-170+ depending on the school
- **More Information on LSAT:** <https://www.lsac.org/lsat>
- **Registration deadlines** for each test are one month prior to the exam
- **Test Repeat Rules:** 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.

Graduate Record Exam (GRE)—The GRE general exam is intended to measure readiness for graduate and professional programs. It is offered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Required for many PT, OT, PA and other grad programs

- **The Test:** verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and analytical writing
- **When:** Almost any day of the year (schedule well in advance)
- **Where:** An [approved ETS test center](https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/schedule.html) <https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/schedule.html> or at a pre-approved site of your choice (at-home version)
- **Test Modality:** Taken on computer at testing center or as an at home. The [at-home version](https://www.ets.org/s/cv/gre/at-home/) is also available <https://www.ets.org/s/cv/gre/at-home/>
- **Cost:** \$220* for first 4 schools (plus \$27 fee for each additional score report)
- **Fee Reduction Program:** <https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/subject-tests/register/fees.html>
- **Accommodations:** https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/register/disabilities
- **Scoring:** Verbal and quantitative reasoning scores range from 130 to 170. Analytical writing score ranges from 0-6. Scores are available at your account within 10-15 days after testing and are valid for 5 years.
- **Competitive 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:** https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/about
- **Test Repeat Rules:** Must allow 21 days between tests. Can retake the test up to 5 times in a continuous year. With ScoreSelect, you decide which scores are sent.

Dental Admission Test (DAT)—The DAT is sponsored by the American Dental Association (ADA) and is required for programs in the U.S. and Canada. [To register](https://www.ada.org/education/manage-your-dentpin), obtain a DENTPIN at <https://www.ada.org/education/manage-your-dentpin>

- **The Test:** 4 sections: survey of natural sciences (biology, general and organic chemistry), perceptual ability, reading comprehension, and quantitative reasoning.
- **When:** Schedule 60-90 days before desired test date
- **Where:** [Prometric Test Centers](https://www.prometric.com/) <https://www.prometric.com/>
- **Test modality:** Computerized exam at test center
- **Cost:** \$560* (includes all schools selected at application)
- **Partial Fee Waiver:** Partial fee waivers are available and can be requested by logging into the DENTPIN account and selecting “submit request”
- **Accommodations:** see *DAT Candidate Guide* below
- **Scoring:** As of March 2025, new scoring for the DAT will range from 200-600. Results prior to March 2025 range from 1 to 30. Scores are generally valid for 3 years depending on the school.
- **Competitive Score:** Under previous scoring 18-20+. This is now about 400-430+
- **More Information on DAT:** <https://www.ada.org/education/testing/exams/dental-admission-test-dat>
- **DAT Candidate Guide:** https://www.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/ada-org/files/education/dat_examinee_guide.pdf?rev=bc38c656b5a8486dbae6a51bc5b5d43b&hash=58B13D825DD060B1A012016DC0876B4B
- **Test Repeat Rules:** May take 4 times in 12-month period. Must wait 60 days between testing attempts.

Optometry Admission Test (OAT)—The OAT is required by most optometry programs in the United States and Canada and is sponsored by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) [To register](https://oat.ada.org/apply-to-take-the-oat), obtain an OAT Pin at <https://oat.ada.org/apply-to-take-the-oat>.

- **The Test:** 4 sections: survey of natural science (biology, general and organic chemistry); reading comprehension, physics, and quantitative reasoning
- **When:** Schedule 60 to 90 days in advance
- **Where:** [Prometric Test Center](https://www.prometric.com/) <https://www.prometric.com/>
- **Test Modality:** Computerized exam at test center
- **Cost:** \$520 through 6/20/25 (includes all schools selected at application)
- **Partial Fee Waiver:** Partial fee waivers are available. Check *OAT Candidate Guide* below.
- **Accommodations:** See *OAT Candidate Guide* below
- **Scoring:** Scores range from 200 to 400, 300 is the national average. Unofficial scores are available immediately following. Scores are generally valid for 2-3 years depending on the school.
- **Competitive Score:** 300 is the average, competitive scores range from 330 to 350
- **More Information on OAT:** <https://oat.ada.org/>
- **OAT Candidate Guide:** https://oat.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/oat/files/oat_examinee_guide.pdf?rev=1484a4f99b8c465fa6cef58bfa0b2349&hash=BB60D91651FC92B128FBEA898678ABAC
- **Test Repeat Rules:** Can take 4 times in 12 months. A minimum of 60 days is required between tests.

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Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT)—The PCAT is sponsored by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). Most schools no longer require the PCAT and the test was retired in 2024.

Physician Assistant College Admission Test (PA-CAT)—The PA-CAT is accepted at about 35 PA programs.

- **The Test:** 240 questions covering 9 areas: anatomy, physiology, general biology, biochemistry, general chemistry, organic chemistry, microbiology, behavioral science, genetics and statistics
- **Who:** Applicants to some PA programs. [Participating programs](https://exammaster.aweb.page/pacat-participating-programs). <https://exammaster.aweb.page/pacat-participating-programs>
- **When:** Flexible scheduling, but can take 6 weeks to receive scores
- **Where:** [Prometric Test Center](https://www.prometric.com/) or can take as a remote test <https://www.prometric.com/>
- **Test Modality:** computer test at test center or remote
- **Cost:** \$257
- **Fee Assistance:** <https://exammaster.aweb.page/feeassistance>
- **Accommodations:** https://www.pa-cat.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Special-Accommodations_Jan2020.pdf
- **Scoring:** You receive two scores: a composite score for the entire exam and 3 sub-scores for anatomy and physiology, biology, and chemistry.
- **Competitive scores:** 501-550
- **More Information on PA-CAT:** <https://www.pa-cat.com/about-the-pa-cat/>

National Admission Test Tips

- Start looking into your test early—even your first year—to become familiar with the topics that will be on the exam. (You don't have to start studying that early just become familiar with the test).
- Since most people take their test at the end of the junior year, you need to start your junior year with a solid plan for how you will study for the test as you begin your junior year and for the additional expenses of the study materials and the test itself. Remember that there are fee assistance programs for most of the tests if you qualify for them (generally you need to submit a FAFSA for this).
- Sign up well in advance of your test as dates do fill quickly.
- Do not blow off studying any of the sections of the test. Traditionally the reading comprehension sections have the worst scores nationally

Other Testing Required by Some Healthcare Programs

PREview Professional Readiness Exam—This test is relatively new and is a professional readiness exam from the AAMC.

- **Who:** Applicants to [programs requiring OR recommending](https://students-residents.aamc.org/aamc-preview/participating-medical-schools) this test including MD and a few DO schools as well as some podiatric and dental programs. <https://students-residents.aamc.org/aamc-preview/participating-medical-schools>
- **When:** The test is offered on certain dates in April-September
- **Cost:** \$100
- **Additional information** can be found at the general PREview website <https://students-residents.aamc.org/aamc-preview/aamc-preview-professional-readiness-exam>. [PREview Essentials](https://students-residents.aamc.org/media/13296/download) <https://students-residents.aamc.org/media/13296/download>

Casper Situational Judgement Test—Casper is required by a growing number of healthcare programs. Typically, it is required before you go to an interview. You should prepare for it by becoming familiar with the format of the test and taking a practice test instructions on the website. To take this test you will need a quiet place and a computer with a webcam and microphone.

Casper has 2 component tests and the field you are applying for will determine which of these you will be required to take. Even if both sections are not required, you may need to take them as you can't go back and take the other section later if another school should require both later on. It may be to your benefit to just do both.

[Casper](https://acuityinsights.app/casper/) is a situational judgement test which requires you to watch videos then respond with written descriptions and with video responses. In writing describe how you would respond to those scenarios. The test has 2 sections and 11 scenarios. Four scenarios have a video response and 7 have a written response. <https://acuityinsights.app/casper/>

[Duet](https://acuityinsights.app/duet/) assesses what you value in a program and compares that with what programs offer. Duet should be completed within 14 days of taking Casper. <https://acuityinsights.app/duet/>

If you need to take more than just Casper, the Altus system will alert you to this and you will need to take Snapshot and/or Duet within the next 10 days after completing Casper.

We do not recommend paying for any preparation materials for Casper, but these videos are useful [YouTube video 1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pmv-HrQ7Q6E) and [YouTube video 2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62uzltImdXs). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pmv-HrQ7Q6E> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62uzltImdXs>

- **Who:** Applicants to some healthcare programs
- **When:** Summer/Fall of application year
- **Cost:** \$85 which includes distribution to 7 schools and \$18 per additional school. This includes Duet.
- **Score:** You will not receive your exact score—this is sent to schools. You will receive a quartile rank: first, second, third or fourth. Being in fourth quartile means your responses were ranked as better than 75% of your peers. If you are in the first quartile, inversely, it means 75% of your peers were ranked higher in terms of empathy and comprehensive answers.
- **Additional information** on [Casper](https://acuityinsights.app/casper/): <https://acuityinsights.app/casper/>

Kira Talent Assessment—Kira is not an admission test. It is, however, part of the holistic review process at requiring programs.

[Applicant Help Center](https://support.kiratalent.com/): Check your invitation from the school at which you are applying to learn the type of Kira Assessment they are using. <https://support.kiratalent.com/>

- **Asynchronous:** Some schools will use Kira for asynchronous assessments. This may include video questions where you are provided a pre-recorded video and you will answer with a timed, recorded video answer. You may also have written questions. You will see a question displayed through text on the screen and you will respond to that question.
- **Live Interview:** In live interviews, you are connected directly with an interviewer and move through different questions or stations automatically. This is a two-way interview rather than there being an avatar providing interview questions, you are speaking with a real individual.
- **Multiple Mini Interview (MMI):** Kira also accommodates the MMI format. An MMI involves moving through a series of real-world scenarios and discussing them with an interviewer. You will move through “rooms” and chat with several different live interviewers about your topics.

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