

Most professional schools require an entrance exam 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 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 release scores in aggregate form with no names attached.

\*All costs accurate as of May 2022

**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.

- **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
- **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)
- **Test Modality:** Taken on computer at a test center
- **Where:** [Pearson VUE test centers](https://home.pearsonvue.com/) <https://home.pearsonvue.com/>
- **Cost:** \$325\* 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 total in 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, is sponsored by the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC).

- **The Test:** 5 multiple-choice sections covering analytical reasoning, logical reasoning, and reading comprehension plus a writing sample administered separately.
- **Who:** Applicants to law school
- **When:** In 2022-23 it is offered in April, June, August, September, October, November, January, February, April, and June
- **Test Modality:** Taken as a remote test on a computer of your choice with strict monitoring and room requirements
- **Where:** Numerous testing centers (usually on college campuses) or the remote test in a pre-approved location
- **Cost:** \$215.00\*
- **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).

- **The Test:** verbal reasoning, quantitative skills, critical thinking, and analytical writing
- **Who:** Veterinary, PT, OT, PA & many other graduate programs may require this test
- **When:** Almost any day of the year (schedule well in advance)
- **Where:** An approved ETS test center (usually on college campuses) or at a pre-approved site of your choice
- **Test Modality:** Taken on computer at testing center or as an at home. The [at-home version](#) offered during COVID will continue to be available post-pandemic <https://www.ets.org/s/cv/gre/at-home/>
- **Cost:** \$205\* for first 4 schools (plus \$27 fee for each additional score report)
- **Fee Reduction Program:** [https://www.ets.org/gre/revise\\_general/about/fees/reductions/](https://www.ets.org/gre/revise_general/about/fees/reductions/)
- **Accommodations:** [https://www.ets.org/gre/revise\\_general/register/disabilities](https://www.ets.org/gre/revise_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/revise\\_general/about](https://www.ets.org/gre/revise_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](#), obtain a DENTPIN at <https://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/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/>
- **Test modality:** Computerized exam at test center
- **Cost:** \$510\* (includes all schools selected at application)
- **Partial Fee Waiver** <https://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-admission-test/dat-fee-waiver-information>
- **Accommodations:** see DAT Guide below
- **Scoring:** All sections are scored on a scale from 1 to 30. The national average is 17. Unofficial scores are available immediately following completion. Scores are generally valid for 3 years depending on the school.
- **Competitive Score:** Typically, 18-20 and above are competitive
- **More Information on DAT:** <https://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-admission-test>
- **DAT Guide:** [https://www.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/ada-org/files/education/dat\\_examinee\\_guide.pdf?rev=855c8bc3a0914f079e19fff1402c5c56&hash=52FBC56BB3DA32ABB7101D0F4BF6D9EE](https://www.ada.org/-/media/project/ada-organization/ada/ada-org/files/education/dat_examinee_guide.pdf?rev=855c8bc3a0914f079e19fff1402c5c56&hash=52FBC56BB3DA32ABB7101D0F4BF6D9EE)
- **Test Repeat Rules:** You can retake the test 90 days from your initial test date. Must apply to retake it after 3 attempts. Allow for 90 days between tests.

**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](#), obtain an OAT Pin at <https://www.ada.org/en/oat/pin>.

- **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/>
- **Test Modality:** Computerized exam at test center
- **Cost:** \$505\* (includes all schools selected at application)
- **Partial Fee Waiver:** <https://www.ada.org/en/oat/oat-fee-waiver-information>
- **Accommodations:** See OAT Guide below
- **Scoring:** 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.
- **Competitive Score:** 300 is the average, competitive scores range from 330 to 350
- **More Information on OAT:** <https://www.ada.org/en/oat>
- **OAT Guide:** [https://oat.ada.org/~/\\_media/OAT/Files/oat\\_examinee\\_guide.pdf?la=en](https://oat.ada.org/~/_media/OAT/Files/oat_examinee_guide.pdf?la=en)
- **Test Repeat Rules:** After 3 tests, you must apply to retake the exam. A minimum of 90 days is required between tests.

## *Preparing for your Giant Leap*

[purdue.edu/preprofessional](http://purdue.edu/preprofessional)

**Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT)**—The PCAT is sponsored by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP). [Register for the exam](https://tpc-etesting.com/pcat/) <https://tpc-etesting.com/pcat/>

- **The Test:** 240 multiple-choice questions and 2 writing prompts. Subjects include verbal ability, biology, chemistry, reading comprehension and quantitative ability
- **Who:** Applicants to pharmacy programs (not all require it)
- **When:** Offered on specific test dates (register early)
- **Where:** [Pearson VUE](https://home.pearsonvue.com/) test centers <https://home.pearsonvue.com/>
- **Test Modality:** Computerized exam at test center
- **Cost:** \$210\* for first 3 schools (\$20 for additional score reports)
- **Fee Assistance:** at this time, fee assistance is not offered
- **Accommodations:** see Candidate Booklet below
- **Scoring:** Multiple choice results are scored from 200 to 600 with the writing samples scored from 1 to 5. Unofficial score available upon completion.
- **Competitive Score:** 425 or higher will give you a competitive edge
- **More Information on PCAT:** <https://www.pearsonassessments.com/graduate-admissions/pcat/about.html>
- **PCAT Candidate Booklet:** <https://www.pearsonassessments.com/content/dam/school/global/clinical/us/assets/pcat/pcat-cib.pdf>
- **Test Repeat Rules:** The test may be taken 5 times.

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

**Physician Assistant College Admission Test (PA-CAT)**—The PA-CAT, created by Exam Master, began in May 2020. Currently few programs are requiring this new exam and information and prep materials are sparse.

- **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
- **When:** Flexible scheduling, but can take 8 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:** \$228
- **Fee Waivers:**
- **Accommodations:** [https://www.pa-cat.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Special-Accommodations\\_Jan2020.pdf](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:** Unknown
- **More Information on PA-CAT:** <https://www.pa-cat.com/about-the-pa-cat/>
- **Test Repeat Rules:** Unknown

## 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

**CASPER Situational Judgement Test**—While not an aptitude test, CASPer is required by a growing 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 and a computer with a webcam and microphone.

Casper has 3 component tests and the field you are applying for will determine which of these you will be required to take. Even if all 3 sections are not required, you may need to take all 3 as you can't go back and take the other sections later if another school should require them later on. So it may be to your benefit to just do them all.

[Casper](https://takealtus.com/casper/) is a situational judgement test which requires you to watch videos then in writing describe how you would respond to those scenarios. <https://takealtus.com/casper/>

[Snapshot](https://takealtus.com/Snapshot/) is a one-way video interview. You have 3 interview-type questions to which you will respond on video and record yourself on your Altus homepage for schools to watch to get a sense of your communication skills. <https://takealtus.com/Snapshot/>

[Duet](https://takealtus.com/Duet/) assesses what you value in a program and compares that with what programs offer. <https://takealtus.com/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 this [YouTube video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pmv-HrQ7Q6E) is useful. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pmv-HrQ7Q6E>

- **Who:** Applicants to some healthcare programs
- **When:** Summer/Fall of application year
- **Cost:** Testing for osteopathic medical schools (DO) and allopathic medical schools (MD) costs \$12 to take the test plus \$12 per school to send the test. For all other fields, the cost is \$40 to take the test and \$12 to distribute to each program.
- **Score:** You will generally not know your score though they are experimenting with releasing scores so you might learn it. Little information is available on what these scores mean at individual schools.
- **Additional information** on [CASPER](https://takealtus.com/): <https://takealtus.com/>

## Pre-Medical (MD) Applicants from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)

### AAMC Situational Judgement Test—Now called PREview Professional Readiness Exam

This test is relatively new. It will not be required at any schools in the 2022-2023 application year but will be recommended by a number of schools.

- **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 <https://students-residents.aamc.org/aamc-preview/participating-medical-schools>
- **When:** The test is offered on certain dates in June, July, August and 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>