Admissions Exams: Which exam do I take and when?

**MCAT (Medical College Admission Test)**

The current format of the MCAT includes the following sections:

- Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems
- Chemical and Physical foundations of Biological Systems
- Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior
- Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills

You are encouraged to register in January of your junior year for a date in May or June. Dates are limited. Taking the exam by June will allow you to know your score when you submit your secondary applications in July or August. Your score may influence your final list of schools. For more details on testing dates, times, locations and questions about the MCAT, see [https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/](https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/)

**DAT (Dental Admission Test)**

The current format of the DAT includes the following sections:

- Survey of Natural Sciences (biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry)
- Perceptual Ability Test
- Reading Comprehension Test
- Quantitative Reasoning Test

Most dental schools state that applicants should take the DAT in the spring of their junior year. The DAT has been computer based for several years now. Scheduling for the DAT tends to be more flexible than scheduling for the MCAT. For further information on the DAT, please see: [http://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-admission-test](http://www.ada.org/en/education-careers/dental-admission-test)

**GRE (Graduate Record Exam)**

The Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is required by many veterinary schools, PA schools, and other health professions schools/programs, including some MD/PhD programs. The GRE revised General Test features question types that closely reflect the kind of thinking you'll do in graduate or business school.

- **Verbal Reasoning** — Measures your ability to analyze and evaluate written material and synthesize information obtained from it, analyze relationships among component parts of sentences and recognize relationships among words and concepts.
- **Quantitative Reasoning** — Measures problem-solving ability using basic concepts of arithmetic, algebra, geometry and data analysis.
- **Analytical Writing** — Measures critical thinking and analytical writing skills, specifically your ability to articulate and support complex ideas clearly and effectively.

Schools may require just the general test or the general test and a subject test, e.g., biology or chemistry. It is your responsibility to determine if the schools to which you are applying require the GRE and if so, which ones. That information will be found on the individual school. For further information on the GRE see: [http://www.ets.org/gre/](http://www.ets.org/gre/)
**PCAT (Pharmacy College Admissions Test)**
The current format of the PCAT includes the following sections:
- Verbal Ability (analogies and sentence completion)
- Biology (general biology, microbiology, human anatomy, and physiology)
- Chemistry (inorganic and elementary organic chemistry)
- Reading Comprehension (comprehension, analysis and evaluation)
- Quantitative Ability (basic math, algebra, probabilities & statistics, pre-calculus and calculus)
- Two writing sections (essays)

Please visit the AACP (American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy) Pharmacy College Application Service PharmCAS where you will find information on testing and application requirements for Pharmacy school. You may check the dates schedule, sign up for a test and take a practice test at the PCAT website. For further information on the PCAT, please see: [http://pcatweb.info/](http://pcatweb.info/).

**OAT (Optometry Admissions Test)**
The current format of the OAT includes the following sections:
- Survey of the Natural Sciences (Biology, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry)
- Reading Comprehension
- Physics
- Quantitative Reasoning

The Optometry Admission Test (OAT) is a standardized examination designed to measure general academic and comprehension of scientific information. The OAT is sponsored by The Association of Schools and Colleges (ASCO) for applicants seeking admissions to an optometry program. All schools and colleges of optometry in the United States, and the University of Waterloo, Canada require the OAT. To get more information about OAT and the application process for the Optometry School, please visit: [http://www.ada.org/en/oat](http://www.ada.org/en/oat).