

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
College of Arts & Sciences
 Advising & Career Services

Current MCAT	Comparison	MCAT 2015
<p align="center">Overall</p> <p>There are five scores associated with the MCAT exam, one for each of the four sections, and a “Composite” (or total) score that presents the results in the aggregate. The three multiple choice sections (PS, VR, and BS) are scored individually from a low of 1 to a high of 15. The WS section is scored on an alphabetic scale, from a low of J to a high of T.</p>	<p>The New MCAT no longer has the Verbal Reasoning Section. A Social and Behavioral Sciences Section has been added. Overall Scores will be represented differently.</p>	<p align="center">Overall</p> <p>Scores are reported on a scale similar to the current 1-15 scale, and a separate score is recorded for each of the four sections: four sections, four scores. The following provides a summary of the four test sections of MCAT2015, including the approximate number of questions and approximate number of minutes allotted to complete each section.</p>
<p align="center">Physical Sciences (PS) 52 items, 70 minutes</p> <p>This section covers general chemistry and physics via a total of 52 questions – 39 of which are based on passages, as well as 13 “free-standing,” independent questions. For this section, you will be tested on your capacity to interpret data presented in graphs and tables, your knowledge of basic physical sciences concepts and principles, and your ability to solve problems using that knowledge as a foundation.</p>	<p align="center">13 more items, 25 more minutes</p> <p>Adding the emphasis of <i>chemical</i> understanding, this section will also add <i>statistical</i> analysis. This section will also focus more specifically on <i>human functions</i> (i.e. organs, and systems) as opposed the more broad focus of overarching physical sciences, but will still test general principles.</p>	<p align="center">Chemical & Physical Fdts of Biological Systems 65 items, 95 minutes*</p> <p>This section asks you to combine your knowledge of foundational concepts with your scientific inquiry, reasoning, and research and statistics skills to solve problems that demonstrate a readiness for medical school. Understanding the mechanical, physical, and biochemical functions of human tissues, organs, and organ systems is important to the study of medicine. You will be tested on your knowledge of the basic chemical and physical principles that underlie the mechanisms operating in the human body, and your ability to apply an understanding of these general principles to living systems.</p>
<p align="center">Verbal Reasoning (VR) 40 items, 60 minutes</p> <p>This section evaluates your ability to understand and evaluate arguments presented in writing. The test consists of seven passages, each of which is about 600 words long, taken from the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. Each passage-based set consists of five to seven questions that assess your ability to extrapolate information from the accompanying passage.</p>	<p align="center">20 more items, 30 more minutes</p> <p>Slight change in topics addressed: formerly humanities, social sciences and natural sciences and changing/specifying to ethics and philosophy, cross-cultural studies, and population health.</p>	<p align="center">Critical Analysis & Reasoning Skills 60 items, 90 minutes*</p> <p>This section tests your reasoning skills by asking you to critically analyze information from reading passages. Topics will be wide-ranging and based in the social sciences and humanities disciplines. Specific knowledge of these disciplines is not required for this section; all of the information you need appears in the passages provided. Among the areas from which content is drawn are ethics and philosophy, cross-cultural studies, and population health.</p>

<p>Biological Sciences (BS) 52 items, 70 minutes</p> <p>The format of the BS section, which covers biology and organic chemistry, is identical to that of the PS section. It too has 52 questions, 39 passage-based and 13 independent. Like the PS section, is also tests your problem-solving ability and scientific knowledge (but in this instance based on biological sciences).</p>	<p>13 more times, 25 more minutes</p> <p>Adding the component of statistical skills to this problem-solving based section.</p>	<p>Biological & Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems 65 items, 95 minutes</p> <p>This test section asks you to combine your knowledge of foundational concepts with your scientific inquiry, reasoning, and research and statistics skills to solve problems that demonstrate readiness for medical school. Understanding the processes unique to living organisms, such as growing and reproducing, maintaining a constant internal environment, acquiring materials and energy, sensing and responding to environmental changes, and adapting is important to the study of medicine. You will be tested on your knowledge of how cells and organ systems within an organism act both independently and in concert to accomplish these processes, and your ability to reason about these processes at various levels of biological organization within a living system.</p>
<p>Writing Sample (WS) 2 items, 60 minutes</p> <p>Consisting of two 30-minute essays, the WS assessed you skill in developing ideas cohesively and logically, and writing clearly and accurately. Your general assignment will be to craft a response to a “prompt” – or statement - that discussed a topic of general interest in areas such as business, politics, or history (as examples). Topics do not pertain to the technical content of biology, chemistry, physics, or math, or to religious or other emotionally charged issues.</p>	<p>Completely eliminating the Writing Sample portion of the MCAT, the 2015 MCAT will instead be focusing on Social and Behavioral knowledge.</p>	<p>Psychological, Social & Biological Foundations of Behavior 65 items, 95 minutes</p> <p>This section assesses your knowledge and use of the concepts in psychology, sociology, biology, research methods, and statistics that provide a solid foundation for learning in medical school about the behavioral and socio-cultural determinants of health and healthcare. Understanding the psychological and socio-cultural determinants of health is important to the study of medicine. You will be tested on your knowledge of the ways in which psychological, social, and biological factors influence perceptions and reactions to the world; behavior and behavior change; what people think about themselves and others; the cultural and social differences that influence well-being; and the relationships between social stratification, access to resources, and well-being.</p>
<p>TOTALS for Current MCAT 4 sections 142 multiple choice questions 2 essays 4 hours and 20 minutes</p>		<p>TOTALS for 2015 MCAT 4 sections 225 multiple choice questions 6 hours and 15 minutes</p>

