

01: Introduction To General Chemistry in MCAT

Key MCAT Terms

MCAT: The Medical College Admissions Test is a standardized exam required to gain admission to medical school.

MCAT Courses: The new four-sections MCAT requires seven college courses – general chemistry, organic chemistry, biochemistry, biology, physics, psychology and sociology.

Passage-Based Question: A question relating to information in an accompanying passage. The answer may or may not be in the passage.

Discrete Question: A question that has a topic independent of a passage or other questions with four possible answer options.

Test Sections: (1) Chemical and physical foundations (2) Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills (3) Biological and Biochemical Foundations (4) Psychological, Social and Biological foundations.

General Chemistry: MCAT requires students to take two semesters of college-level chemistry for pre-med.

Computer-based Test: MCAT is 100% to be taken on computer with on-screen tools and calculator provided.

MCAT Overview

Registration

- The MCAT is offered multiple times a year.
- Register here: <http://www.aamc.org/mcat/>
- Plan ahead six months before taking the exam.

Scoring

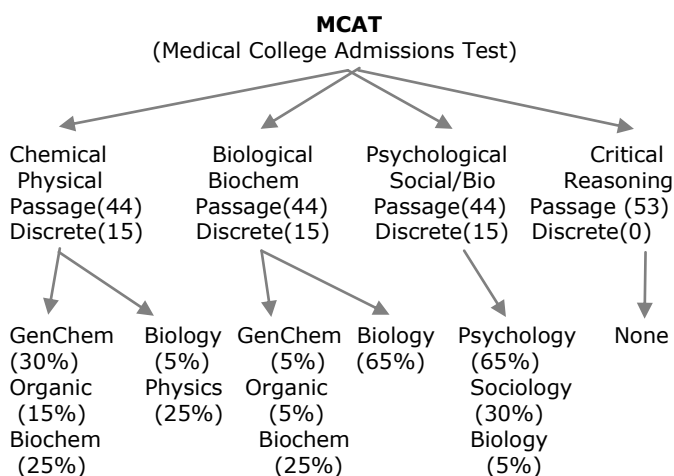
Four sectional scores and one total score with midpoint

- Chem/Phys Section: 118-132 (midpoint = 125)
- Critical/Reasoning: 118-132 (midpoint = 125)
- Bio/Biochem – 118-132 (midpoint = 125)
- Psy/Social - 118-132 (midpoint = 125)
- Composite Score: 472-528 (midpoint = 500)

Test Day Schedule (4 sections 10-min break each)

- Chem/Phys: 95 minutes, 59 questions.
- Critical/Reasoning: 90 minutes, 53 questions.
- Bio/Biochem: 95 minutes, 59 questions.
- Psy/Social: 95 minutes, 59 questions.

MCAT Contents



MCAT is a 100% computer-based test.
The new test is a longer test with total seat time 7.5 hours.

MCAT Science Questions

Passage-Based Questions (75%)
Discrete Questions (25%)

General Chemistry on the MCAT

Test Coverage

General Chemistry questions are in two science sections. The contents required are from 2-semester general chemistry.

Key Topics

- Electronic Structure & Periodic Table
- Bonding
- Phases & Phase Equilibria
- Stoichiometry
- Thermodynamics & Thermochemistry
- Kinetics & Equilibrium
- Solutions
- Acids & Bases
- Electrochemistry

MCAT Test-Preparation Strategies

Time Management

- Adapt a more visual learning approach.
- Study one hour one chapter at a time.
- Set a study schedule and stick to it.

Concept Mastery

- Translate formulas into words to give them meaning.
- Generalize concepts to save memorization and time.
- Resolve any questions you have.

Practice Problems

- Solve problems in these tutorials.
- Solve relevant problems in General Chemistry textbooks.
- Solve problems in full-length practice exams.
- Solve problems on self-made mock exams.

Review

- Make cheat sheets.
- Use audio for learning-on-the-go.

MCAT Test-Taking Strategies

Know The Test

- Arrive early with the required ID.
- Familiarize the MCAT time format ahead of time.
- Memorize the instructions ahead of time.

Plan Your Attack

- Skim the section to budget time.
- Set approximately a 1-minute time limit per question.

Build Focus

- Go with your first instinct answer.
- If distracted, pull back to regain focus.
- Set the time limit per question and move on.

Zoom In On The Answer

- Think of the answer first, and then scan the choices.
- Beware the familiar and the absolute.
- Deal with similar or opposite answer choices.

Guess The Right Way

- Never leave a question blank. Guess instead.
- Eliminate incorrect answers to improve the odds.

How to Use This Cheat Sheet: These are the keys related this topic. Try to read through it carefully twice then recite it out on a blank sheet of paper. Review it again before the exams.

*MCAT is a registered trademark of the Association of American Medical Colleges which does not endorse, nor is affiliated in any way with this Rapid Learning course.