## 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

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

**Computer-based Test:** MCAT is 100% to be taken on computer with on-screen timer and but no calculator provided.

## MCAT Overview

**Registration**
- The MCAT is offered multiple times a year.
- 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 Test Format with Organic Chemistry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chemical</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passage(44)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discrete(15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic (15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochem (25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GenChem (30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics (25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biological</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochem (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GenChem (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochem (25%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology (65%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology (30%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology (5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

## Organic Chemistry on the MCAT

**Test Coverage**
Organic Chemistry questions are in two science sections. The contents required are from 2-semester organic chemistry.

**Key Topics**
- The Covalent Bond
- Molecular Structure and Absorption Spectra
- Separations and Purifications
- Hydrocarbons and Aromatics
- Oxygen Containing Compounds
- Amines
- Biological Molecules

## Test-Preparation Strategies

**Time Management**
- Study only the Organic Chemistry topics given.
- Spend core study hours on weak areas only.
- 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 Organic Chem. textbooks.
- Solve problems found on the Internet.
- Solve problems on self-made mock exams.

**Review**
- Make cheat sheets.
- Use audiobooks for learning-on-the-go.

## Test-Taking Strategies

**Know The Test**
- Arrive early with required materials.
- Memorize 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.
- Set a panic alarm if distracted.
- Pull back to regain focus.
- Write in the test booklet.

**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 guessing odds.

---

### The SURE Method

**Apply S-U-R-E for passage questions:**
- **Survey**
- **Understand**
- **Read**
- **Examine**