

## Test FAQ: The MCAT



### Office of Career Development

Vassar College

#### **Q: What is the MCAT?**

A: The Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) is a standardized, multiple-choice examination designed to assess problem solving, critical thinking, and writing skills in addition to the examinee's knowledge of science concepts and principles prerequisite to the study of medicine. Scores are reported in each of the following areas: Verbal Reasoning, Physical Sciences, Writing Sample, and Biological Sciences.

#### **Q: When and where can I take the MCAT?**

A: The MCAT is offered several times a year at a variety of locations; for the complete calendar, go to:  
<http://www.aamc.org/students/mcat/mcatschedule.htm>

For a complete list of test locations, go to:

<http://www.aamc.org/students/mcat/sitelisting.htm>

The test site closest to Vassar is at 1 Civic Center Plaza, 5th Floor, Poughkeepsie, 12601.

#### **Q: How much does the MCAT cost?**

A: The examination fee is \$225.00.

#### **Q: I have already registered for the MCAT but won't be able to make the test date. Can I get a refund?**

A: The maximum refund available is \$115.00. Additional fees paid for other services are not refundable.

#### **Q: I'm not going directly to medical school. How long are my scores valid?**

A: Scores are valid for three years following your test, although some schools will not accept them after two years. Check with individual schools to find out their policies.

#### **Q: When will I receive my test scores from MCAT?**

A: Test scores are usually mailed to examinees approximately 60 days after the test date. Scores can also be accessed in the Online Testing History after 60 days. During MCAT exam registration, you must consider and respond to three different score release questions. You and AMCAS (if you are applying to medical school) will receive your scores automatically. Registration is the only time you will be asked about your release preferences.

#### **Q: How long will I be at the testing site?**

A: The overall length of the test day is approximately five and one-half hours, including breaks; however, because the exam is self-paced, and individual check-in times vary, you may finish earlier or later than other examinees. The exam takes approximately 6 hours; however, you can plan to be at the test site for about 8 hours to accommodate for lunch and rest breaks.

#### **Q: Are walk-ins permitted?**

A: Walk-in testing is not permitted. Exam entrance requires an admission ticket, MCAT ID and one form of identification bearing both the examinee's photo and signature.

#### **Q: Where can I get more information?**

A: You can go to the official website at <http://www.aamc.org/stuapps/admiss/MCAT>. You can also visit the Office of Pre-Health Advising and Fellowships which, along with the Premedical Advisory Committee, can offer support for students applying to any of the health professional schools. Any questions regarding registration and administration of the exam can be answered by calling the MCAT office at (319) 337- 1357.