

01: Introduction To Organic 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.

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.
- Register here: <http://www.aamc.org/mcat/>
- Plan ahead six months before taking the exam.

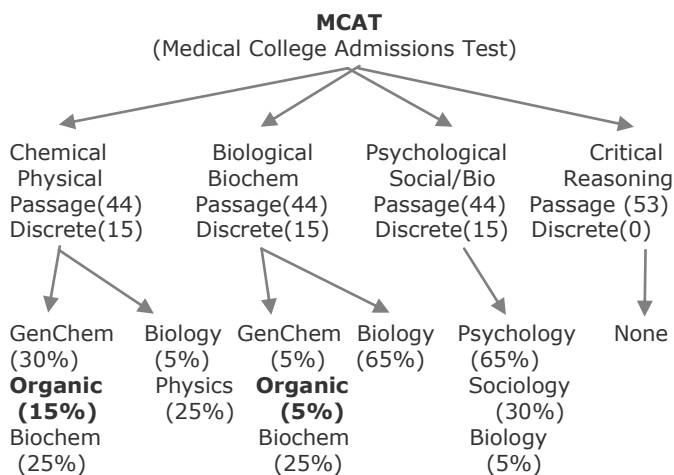
Scoring

- 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)

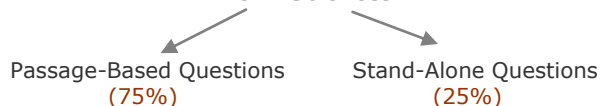
- Chem/Phys: 95 minutes, 59 questions.
- Critical/Reasoning: 90 minutes, 53 questions.
- Bio/Biochem: 95 minutes, 59 questions.
- Psy/Social: 95 minutes, 59 questions.

MCAT Test Format with Organic Chemistry



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

MCAT Sciences



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.
- 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

How to Use This Cheat Sheet: These are the key ideas related to 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.