

## The MCATs

**Registration is open for the April through September administrations of the MCAT exam in the U.S. Register now to ensure a spot in your preferred test date and location. Boston fills up fast!**

- It is recommended that you take the MCAT no later than **July 2018** (earlier is better) – with **May 2018** as the ideal month to have taken the exam by. The earlier you complete your AMCAS application, including your MCAT score, the earlier schools will consider you for an interview.
- Potential times to take the MCAT: End of J-term, spring, or early summer. January or summer students often devote ~6-8 weeks of concentrated work. Students taking the test during the school often plan preparation over the course of a semester. Many students schedule their MCAT during, or shortly after, they take their last pre-med requirement with material that will be tested on the MCAT (such as Physical Sciences 3).
- Turnaround time for scores is approximately 30 days.
- In the event that you need to retake your MCAT, September 2018 is the last month where you can still submit your scores for this application cycle. Schools will not consider your application complete until they receive your MCAT score. **NOTE: We do NOT recommend retaking your MCAT. Aim to do well the first time. Minimal improvement will hurt more than help.**
- **Do not wait to submit your primary application. You CAN submit your primary AMCAS application without your MCAT score.** This will allow you to be considered by medical schools as soon as possible; some may even send you secondary applications without waiting to see your MCAT score.

**Practice Tests are online:** (May not be as difficult as real thing).

<https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/prepare/>

**Take as many practice tests as you can under timed, test conditions.** Space them out and use them to gauge progress as you study. **Think carefully about going forward with a test date if you are not scoring within your target range 1-2 weeks before test day.** Many students find that the official AAMC practice tests are accurate score predictors. We recommend that students take the MCAT only once—it is usually better to delay, than to retake. Please come talk to us if you find yourself making this decision.

Many students also use ExamCrackers, Kaplan, or Princeton review materials. Consult your friends and colleagues about the study materials that worked best for them. Harvard PreMed Society, fellow students, may be good source of study material.