

AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE AAMC TO MCAT® EXAMINEES: HONORING YOUR EXAMINEE AGREEMENT

Congratulations on your decision to consider a career in medicine! We wish you the greatest success and hope that you fulfill your aspirations. As we begin a new year of MCAT testing, I am writing to remind each examinee of the importance of reading, understanding and honoring the [MCAT Examinee Agreement](#).

As the administrator of the MCAT exam, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) has a responsibility to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the MCAT exam in order to provide a level playing field for medical school applicants and a standardized score upon which schools can rely when making admissions decisions. One of the ways the AAMC fulfills this responsibility is through the Examinee Agreement.

The Importance of the MCAT Examinee Agreement:

The Examinee Agreement is provided in the [MCAT Essentials](#) and is required reading for all examinees. On test day, you must specifically indicate your acceptance of the Examinee Agreement before you begin to answer questions on the exam. The Examinee Agreement is not legalistic fine print; it is a binding contract and will be enforced as such. Just as a physician has a professional obligation to carefully review a list of potential drug interactions before ordering a prescription for a patient, aspiring doctors have an obligation to take the time to read the MCAT Examinee Agreement. Rushing through or ignoring this important information could lead to serious adverse consequences. The Examinee Agreement applies to all of the exam content in the four test sections that you will see during your MCAT exam.

Why the MCAT Examinee Agreement is Important to You:

The privilege of caring for others requires the highest standards of moral and ethical conduct. As a potential future member of the medical profession, you have an ethical obligation and a commitment to professionalism that begins with adhering to the MCAT Examinee Agreement. This commitment to professionalism includes holding your peers to the same code of conduct and reporting any suspicious behavior.

The AAMC's Commitment to Ethical Conduct:

The MCAT exam has been a key entry point for medical and other health-related professions for more than 80 years. Members of these professions must adhere to the highest level of ethics, earning and keeping the public's trust each and every day. Following the rules of the MCAT exam is an essential step in demonstrating a lifelong commitment to professionalism and ethical behavior.

The AAMC is committed to enforcing the terms of the Examinee Agreement and to providing a fair and secure process for students to test for and apply to medical school. Approximately 85,000 examinees – virtually all of whom follow the rules -- rely upon the AAMC each year. We reserve the right to investigate any alleged violation and we send reports documenting our findings directly to medical schools. In addition, actions that violate the agreement could subject you to a civil lawsuit or criminal charges.

The AAMC has in recent years investigated individuals who posted lists of MCAT topics on websites frequented by examinees. The AAMC has used the legal process to identify and locate an individual who posted an online ad seeking someone to test for him and filed a lawsuit in British Columbia against two individuals in connection with a cheating scheme. An MCAT examinee was recently sentenced to federal prison for hacking into the AAMC's computer system in

an unsuccessful attempt to alter his MCAT records. These examples demonstrate the AAMC's commitment to identify those who threaten the integrity of the MCAT exam and seek criminal and civil penalties when warranted.

A person who violates the MCAT Examinee Agreement as a shortcut to scoring well on the exam may also take shortcuts during their academic and professional careers. An individual who ignores or violates the Examinee Agreement may later choose to ignore rules designed to promote the safety and health of patients. It is up to all of us to root out these behaviors. We encourage you to join us in our commitment to a fair and secure process by reporting any irregular behavior, rules violations, or exam security violations that you become aware of. If you receive confidential MCAT exam content, even unintentionally, the Examinee Agreement also requires that you report that. You may do so by calling the MCAT Security Tip Line at (202) 903-0840 or by sending an email to MCATSecurity@aamc.org. The AAMC investigates each and every tip and report and has used information from past tips to protect the security of the exam.

Becoming a member of the medical profession is a great privilege that comes with great responsibility. Please continue to do your best to promote the fairness and security of the MCAT exam by reinforcing with your peers the importance of honoring these rules before, during, and after the actual exam. We encourage you to share and discuss this letter with your peers who also are preparing for the MCAT exam.

If you have any questions about the Examinee Agreement, please contact AAMC Services at 202-828-0600.

Sincerely,

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