Q: Is there any guidance about which MCAT exam (current vs. new) a student should take?

A: Yes. We have created a Decision Tree to help examinees make the decision as to which exam is best for them. We ask examinees to consider several factors when making their decision and have also included information about the similarities and differences between the current and new exam.

Q: If a student takes the current exam, but wants to retest after January 2015, do they have the option to take the old test?

A: No, once the last administration of the current exam is given in January 2015, after that the examinee will only have the option to take the new exam.

Q: What grading/score scale will be used for the new MCAT?

A: We expect to announce in the spring of 2014.

Q: When will the Official Guide for the new exam be available?

A: We expect the Official Guide will be released in the spring 2014. It will be very similar to previous Official Guides and will also include 120 unique questions related to the new exam.

Q: When will practice tests be available for the new exam?

A: A full length practice exam will be available in the fall of 2014.

Q: Will the scores from the current version of the MCAT exam be accepted

A: We will continue to report scores through the 2019 application cycle. We do want to mention that not every school will accept scores for the same amount of time. About 40% of medical schools will accept scores up to 2 years old, about 40% of medical schools will accept scores up to three years old, and a few medical schools will accept scores up to four years or more. Consult the Medical School Admission Requirements® (MSAR®) as each medical school determines
The MSAR will continue to publish the latest and oldest scores accepted by schools and will continue to collate them into a report on the MSAR’s advisors website. Any MCAT scores taken between 1991 through the present can be accessed through the THx system and if a score prior to 1991 is needed you can submit a paper score report request to the MCAT office.

Q: How is a “good faith effort” determined on the Trial Section?

A: A “good faith effort is determined by a set of predetermined metrics. While we cannot disclose those exact metrics, we want to see that examinees have put in a reasonable amount of time spent working on the questions and responding to a reasonable number of those questions.

Q: Is each examinee’s test unique for the voluntary tries section based on their answers to profile questions?

A: Yes, when an examinee registers for the MCAT exam, they enter in the types of courses they have already taken up to that point. We do our best to give questions to examinees based on the courses that they entered.

Q: Will Kahn Academy videos and review questions also help students prepare for the 2014 version of the MCAT?

A: The Khan Academy video tutorials are designed around the new exam, but where content overlaps with the current exam, there would be no reason that examinees could not use these videos to help with their studying. It just may take examinees some extra effort to determine which videos overlap with the current exam. But the content that overlaps should be valid.

Q: In the upper right corner of the tutorial screen of the Khan Academy website, it says “subscribe.” Does this mean that the Khan Academy tutorials will cost applicants? If so, what kind of costs might be anticipated?

A: No! The Khan Academy is a free resource and is open to everyone.

Q: May students view the CARS webinar?

A: Yes, the CARS webinar is on our website and students can access them online.

Q: Should we recommend the Pre-health collection for students preparing to take the MCAT in 2014-January 2015? Or is this preparation resource more for the MCAT 2015?

A: The Pre-health Collection within MedEdPORTAL’s iCollaborative is organized around the new exam and the resources selected are more interdisciplinary, as the new exam. While there is no reason that basic information cannot be used for the current exam, it just might be more difficult for students to find information as information is based on the format of the new exam.
Q: According to the test date calendar released last week, there will be 3 test dates in January 2015. Is there the possibility of additional dates being added to January based on registration demand?

A: We are in the process of forecasting how many students might be testing in January. We do have the option of adding an additional test date in January if necessary.

Q: How do you compare the preparation that the Khan Academy videos are going to provide vs the Official Guide?

A: These two resources are quite different. The Official Guide gives basic information about the exam, how to register, logistics around test day, and includes the content outlines which will not be found in the Khan Academy videos. The Official Guide is the introduction to the MCAT exam. The 120 practice questions included are written by the staff that create the exam. The Khan Academy videos and questions, on the other hand, are created by the competition winners. The Official Guide does not teach the content of the exam, whereas the Khan Academy videos and questions are really focused on that aspect.

Q: Will advisors receive a free copy of the Official Guide?

A: Yes.

Q: Will the Self-Assessment Package be revised for MCAT 2015?

A: The Self-Assessment Package is optimized for the current exam, therefore it does not apply to the new exam. We do want to create a tool similar to the Self-Assessment package, it is going to take us a while to do this. The product will not be available for the start of the new exam.

Q: Will advisors receive an updated copy of the Preview Guide?

A: We are not printing an updated version of the Preview Guide. Our new online resource tool will be taking the place of the Preview Guide. It will be free and open access for students and advisors.

Q: We have seen a few student groups asking for AAMC representatives to speak about MCAT 2015 at local events; is this feasible, and how should we communicate those requests?

A: You can send those requests to mcat2015@aamc.org.
Q: When will the first administration of the MCAT2015 be?

A: We have not determined the testing administration calendar for the MCAT2015 exam. We would have those dates sometime in the fall of 2014.

Q: With the new MCAT2015, will there be more coverage of psychology than sociology?

A: Based on the data we received as we began to create this exam, there will be more psychology content than sociology.

Q: Do we have a feel that the new exam will be harder than the current exam or just longer?

A: This still remains to be seen. There is new content on the exam, however, we are encouraged that students who have been given notice on the exam and the various test preparation we are putting together that students who are well prepared should do just as well.

Q: If we have sessions at NAAHP in San Francisco, is it possible to break them down by content sections instead of one huge session?

A: That is a great idea, we have submitted a proposal to NAAHP and are just waiting to hear if that proposal has been accepted. When we get that information, we will see how many sessions we have. If we only have one, we might very well be able to break it down by content sections to provide more detail that way.

MCAT Resources (including previous webinars): www.aamc.org/mcat2015/admin
About the Trial Section: www.aamc.org/mcat/volunteer
Fall 2012 Issue of Peer Review: www.aacu.org/peerreview/pr-fa12/index.cfm
Khan Academy Competition: www.khanacademy.org/about/med-competition
Pre-health Collection within MedEdPORTAL’s iCollaborative: www.mededportal.org/icollaborative/pre-health
May issue of Academic Medicine: journals.lww.com/academicmedicine