MCAT2015® Q-UPP:

A Quarterly Update of Progress and Projections for the MCAT2015 Exam
Issue 3, Volume 2

Welcome to the third issue of Q-UPP in 2014! Q-UPP is our eNewsletter dedicated to keeping you up-to-date on the progress toward projected goals and tasks for the MCAT2015 exam.

Q-UPP provides a brief update on the projects we have completed in the most recent quarter. In the right column, you’ll find a list of items that are “In the Works” and the projected quarter in which we expect to report our progress for these tasks. Resources for the MCAT2015 exam are always available online at www.aamc.org/mcat2015/admins.

This issue includes updates on:
• Newly released Official MCAT2015 Sample Test
• Khan Academy Competition
• Survey of medical school policies for accepting MCAT scores in 2016 and later selection
• Third quarter outreach activities

Our next webinar, during which we will provide more detail about each of these topics and answer your questions, will take place Tuesday, October 21 from 2:30pm – 4:00pm ET. Registration is now open!

As always, please feel free to share your comments or ideas with us at mcat2015@aamc.org.

Sincerely,
The MCAT2015 Team

In the Works:

October - December 2014
• Hold October, November, and December administrations of the current MCAT exam
• Post online MCAT2015 Essentials PDF
• Release first set of research findings on the relationships between medical student grades and scores on a prototype of the Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations test
• Hold Q-UPP MCAT2015 Webinar Q&A

January - March 2015
• Hold five January administrations of the current exam
• Registration opens in February for MCAT2015 test dates
• Release new preparation product: Official MCAT Questions
• Hold Q-UPP MCAT2015 Webinar Q&A

April – June 2015
• MCAT2015 exam administrations begin
• Report preliminary percentile rank ranges to April and May examinees two-three weeks after exam administrations
• Release official MCAT2015 scores and percentiles for April and May administrations
• Release first set of research findings on the relationships between medical student grades and scores on a prototype of the Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations test
• Begin long-term MCAT validity study
• Hold Professional development conference for admissions officers in June
• Hold Q-UPP MCAT2015 Webinar Q&A

July – September 2015
• Transmit the first MCAT2015 scores to medical schools
• MCAT2015 administrations continue
• Hold Q-UPP MCAT2015 Webinar Q&A
MCAT2015 Progress Report: July – September 2014

Official MCAT2015 Sample Test Now Available!
The AAMC just released the first full-length MCAT2015 Sample Test. The Sample Test is designed to help students prepare for the 2015 MCAT exam. It includes the same numbers (230) and types of questions examinees will see on test day.

The Sample Test offers solutions and explanations of correct answers for every question. Other features include options to take a timed or untimed test, review answers and solutions to questions while taking the test, and receive a breakdown of how each question relates to the content covered on the new exam.

The Sample Test is available to students for $25. Advisors will have a special bulk rate of $17.50 and will be made available free of charge to those who qualify for the Fee Assistance Program.

In addition to the hard-copy version, The Official Guide to the MCAT® Exam (MCAT2015), Fourth Edition is offered in digital formats, including Kindle, iPad, and Nook. The guide will have the same look and feel as the printed version, but now examinees can study on the go. The guide includes 120 example questions, which are also available online.

Update: Khan Academy Winners Announced for Final Competition
The Khan Academy announced 33 medical students and baccalaureate faculty from across the nation as winners of the final competition to create new videos, questions, and articles for the Khan Academy’s MCAT Collection. The winners received hands-on training with Khan Academy leaders over the summer to develop resources for the new exam that will complete the collection.

The collection currently has more than 500 videos and hundreds of review questions. Traffic to these videos continues to grow. The videos receive about 30,000 views daily with tens of thousands questions answered.

October – December 2015
• Continue transmitting MCAT scores
• Summarize 2015 scores by year and population group
• Release second full-length test for practice
• MCAT2015 Webinar Q&A

Current MCAT scores will be reported through the 2019 AMCAS application cycle.

On the Road…
Upcoming events where MCAT staff will be speaking and/or exhibiting

• National Academic Advising Association (NACADA), October 8-11, Minneapolis, MN
• 12th Annual UC Davis Pre-Medical and Pre-Health National Conference, October 11-12, Sacramento, CA
• Kansas State Pre-Med Advisor Conference, October 17, Manhattan, KS
• 2014 Mid-West Pre-health Conference, October 25, Bowling Green, OH
• Annual Kentucky Pre-health Advisor Conference, November 1, University of Pikeville, KY
• AAMC Annual Meeting, November 7-11, Chicago, IL

Archives of Q-UPP Newsletters, Webinars, and Webinar Q&A Sessions

Additional Resources
• The Journey to the MCAT2015 Exam, a MCAT presentation given at the 2014 National Association of Advisors for the Health Professions meeting.
• September 2014 Advisor Mailing Webinar

The next Q-UPP Webinar will be Tuesday, October 21 from 2:30pm – 4:00pm ET. Registration is now open.
Psychology and Sociology Textbook Resource Updated
The AAMC recently reached out to publishers of introductory psychology and sociology textbooks and asked them to provide a "road map" to where MCAT2015 Foundational Concepts and Content Categories can be found in their publications. Eight textbook publishers have mapped MCAT concepts to their textbooks. View the Psychology and Sociology Textbook Resource.

Pre-Recorded Presentations about the New Exam for Students Available Soon
We are working on pre-recorded presentation materials about the new exam that can be shown to undergraduate students or students in pipeline programs. These presentations will be available on our website in October. Stay tuned for more information.

Winners announced for the Pre-health Collection Submission Call
The Pre-health Collection within MedEdPORTAL’s iCollaborative is pleased to announce two winners from the summer call for submissions seeking teaching resources that prepare students for medical school and the new MCAT exam. New resources in the collection include:

Pressure in the Human Body Module: Investigating the Respiratory System by Nancy Donaldson, Ph.D. and Charles Gosselin, M.S. Rockhurst University and Mary Lowe, Ph.D. Loyola University Maryland.

Understanding Titration Problems, by Thomas Webb, Ph.D. at Auburn University.

The Pre-health Collection is the place to share teaching and learning resources for the pre-health competencies including those on the new MCAT exam. Spotlight innovation on your campus by inviting faculty to submit teaching resources.

Test Administration Update
Testing Year 2015
Registration will open for the MCAT2015 exam in mid-February, and the first test will be administered on April 17. There will be 14 test dates scheduled across April to September and all will begin at 8:00 am local time. There is no March administration, and January 2016 exams will be included in the 2016 testing season. Please assure your students that fewer dates do not

Additional AAMC Pre-med resources/links:

- Aspiring Docs
- Medical School Admission Requirements®
- Khan Academy MCAT Collection
- Pre-health Collection within MedEdPORTAL’s iCollaborative
- AMCAS®
- SMDEP
- FIRST
- Pivio™
- Fee Assistance Program

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- Facebook: facebook.com/AAMCPreMed
mean fewer seats! We will have more seats on fewer dates and have run detailed projections to determine the number of seats needed by month. We have a process in place for continual evaluation. Most of the dates fall on Fridays and Saturdays, which we know is a preference for examinees.

**Score Reporting**

For the April and May administrations, scores for the new exam will be reported to examinees later than the typical 30-35 days. The additional time is needed to verify and conduct analyses required to establish the new score scales and to make the necessary adjustments to correct for the anticipated idiosyncrasies of the group of early examinees. Scores from the April and May exams will be reported prior to the first AMCAS 2016 application release.

April and May examinees will also receive preliminary percentile rank ranges for their section and overall scores 2-3 weeks after their administration date. This is to help examinees make decisions about retesting and applying. Scores will resume a 30-35 day release schedule for June through September administrations. In addition, early examinees in April will be offered a financial incentive to take the exam. They will receive a $150 Amazon.com gift card, and recipients of the Fee Assistance Program will receive a $60 Amazon.com gift card.

**MCAT Score Acceptance Policies for U.S. and Canadian Medical Schools**

This summer the AAMC surveyed U.S. and Canadian medical schools about which MCAT exams their institutions will accept for the 2016, 2017, and 2018 application cycles. The results of this survey are now available.

**Trial Section Update**

Thank you for all of your support to encourage your students to take the Trial Section of the current exam where we tried out questions for the new content areas of the MCAT2015 exam. Approximately 70 percent of examinees participated in the 2014 Trial Section, with approximately 85 percent of volunteers meeting our "good faith effort" criteria and therefore receiving their $30 Amazon.com gift card. We are pleased with these results and thankful for your support.
Fee Assistance Program
In January 2015, the AAMC will be debuting a new Fee Assistance Program (FAP) to better assist those students who apply for the benefit. The changes include a requirement to submit financial information for all living parents, eligibility for students with DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) status, and the ability to use awarded benefits for up to two years (benefits awarded in 2015 may be used through December 31, 2016). Information will be posted on the AAMC website in early December.

Hotel Discount Program Available for Students
Recognizing that examinees may need to stay at a hotel as a result of taking their MCAT exam, the AAMC negotiated a preferred rate with the Hampton Inn hotels. Hampton Inns are located within 10 miles of almost all U.S. testing centers. To learn more about this program, please visit the website. This program is available now and will continue through the new exam testing calendar.

Outreach Activities
From July to September, we presented, exhibited, or sent materials to 13 in-person events, including:

- Association of Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD), San Francisco, CA
- Association of American Indian Physicians, Denver, CO
- STEP-UP Conference at NIH, Washington, DC
- American Sociological Association (ASA), San Francisco, CA
- Ohio State Medical College Admission Committee Orientation, Columbus, OH
- GREAT/GRAND Group and Post doctorate Leaders Professional Development Meeting and Recruitment Fair, Fort Worth, TX
- National Association of Minority Medical Educators (NAMME) Annual Meeting and Recruitment Fair, Indianapolis, IN
- White House Initiative on HBCUs: Annual HBCU Conference Week, Washington, DC

If you have an upcoming regional event for which you would like MCAT information, or you would like to discuss the possibility of a virtual presentation, please contact us at mcat2015@aamc.org