MCAT2015® Q-UPP:

A Quarterly Update of Progress and Projections for the MCAT2015 Exam Issue 4, Volume 2

Welcome to the fourth and final issue of Q-UPP in 2014. Q-UPP is an e-Newsletter 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:
• Incentives for April examinees
• Test preparation resources
• AAMC Annual Meeting recap
• Fourth quarter outreach activities

Our next webinar will take place Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015, from 2:30pm – 3:30pm ET. This webinar will cover topics in this issue and discuss the registration opening and key information you need to advise students about the MCAT2015 exam. 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:

January - March 2015
• Hold final five administrations of the current exam in January
• Hold Q-UPP MCAT2015 Webinar Q&A
• Registration opens mid-February for MCAT2015 test dates
• Release new preparation product: Official MCAT Question Packs
• e-MCAT, website for digital practice products, receives design update
• Accommodations application system opens
• AAMC Fee Assistance Program opens
• Video tutorials completed for MCAT collection in Khan Academy

April – June 2015
• MCAT2015 exam administrations begin
• Report preliminary percentile rank ranges to April and May examinees approximately 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 via AMCAS
• MCAT2015 administrations continue
• Hold Q-UPP MCAT2015 Webinar Q&A

Test Administration and Incentives for April Examinees

Registration will open for the MCAT2015 exam in mid-February. More details will become available on the website as we get closer to the opening. We will hold a webinar on Jan. 27 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. (ET) to discuss the registration opening and key information you need to advise students about the MCAT2015 exam. Registration is open now.

Important Information for Students about Taking the Exam in April

While it will take longer than the usual 30-35 days for examinees to receive their official score reports in April and May, it’s important to communicate to students that they will still be able to submit their scores in AMCAS applications to medical schools at the same time as examinees who took the current exam. This is because official score reports for examinees taking April and May exams will be released (and transmitted to AMCAS schools) before the first round of verified applications are sent by AMCAS to medical schools on July 1, 2015.

April and May examinees can still submit their applications to AMCAS for verification in June before they receive their official score reports. We will be sending April and May examinees preliminary percentile rank ranges approximately three weeks after their exams to help them understand their scores so they can make decisions about whether or not to retest or to which schools to apply. These preliminary percentile rank ranges will not be sent to medical schools, only to examinees. Examinees are welcome to share the information with advisors.

The AAMC will send a $150 Amazon.com Gift Card to examinees who complete the April 17 or 18 exams. This amount represents half of the $300 registration fee. For those examinees that register under the Fee Assistance Program and pay $115 to register, they will receive a $60 gift card. Both students who score or void their April exams will get the gift certificates. This incentive, which will be sent approximately three weeks after the April exams, is to help ensure there will be enough examinees to establish the score scale for the new exam.
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. Examinees need to enter the special rate code 0002673306 to get the discount. Additional information is available on the website. This program is available now and will continue into the 2015 testing year.

Test Preparation Update

Resources Available for Students Now

As the transition to the new MCAT exam gets closer, please remind your students that there are many free and low-cost resources already available to them to begin preparing for the new exam. These include:

- **What's on the MCAT2015 Exam? Interactive Tool**—provides a detailed overview of exam sections, foundational concepts, and categories
- Online Practice Questions from The Official Guide
- Khan Academy MCAT Collection
- **Official MCAT® Sample Test**—first official test for practice for the new exam
- Psychology and Sociology Textbook Resource—provides a roadmap to where the MCAT2015 foundational concepts and content categories can be found in introductory sociology and psychology textbooks

More detail about each of these resources is available on the website.

New Resources and Updates

Coming in early 2015, **Official MCAT Question Packs** will be available in four discipline content areas: Biology, Physics, Chemistry, and Critical Analysis and Reasoning. These question packs contain hundreds of questions from previous MCAT Practice materials that ask about topics that will be tested on the new exam. The questions have been mapped to the new MCAT2015 exam content. Examinees will be

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.

On the Road…

Upcoming events where MCAT staff will be speaking and/or exhibiting

- Wake Forest School of Medicine Pre-Med Webinar, January 31, Winston-Salem, NC
- Texas Association of Advisors for the Health Professions Annual Meeting, February 5-7, Fort Worth, TX
- St. Louis Pre-Med Webinar, February 2
- Tour 4 Diversity, February 17, Tallahassee, FL
- Emerging Researchers National Conference in STEM, February 19-21, Washington, DC
- Igniting the Dream of Medicine Conference, February 28, Augusta, GA
- American Medical Student Association Pre-Med Fair, February 28, Crystal City, VA
- University of Massachusetts Medical School Pre-Med & Advisor Conference, March 27-28, Boston, MA
- National Hispanic Medical Association Pre-Med Fair, March 28, Washington, DC
- American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Annual Meeting, March 28-April 1, Boston, MA

View a list of all our past outreach activities.

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

Other Announcements

The next webinar will be Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2015, from 2:30pm – 4:00pm ET. Registration is now open.
able to test their knowledge and practice with the new MCAT2015 test template to ensure they are ready for exam day.

**e-MCAT.com Redesign**

In early 2015, the [www.e-MCAT.com](http://www.e-MCAT.com) practice site for test prep materials will have a new look and feel. Examinees can expect the new site to be more intuitive and easier to navigate than the current site. An announcement will be made when the new site is officially live.

**Update: Growing Khan Academy MCAT Collection**

Now with more than 800 videos and 400 review questions, the Khan Academy MCAT Collection continues to grow. Review Questions have been added that provide passage-based questions for practice. In 2015, look for the addition of discrete questions and companion articles that align with the videos added to the MCAT test prep collection.

**Reminder: Current MCAT Preparation Materials To Be Discontinued**

On January 31, 2015, MCAT preparation materials for the current exam will be discontinued. This will ensure that the materials available for examinees provide an accurate reflection of the new exam. Examinees will, however, be able to access current score reports from their completed tests.

**AAMC Annual Meeting 2014**

The AAMC Annual Meeting was held November 7-11, 2014, in Chicago. The MCAT Team gave two presentations to update the medical school community on the work to get ready for the new exam and on the ongoing validity research, which is discussed in more detail below. If you weren’t at the meeting, both presentations are available [online](http://www.aamc.org) to view.

The AAMC also hosted a Pre-Med Minority School Recruitment Fair during the meeting. The event included three workshops and was attended by more than 500 high school and college-age aspiring physicians and 123 medical school recruiters.

**Pre-Recorded Presentations about the New Exam for Students Now Available**

The pre-recorded presentation materials about the new exam are now available. These presentations can be shown to both undergraduate students and students in pipeline or other special programs or to advisors and faculty. These presentations will be useful if you need a presentation for the new exam. Preview these presentations [online](http://www.aamc.org).

**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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Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior Validity Study

Eleven medical schools partnered with the AAMC to study a prototype version the Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior (PSBB) section of the new MCAT exam. They recruited more than 2,000 students to participate in the study. Preliminary results showed that scores on the prototype version of the PSBB section predicted subsequent academic performance in medical school courses related to Behavioral Sciences, Neuroscience, and Epidemiology/Public Health. Additional results will be presented in 2015.