

can be accessed from your laptop or mobile devices so that you can easily work your way through MCAT test prep questions on-the-go.

The AAMC MCAT Section Bank is another resource that will be extremely valuable to your preparation. Providing over 300 discrete and passage-based practice questions, the Section Bank helps you test yourself in each subject covered on the test. Available through the AAMC website for only \$45, the Section Bank gives you the opportunity to start each section ten times before your subscription expires. Because it allows you to take practice tests online, it gives you the

won't review your application at all until they've received your MCAT scores, so you want to leave enough time to receive and submit the best possible score.

Remember, when it comes to applying for medical school, earlier is better. Most medical schools accept students on a rolling admissions basis. The later your application is complete, the harder your chances of getting accepted.

Don't think about your application in terms of, When is the last day I can apply? but rather, How can I prepare myself to apply as soon as possible?

One other thing to keep in mind is that even if you are planning on taking the MCAT later,

How am I  
expected to know  
everything?

The test itself can be very overwhelming, considering there is far more material covered on it than on any test you've previously taken. The MCAT is a shallow test, though, and does not dig very deep into the subjects on which it touches. When taking the MCAT, you won't have to delve into topics the way you would for the final exam of a semester-long course.

lowed all our advice, taken almost all (if not all) of your prereqs, taken many full-length practice tests (simulating a real testing environment) and you are scoring well, then you are probably ready to take the test.

If you have not taken the time to sit down for a full eight-hour day to take a practice test, but instead did one or two sections at a time, and have assumed your overall score based on those scores, then you are not ready for the real MCAT.

If your scores are where you want them to be, with some consistency on your full-lengths, then you are ready to take the MCAT.

need to put into theirs. Taking a diagnostic will give you an idea of what your version of preparation will look like. If you score within the top 10% of your diagnostic test, for example, you will have a different course of action than someone who scores around the 50th percentile. After taking a diagnostic, you'll be able to develop realistic goals for scoring on the MCAT and a working plan to achieve those goals.

Ready to take a diagnostic?

Next Step has a free diagnostic that also gives you access to a free full-length MCAT practice test.

Go to [mcatsbook.com/freetest](https://mcatsbook.com/freetest) to get access to the tests.

mid to upper-level cell bio course and one mid to upper-level molecular genetics course, or something along those lines.

A humanities class like English, philosophy, or history can help you build critical reasoning and reading skills. At its core, the MCAT is a reading test covering science subjects. Fitting in as many non-science classes as possible will help you master the Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills section of the MCAT. The CARS section is almost always the hardest section of the MCAT for most students.

Can I self-study a subject?

Biology is, by far, the most tested subject on the MCAT, followed by psychology. Sometimes students will feel confident in their knowledge of sociology and forgo that recommended semester. However, the MCAT will be looking for specific technical definitions of words which are covered in a semester of sociology. For that reason, its worth taking each recommendation seriously.

See your advisor

If you have access to an advisor, now is the time to see him or her. Your advisor will typically have a timeline based on your schools specific courses that are avail-

Are there any subjects I  
can skip?

There aren't many shortcuts in  
life, but there may be a little wig-  
gle room on the MCAT. Organic  
chemistry, the great gatekeeper  
of the premed world, is under-  
represented on the MCAT. As a  
prereq, you are expected to take  
two semesters, but if you need to  
take the MCAT before you get the  
second semester under your belt,  
you should be okay. The same  
goes for the second semester of  
physics.