



FAQs for Candidates

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General

1. When should I take the PA-CAT Exam?

PA programs have two types of admissions processes, rolling and fixed. If you are applying to any program using rolling admissions, we recommend you take the PA-CAT as early in the cycle as you can. It can take up to 6 weeks for you and the programs to receive PA-CAT scores. Check with the PA programs you are applying to for their program-specific requirements and allow enough time for them to receive your official scores.

2. What is the cost of the exam?

The cost of the PA-CAT exam is \$228 for the 2020 application cycle. This fee includes both the exam fee and the test center fee.

3. How do I apply for special accommodations?

Please see the detailed special accommodations procedures in our [Resource](#) section.

4. Is financial assistance available?

Exam Master is developing a program to support economically disadvantaged candidates. No aspiring physician assistant candidate should be denied the opportunity to apply to PA school.

Registration

5. How do I register for and schedule my exam?

You can register for the exam beginning January 2020, and testing will begin May 2020. To begin the registration process, visit pa-cat.com to submit your application for the PA-CAT exam. To schedule your test day and time with Prometric, (1) your registration must be complete, (2) you must be approved for the exam by Exam Master, and (3) you must have received the confirmation email with your eligibility number.

6. Where and when is the PA-CAT Exam offered?

The PA-CAT exam is administered at Prometric testing centers across the US. To find testing centers near you, visit the Prometric website (prometric.com/test-takers/search) and select the PA-CAT exam. Click the action buttons on the left and follow the instructions for finding a center and scheduling your exam. This information is available even if you are not ready to schedule the exam.

7. Can I change or reschedule my exam date and/or center?

Yes, you can still make changes to your scheduled date and center directly with Prometric. All changes must be made at least 5 days before your examination appointment. There is a \$50 fee for changing an appointment 5 to 29 days before your examination appointment. There is no charge for changing more than 29 days before your examination appointment.

Test Content & Preparation

8. What does the PA-CAT exam cover?

The PA-CAT is designed to be a more focused examination of the prerequisite subjects consistent with the admission requirements of many PA programs. The five subjects required by most PA programs are Anatomy, Biology, General Chemistry, Physiology, and Statistics. Test items were developed and reviewed by subject matter experts and PA educators.

For more detail on what is covered on the PA-CAT, visit the official PA-CAT website: pa-cat.com/about-the-pa-cat/

9. How can I prep for the PA-CAT Exam?

Click [here](#) to access the study guide. We developed this guide to help you prepare for the PA-CAT exam and to help you establish regular study habits in the months leading up to your exam.

10. What resources do you offer to prepare for the PA-CAT Exam?

Exam Master offers free sample questions and a free Practice Exam. The sample questions will give you an idea of the kinds of questions you will encounter on the exam. The Practice Exam is a 120-question exam that mimics the PA-CAT experience. Visit our [Resource](#) page to access the sample questions. Instructions on how to access the Practice Exam are included in your registration confirmation email.

Test Day

11. How long is the PA-CAT exam?

The PA-CAT consists of 240 multiple-choice questions. The allotted time for the exam is 4.5 hours, which includes mandatory pre-exam questions, a break between exam sections, and a post-exam survey.

12. What are the test center instructions?

After you scheduled your test date and time with Prometric, detailed test center instructions will be included in the confirmation email.

13. What are permissible items that I can bring?

View [Prometric's list of permissible items](#).

Test Score

14. How will the exam be scored?

PA-CAT scores are scaled, which involves statistical analysis and modeling. Scaled scores allow for accurate reporting of results across different versions of the exam and over time. Scaled scores account for variability of question difficulty and more accurately measure candidate performance compared to raw scores. The scoring range will be between 200 and 800, similar to the PANCE.

15. When and how will I receive my scores?

You will receive a notification from Prometric with your test scores within 6 weeks of taking the exam.