PA-CAT
Physician Assistant College Admissions Test

FAQs for Programs

Exam Master®

FAQ for Programs

General

1. <u>What is the PA-CAT?</u>
The PA-CAT is a standardized assessment of 240 multiple-choice questions, designed as a focused examination of the prerequisite subjects of many PA programs' admission requirements. Test items were developed and reviewed by subject matter experts and PA educators.

2. <u>When and where is the PA-CAT exam available?</u>
Registration for the PA-CAT will open in January of 2020. It will be available at Prometric testing centers for public release in May 2020. The test is delivered electronically at over 5000 Prometric testing centers across the North America.

3. <u>What is the cost of the PA-CAT exam?</u>
The cost of the PA-CAT exam is $228 for the 2020 application cycle. This fee includes <u>both</u> the exam fee and the test center fee.

Program Implementation

4. <u>How do we incorporate the PA-CAT exam into our admissions requirements?</u>
Information is available on the official PA-CAT website and in the "Getting Started" packets provided to interested programs. We will also hold a series of webinars to answer questions and help programs determine how best to incorporate the PA-CAT into the admissions process. These webinars will be led by experienced PA program directors who have been heavily involved in the PA school admissions process. For additional guidance, email support@pa-cat.com.

5. <u>When do we need to notify applicants of our use of the PA-CAT?</u>
Announcing that your program requires or recommends the PA-CAT exam will depend on your program's application timeline and admissions policies. For additional guidance, email support@pa-cat.com.

User Registration and Scheduling

6. <u>When and how do applicants register?</u>
Applicants can register for the exam January 2020, and testing will begin May 2020. To begin the registration process, they will submit their application to take the PA-CAT exam at pa-cat.com. They can schedule their test day and time with Prometric after they are approved to take the exam by Exam Master and after they have received their eligibility number.

7. Where is the exam administered?

Any of the 5000 Prometric testing centers across North America.

Test

8. What does the PA-CAT exam cover?

The PA-CAT is designed as a focused examination of the prerequisite subjects of many PA programs' admission requirements. The subjects covered on the PA-CAT are Anatomy, Physiology, General Biology, Biochemistry, General and Organic Chemistry, Microbiology, Behavioral Sciences, Genetics, and Statistics. Test items were developed and reviewed by subject matter experts and PA educators, mapped to the cognitive domains of Bloom's taxonomy for deeper candidate assessment: Knowledge, Comprehension, Application, Analysis, Synthesis, and Evaluation. 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 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 exam time, tutorials, and post-exam survey.

10. How has the PA-CAT Exam been tested and validated?

Research versions of the PA-CAT were field-tested with over 40 participating PA programs, involving over 1700 incoming PA students and interview candidates. Field testing continues, and some programs plan to assess their interview candidates for retrospective evaluation after admission decisions have been made. Rasch modeling and statistical methods have been used to periodically update the exam and build out a scaled scoring model. Early exam reliability has been ~0.85.

Test Score

11. When will the scores for the PA-CAT exam be reported?

PA Programs will receive official transcripts within 6 weeks of candidates completing the exam. Scores will not be reported by phone or by fax.

12. What are the passing standards? How are scores determined for the PA-CAT exam?

PA-CAT is not an exam with a passing score. PA programs using the PA-CAT as part of their admissions process will receive:

- Candidate Scaled Score
- Candidate Subject Raw Scores