



Should I retake the MCAT?

Can I do better if I am going to retake?

Remember – there is also the risk of getting a lower score in one or more of the test's categories. Many schools look at the most recent set of MCATs, which needs to be a consideration. Ask yourself the following questions:

- ✓ How did I prepare for the exam? Did I take a prep course?
- ✓ Do I feel that I did not have enough time to devote to MCAT study?
- ✓ How did I feel the actual test went for myself – Was I sick? Was I overly anxious? Did I have enough time? Were there other distractions on test day?
- ✓ What are my summer commitments? Do I have the time this summer to truly dedicate myself to MCAT study?
- ✓ What is the relative risk of going down on any section?
- ✓ Do I feel that my score accurately reflects my ability?
- ✓ Looking at my past history, how have I tended to perform on standardized tests?
- ✓ Am I mentally prepared to take on the task of retesting? Do I have the motivation and energy required?

How is my score?

The national average MCAT score of applicants who matriculated into the 2014 entering class was a 31.4, however each school has its own range. In addition, the 2015 MCAT will have a completely different scoring system.

- ✓ What schools do I want to apply to? What are their average MCAT scores and GPAs?
- ✓ What was my breakdown? Are there individual scores that may be viewed as a weakness?
- ✓ Are there any other considerations that can be taken into consideration when interpreting MCAT scores?
- ✓ Do I have a learning disability? Did I use my accommodation?
- ✓ Is English my second language?
- ✓ Am I part of a group of underrepresented students?

How competitive are the other aspects of my application?

It's important for students to view themselves realistically. The average overall GPA for those accepted to medical school in 2014 is a 3.63 and the BCPM (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Math) is a 3.69.

- ✓ What is my BCPM GPA and overall GPA?
- ✓ Are my grades at the average, above the average or below the average?
- ✓ Would I be a more competitive applicant if I waited another year, took additional coursework, retook the MCAT and added additional experiences to my resume?

Be sure to look individually at one's courses and one's subsections of the MCAT. For example, it will not be favorable if a student had trouble in the physical sciences both in their coursework and on the MCAT. If you are planning on retaking the MCAT come and speak with a health professions coach.

*It is important to note that a high GPA does not make up for a low MCAT score and vice versa. Your GPA reflects your performance over your college career where as your MCAT score represents your performance at one point in time.