MCAT
Old and New

https://www.aamc.org/admissions/admissionslifecycle/428016/mcatscorereport.html

Carol C. Teitz, M.D., Associate Dean for Admissions

“Old” MCAT

- We accept MCAT scores from tests within 3 years of application
- Last application year for “old” MCAT scores at UWSOM will be E-18
- Consideration for the next few years will be a hybrid
  - Old scores when there is no new score
  - Old scores turned into percentiles & compared with new scores when applicant has both
“New” MCAT

- Emphasizes the role of behavioral and socio-cultural factors in health
- The format of the questions on the new MCAT is designed to
  - Use knowledge to solve problems
  - Interpret data
- More questions, but 13-20% more time per question

Old vs New MCAT

Old
- Verbal reasoning
- Biological sciences
- Physical sciences

New
- Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems
- Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems
- Psychological, Social and Biological Foundations of Behavior
- Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills
Old vs New MCAT Scores

Old
- 3-15 per section/max 45
- UWSOM mean for 5 years: 31 = 83rd percentile
- UW matriculants with “old” MCAT score ≤ 24 had a 20% chance of academic difficulty or problems with USMLE
- Nationally, matriculants with “old” MCAT score 24-26 had an 81% chance of graduating from medical school in 4 years
- 26 = 55th percentile

New
- 118-132 per section/max 528
- We will consider applicants with new scores ≥ 500
- 500 = 50th percentile
- We will continue to review applications holistically

AAMC Evaluation of New MCAT Scores

- Starting in 2013, 2000 med students at 11 schools took a prototype “new” MCAT. Their scores correlate with their academic performance in med school behavioral and social science courses and are better predictors than “old” MCAT scores.
- AAMC will continue to study correlation with
  - Step 1 and 2 scores
  - Clerkship grades
AAMC Evaluation of New MCAT Scores

- 13,000 examinees took the “new” MCAT in April and May 2015
- Scores were “centered,” have a wider spread, and are more reliable than “old”
- Differences by demographic groups are similar to differences on “old”
- Percentile ranks will provide best information for now
- Validity committee will continue to study
- Data will be published at the end of each testing year

“Have you compared the Psych/Soc curriculum at UW to the requirements of the MCAT?”

No – however…

- Input to committee from pre-health advisors, baccalaureate faculty, med school administrators and faculty, medical students, members of disciplinary societies and higher education associations
- Sampled 290 undergraduate institutions including > 1000 undergraduate faculty (including schools classified as minority-serving)
- Data collected from 143 US and Canadian medical schools including >1100 basic science faculty, clinical science faculty, residents, and medical students
“Have you compared the Psych/Soc curriculum at UW to the requirements of the MCAT?”

- Blueprint for the exam mirrors the survey findings and experts’ recommendations
- Concepts were covered by the majority of undergraduate institutions
- Concepts were rated as important by medical schools
- Research methods and statistics concepts were thought to be part of foundational science courses in college

Recommendations for Preparation

- See AAMC website for more detailed description of concepts and content tested. Search: “Using MCAT Data in 2016 Medical Student Selection”
- Compare concepts and content to course catalogs at your school
- AAMC website search: “Official MCAT Question Pack Bundle”
- Khan academy tutorials teach concepts targeted by new test [https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/mcat](https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/mcat)
- No change in recommended pre-requisites for UWSOM
Additional Q&A