**The MCATs**

**Registration is open for the April through September administrations of the MCAT exam in the U.S. Register now to ensure a spot in your preferred test date!**

* It is recommended that you take the MCAT no later than **July 2017** (earlier is better). The earlier you complete your AMCAS application, including your MCAT score, the earlier schools will consider you for an interview.
* Potential times to take the MCAT: End of J-term, spring or early summer
* Turnaround time for scores is approximately 30 days.
* In the event that you need to retake your MCAT, September 2017 is the last month where you can still submit your scores for this application cycle. Schools will not consider your application complete until they receive your MCAT score. **NOTE: We do NOT recommend retaking your MCAT. Aim to do well the first time! Minimal improvement will hurt more than help.**
* **Do not wait to submit your primary application. You CAN submit your primary AMCAS application without your MCAT score.** This will allow you to be considered by medical schools as soon as possible; some may even send you secondary applications without waiting to see your MCAT score.

**Practice Tests are online**: (May not be as difficult as real thing).

<https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/prepare/>

**Take as many practice tests as you can.** Space them out and use them to gauge progress as you study.

Many students have taken Kaplan or Princeton Review courses and practice tests.

Fellow students may be good source of study material.

Here is some information taken from the AAMC website:

* “Natural sciences sections of the MCAT 2015 exam reflect recent changes in medical education.
* Addition of the social and behavioral sciences section, Psychological, Social and Biological Foundations of Behavior, recognizes the importance of socio-cultural and behavioral determinants of health and health outcomes.
* And the new Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills section reflects the fact that medical schools want well-rounded applicants from a variety of backgrounds.”