Test Prep for the Health Professions:

The DAT, OAT, and PCAT

NextStep TEST PREP nextsteptestprep.com

Introductions

- Phil Hawkins
- Senior Instructor at Next Step
- Worked with hundreds of pre-health students over the last 4+ years

Why this all matters.....

- Standardized test scores are the single most important part of your application
- Used to triage applicant pool to make the process easier on the admissions officials
- Test scores correlate to performance in program

The DAT Overview:

Conducted by ADA

The DAT is required by all dental programs. It is administered by Prometric on a rolling basis.

Sections

90m	60m	60m	45m
100 ?s	90 ?s	50 ?s	40 ?s
Survey of the Natural Sciences	Perceptual Ability	Reading Comprehension	Quantitative Reasoning

4 hours 30 minutes

Section Breakdown

#	Question Type
40	Biology
30	General Chemistry
30	Organic Chemistry

15	Aperture	15	Paper Folding
15	View Recognition	15	Cube Counting
15	Angle Discrimination	15	3D Form Development

3 Passages

16-17 ?s

Passages may contain a scientific or technical topic. Language may be complicated

40 Mathematical Problems / Word Problems

Problems include: basic math, algebra, conversions, probability & statistics, geometry, etc.

DAT Scoring

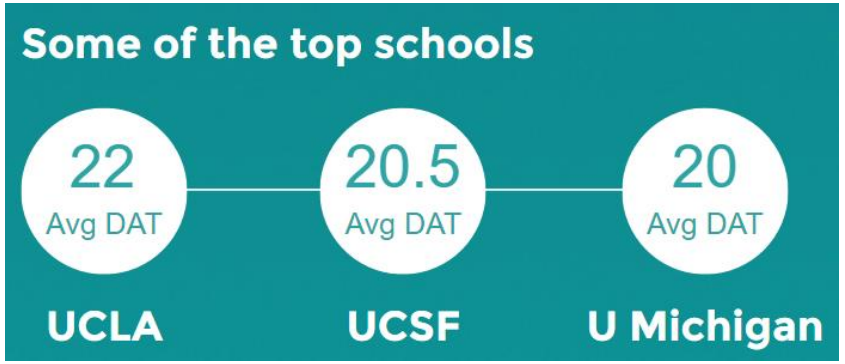
- Based on # of questions answered correctly
- Average score is around 17 (50th percentile)
- Score report will have eight different scores:

Biology	1-30	% Ranking
General Chemistry	1-30	% Ranking
Organic Chemistry	1-30	% Ranking
Total Science	1-30	% Ranking
Reading Comprehension	1-30	% Ranking
Quantitative Reasoning	1-30	% Ranking
Perceptual Ability	1-30	% Ranking
Academic Average*	1-30	% Ranking

* Academic Average is the average combined score of Biology, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Reading Comprehension, and Quantitative Reasoning. It does not include Perceptual Ability.

What is a good AA?

DAT Score	Percentile	How good?
17-18	50th	Average
19-20	75th	Usually Good
22-23	98th	Very High



The OAT Overview:

Conducted by the ASCO

The OAT is required by all optometry programs. It is administered by Prometrics on a rolling basis.

Sections

90 m	**50m**	**50m**	**45m**
100 ?s	**40 ?s**	**40 ?s**	**40 ?s**
Survey of the Natural Sciences	Reading Comprehension	Physics	Quantitative Reasoning

4 Hours 40 minutes

Section Breakdown

#	Question Type
40	Biology
30	General Chemistry
30	Organic Chemistry
3 Passages	Passage topics are similar to those covered in first year optometry courses.
10-17 ?s	
40	Problems include: Units and Vectors, Linear Kinematics, Dynamics, Rotational Motion, Waves, energy and Momentum, Thermal Energy, D.C. Circuits, Optics and Modern Physics, etc.
40	Problems include: Algebra, Numerical Calculations, Probability, Statistics, Geometry, Trigonometry, Mathematical Word Problems

OAT Scored 200-400

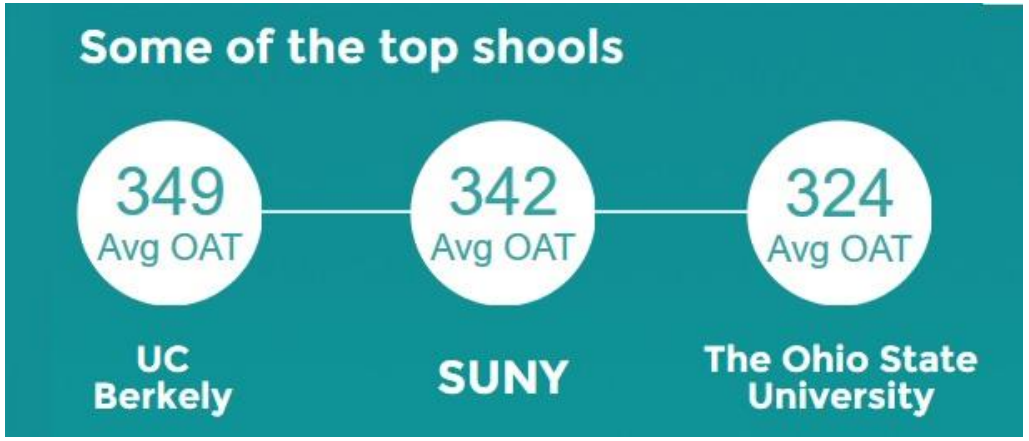
- Based on # of questions answered correctly
- Average score is 300 (50th percentile)
- Score report will have eight different scores:

Biology	200-400	% Ranking
General Chemistry	200-400	% Ranking
Organic Chemistry	200-400	% Ranking
Total Science	200-400	% Ranking
Reading Comprehension	200-400	% Ranking
Quantitative Reasoning	200-400	% Ranking
Physics	200-400	% Ranking
Academic Average*	200-400	% Ranking

* Academic Average is the average combined score of Biology, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Physics, Reading Comprehension, and Quantitative Reasoning

What is a good AA?

OAT Standard Score	Percentile	OAT Score (Qualitatively)
300	50th	Average
350	75th	Good
390	98th	Very High

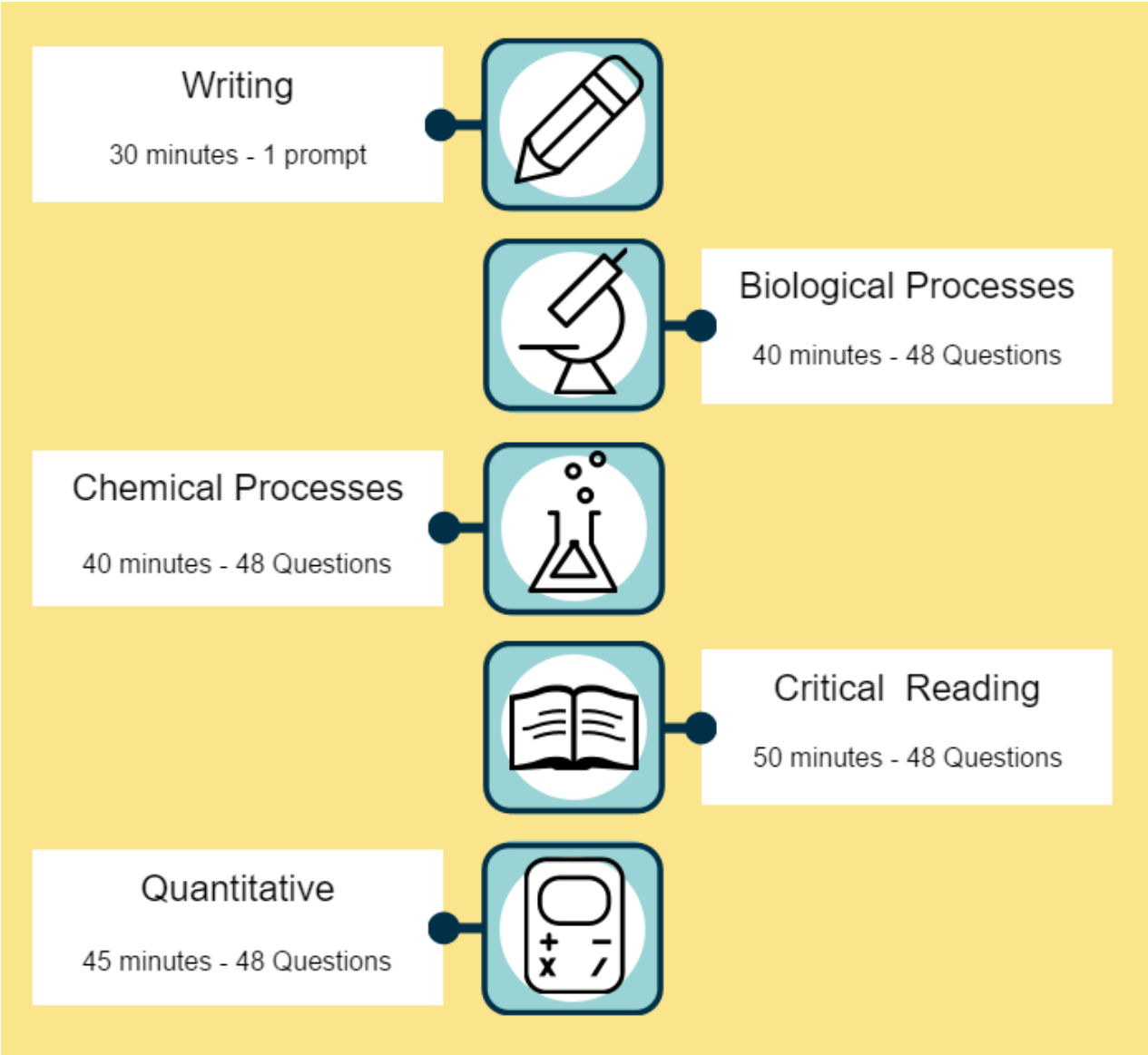


DAT/OAT Practice Problem

Which of the following is derived from mesoderm?

A. Pancreas
B. Kidney
C. Liver
D. Lens of the eye
E. Spinal chord

The PCAT Overview



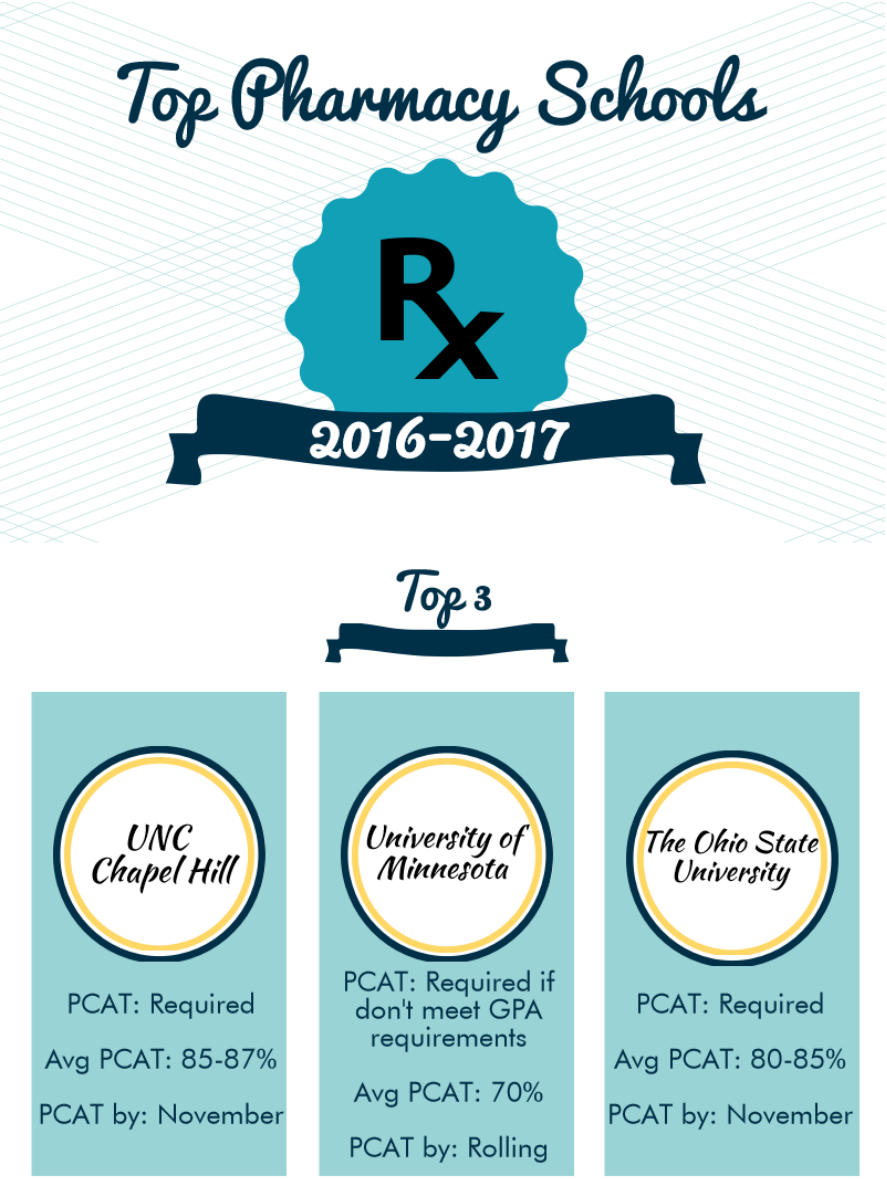
Writing	A health issue, a science issue, social/ cultural/ political issue
Biological Processes	50% General Biology 20% Microbiology 30% Human Anatomy & Physiology
Chemical Processes	50% General Chemistry 30% Organic Chemistry 20% Basic Biochemistry Processes
Critical Reading	30% Comprehension 40% Analysis 30% Evaluation
Quantitative	25% Basic Math 25% Algebra 18% Probability & Statistics 18% Calculus 14% Pre-Calculus

PCAT Scoring

- Based on # of questions answered correctly
- Raw score is converted to scaled score
- Score report will have six different scores:

Writing	1-6	1 – 6 score
Biological Processes	200-600	Percentile Ranking
Chemical Processes	200-600	Percentile Ranking
Critical Reading	200-600	Percentile Ranking
Quantitative	200-600	Percentile Ranking
Composite Score	200-600	Percentile Ranking

- Percentile ranking is what schools focus on – want to be 70%+



A change to the PCAT

- The Verbal Ability section has been completely removed
- The sections were all renamed (except Writing):
  - Biology -> Biological Processes
  - Chemistry -> Chemical Processes
  - Reading Comprehension -> Critical Reading
  - Quantitative Ability -> Quantitative Reasoning

Changes by section

- Biological Processes and Chemical Processes
  - New passages have been added; each will have a set of 4 questions
  - They will focus on specific problems, research issues, or novel situations
  - Both sections now have 40 minutes instead of 35 minutes
- Critical Reading
  - Contains passages focused on humanities and social sciences in addition to science-related topics
- Quantitative Reasoning
  - More emphasis on word problems
  - More focus on Algebra and Arithmetic
  - Less focus on Calculus and Pre-calculus

PCAT Practice Problem

A cylindrical tank is filling with water, giving a height in meters after t minutes of h(t)=4t+6. If the diameter of the tank is 10 meters, how long will it take for the tank to fill up to 200π cubic meters?

A. 0.5 minutes
B. 3.5 minutes
C. 7.0 minutes
D. 10.5 minutes

Top 3

Test Prep Tips

These tests are

REASONING

tests

1

2

Watch the clock...but not to much

Answer choices tell you your 3 options

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Questions?

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DAT/OAT

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Princeton	
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15 Hours Tutoring	$2,999

PCAT

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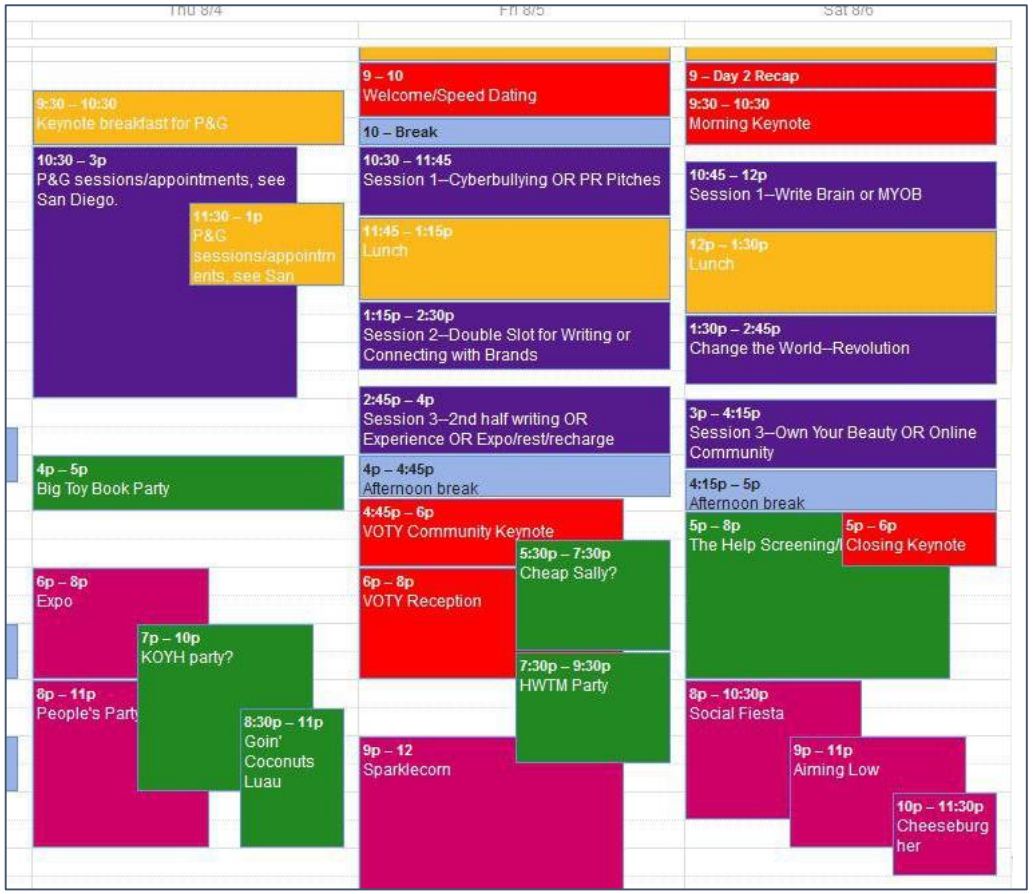
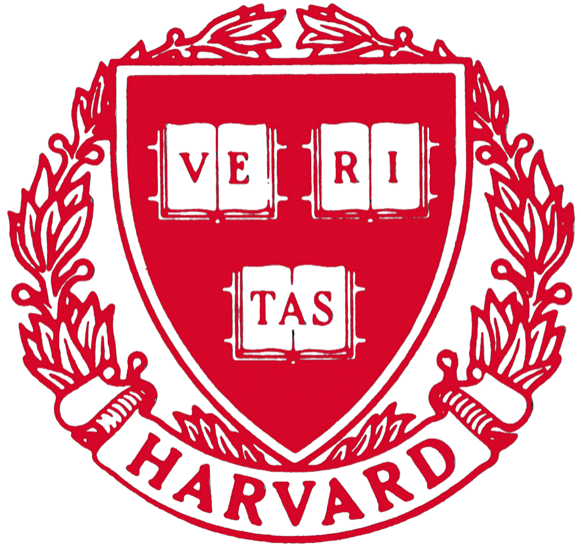
Is tutoring right for you?





Questions?

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