



PHARMACY COLLEGE ADMISSION TEST

*The Test for Pharmacy College Admission*

# Candidate Information Booklet

2009–2010

[www.PCATweb.info](http://www.PCATweb.info)

## Application Submission Deadlines

**Test Dates:**

June 20, 2009

August 22, 2009

October 17, 2009

January 23, 2010

**Register No Later Than:**

May 08, 2009

July 10, 2009

September 04, 2009

December 11, 2009

Keep this booklet for reference. This booklet provides information about applying to take the PCAT, preparing for the test, and receiving PCAT scores. A printable version of this Candidate Information Booklet can also be found at the PCAT website, along with the most up-to-date and complete information about the PCAT.

PEARSON

We urge candidates to register early as seating is on a first-come-first-serve basis.

PsychCorp

# Quick Reference

**Test Dates: June 20, 2009; August 22, 2009; October 17, 2009; and January 23, 2010**

To apply online, pay applicable fees, request Official Transcripts, cancel an online registration, download a PDF of the Candidate Information Booklet, or request other services online, go to the PCAT website: [www.PCATweb.info](http://www.PCATweb.info).

To request general information not covered in this Candidate Information Booklet or on the PCAT website, please email PSE Customer Relations at: [scoring.services@pearson.com](mailto:scoring.services@pearson.com).

## **PSE Customer Relations service hours:**

- Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST
- On scheduled PCAT test dates, 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST

## **PSE Customer Relations phone and fax numbers:**

Phone: 1-800-622-3231 or 210-339-8710

Fax: 1-888-211-8276 or 210-339-8711

## **When you should contact PSE Customer Relations:**

- If your Admission Ticket is incorrect or is not accessible at the PCAT website **at least 5 days** before the test date
- To check on cancellation of test due to inclement weather or other situations
- To request a special testing location in a foreign country
- To request a paper Registration Form

The information in the Candidate Information Booklet is subject to change without notice. While every effort will be made to ensure that the information is accurate and timely, Pearson assumes no responsibility for new information, or the consequences thereof, revealed between editions of the Candidate Information Booklet. It is strongly recommended that potential examinees go to [www.PCATweb.info](http://www.PCATweb.info) for the most current information.

## **Mailing Information With Fee Payments**

Please note that any requests and fee payments NOT sent to the correct address will result in delays in processing. Pearson is not responsible for delayed, lost, or misdirected mail.

All requests accompanied by fees—including PCAT paper Registration Forms and requests for rescoring, additional personal Score Reports, or additional Official Transcripts—must be sent by either first class mail or overnight courier.

### **Send via first class postage to:**

Pearson  
*Pharmacy College Admission Test*  
P.O. Box 7247-6717  
Philadelphia, PA 19170-6717

### **Send via overnight courier to:**

Pearson  
C/O CitiBank Delaware  
Team 2  
Lock Box 6717, OPS3  
  
1615 Brett Road  
New Castle, DE 19720

**To submit an Accommodations Request Form, to submit documentation for special accommodations or Non-Saturday Administration, or to cancel registration in writing for paper Registration Forms, send your request to:**

Pearson  
PSE Customer Relations—PCAT  
19500 Bulverde Road  
San Antonio, TX 78259



**PHARMACY COLLEGE ADMISSION TEST**

# **Candidate Information Booklet**

**2009–2010**

**PEARSON**  


Copyright © 2008 NCS Pearson, Inc. All rights reserved.

**Warning:** No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

**Pearson**, the **PSI logo**, **PsychCorp**, and **PCAT** are trademarks in the U.S. and/or other countries of Pearson Education, Inc., or its affiliate(s).

Printed in the United States of America.

[www.PCATweb.info](http://www.PCATweb.info)

**PEARSON**  


# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b> . . . . .	<b>I</b>
Important Notice to Candidates . . . . .	1
Ongoing Research . . . . .	1
The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy . . . . .	1
Contact Information . . . . .	2
<b>Registering for the Test</b> . . . . .	<b>3</b>
General Tips for Registering . . . . .	3
Registering Online . . . . .	4
Submitting a Paper Registration Form . . . . .	4
Registration Confirmation . . . . .	5
<b>PCAT Fees and Special Services</b> . . . . .	<b>6</b>
Registration Fee . . . . .	6
Fees for Optional Services . . . . .	6
Non-Saturday Administrations . . . . .	8
Accommodations for Candidates with Disabilities . . . . .	8
Cancelling Your Registration . . . . .	9
<b>At the Test Center</b> . . . . .	<b>11</b>
Admission Ticket . . . . .	11
Test Day Schedule and Test Center Rules . . . . .	11
What You Need to Bring With You on the Day of the Test . . . . .	12
During the Test . . . . .	13
No Score Option . . . . .	15
Test Center Closings and Delayed Starting Times . . . . .	15
Test Administration Concerns . . . . .	15
<b>After the Test</b> . . . . .	<b>16</b>
How Your Test Is Scored . . . . .	16
Score Reporting . . . . .	16
Interpreting Your Personal Score Report . . . . .	17
Verifying Your Scores by Rescoring . . . . .	17
Requesting Additional Personal Score Reports and Official Transcripts . . . . .	18
Replacement Personal Score Reports and Official Transcripts . . . . .	19
Cancellation of Scores by Pearson . . . . .	19



<b>About the Test</b> .....	<b>23</b>
Test Development .....	23
Test Contents .....	23
Test-Taking Strategies .....	26
<b>Online Practice Test</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>Appendix A</b>	
Sample Personal Score Report .....	29
<b>Appendix B</b>	
Sample Registration Confirmation .....	33
Sample Admission Ticket	

# Introduction

This booklet contains instructions for applying to take the *Pharmacy College Admission Test* (PCAT), and general descriptions of the test content, and what happens after you have taken the test. A printable version of this Candidate Information Booklet can also be found at the PCAT website: [www.PCATweb.info](http://www.PCATweb.info).

## Important Notice to Candidates: Please Read

---

Read this booklet completely and carefully and keep it for reference regarding all PCAT administrations from June 2009 to January 2010. Any updates to the policies and procedures described in this booklet will be posted on the PCAT website, which is considered the definitive PCAT information source. You should **not** call, write, or email Pearson with questions until you have thoroughly read this booklet and viewed the PCAT website for any updated information. **The most current PCAT information is available online.**

**It is critical that you strictly adhere to all procedures and deadlines presented in this booklet. By registering for the PCAT online, or by signing a paper Registration Form, you are agreeing to adhere to all the policies and procedures described in the most recent version of the Candidate Information Booklet and stated on the PCAT website.**

## Ongoing Research

---

Pearson periodically uses PCAT data for research purposes, such as investigating trends and creating new PCAT test forms. It is possible that your PCAT demographic and score information will be used for research purposes. By taking the PCAT, you give permission for Pearson to use your demographic and score information for research purposes.

## The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

---

The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACCP) is the only organization representing the interests of pharmacy education and educators. The AACCP endorses the PCAT as the official preferred admissions test for entrance to pharmacy school.

## Contact Information

---

Please direct all requests for information concerning the PCAT, and send documentation for special accommodations requests, to the following address:

**Pearson**

**PSE Customer Relations—PCAT**

**19500 Bulverde Road**

**San Antonio, Texas 78259**

**Phone: 1-800-622-3231 or 210-339-8710**

**Fax: 1-888-211-8276 or 210-339-8711**

**Email: [scoring.services@pearson.com](mailto:scoring.services@pearson.com)**

**Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST**

If you are applying and paying your fees online and requesting special accommodations that require separate documentation, send those documents to the address above. See the “PCAT Fees and Special Services” for explanations of these special services and the required documentation.

When you write to Pearson, always include in your letter your name, address, daytime phone number, email address, and Social Security number (or Canadian Social Insurance number), and refer to the PCAT as the testing program that your letter concerns.

Do not send a paper Registration Form or fee payments to the above address. See the inside front cover of this booklet for fee payment addresses.

When you call Pearson, please keep a record of when you called, the name of the person to whom you spoke, and the information you were given. Please follow up any telephone conversation with an email or letter.

# Registering for the Test

## General Tips for Registering

---

- A candidate may sit for the PCAT examination no more than five times. After the fifth examination, a candidate may be required to submit a written request for an additional testing session. The request should be accompanied with evidence to support an additional exam. **If candidates are identified as needing to send in additional documentation and have not or if they have provided documentation but were still not approved to test, they will be refunded based on the current cancellation policy in the PCAT CIB, under “Cancelling Your Registration.”** Acceptable forms of evidence include:
  - A copy of a completed and submitted application to a pharmacy school
  - A letter on school stationary from an advisor or instructor verifying that you are applying to a pharmacy school.

Pearson will review and respond to your written request and evidence within 10 business days of receipt. Please note that heavy volume may delay the ability to reply within that time frame so we recommend that a candidate submit evidence well in advance of an examination. Note that the retest policy will be enforced even if a violation is not immediately identified and test scores have been reported. If you take the PCAT test more often than allowed, your scores from each unauthorized test administration will be withheld or cancelled and your entire test fee will be forfeited. You may also be prohibited from future PCAT testing and may be subject to other remedial actions. This policy has been established to enhance the validity and security of the PCAT exam. PCAT Customer Service representatives and test administrators are not authorized to waive or modify the retest policy for any reason.

- If you are having any problems registering for the PCAT, please call PSE Customer Relations for assistance.
- Choose a test date that ensures that your scores will be received before the pharmacy program’s registration deadline.
- **Register early**, as seating is on a first-come first-serve basis. See the deadlines listed on the back cover of this booklet.
- Requests for special services or accommodations **must** be submitted with appropriate documentation by the specified deadline.

- **There will be no opportunity to take the PCAT “standby,” whether you register for a regular test date, non-Saturday Administration, Special Testing Location, or Special Accommodation. No exceptions or refunds will be made due to policy violations.**
- Only properly completed registrations will be accepted.
- The personal Score Report will be sent to the mailing address you provide at the time of registration.

Changes in addresses can be made **ONLY** before the Late Registration Deadline if you want to receive your scores at the new address. Candidates wanting their scores sent to their new address after the deadline will need to complete a forward mail request with the U.S. Postal Service.

- The name on the Admission Ticket **must** exactly match both of your valid, unexpired IDs used at the Test Center on the day of testing in order to gain admittance. **No exceptions or refunds will be made due to policy violations.**
- Information on fees can be found in “PCAT Fees and Special Services.”
- If you register both online and with a paper Registration Form, your registration will be delayed and you will be eligible for only a partial refund.
- Registration deadlines are dates by which your registration and payment must be RECEIVED at Pearson.
- **Due to privacy and confidentiality issues, under no circumstances will Pearson communicate (over the phone or via writing ) to anyone other than the candidate who registered to take the exam.**

## Registering Online

---

- Register online at [www.PCATweb.info](http://www.PCATweb.info).
- Payment must be via a credit card drawn from a U.S. bank.
- Payment online is received immediately.
- Late registration is only possible online.

## Submitting a Paper Registration Form

---

- You must call PSE Customer Relations to request the form.
- You must submit paper Registration Forms by the Special Registration Deadline.
- When completing the Registration Forms, refer to the PCAT website for the Test Center Codes and Pharmacy College Codes.
- Be sure that you sign (not print) your signature on the form.

- Payment must be via money order payable in U.S. dollars.
  - International students must also pay with a money order payable in U.S. dollars.
- Personal checks, cash, and/or unsigned forms will not be accepted or processed and will result in your payment returned to you.
- Mail the form and your money order to Pearson at the appropriate address listed on inside the front cover.

## Registration Confirmation

---

- Within 48 hours after your online registration (1 week for a paper Registration Form) is received and processed, you will receive an email notice (sent to the email you provided when you registered) with information about accessing your Registration Confirmation.
- The Registration Confirmation verifies that you have successfully registered to take the PCAT, and shows your name, address, date of birth, score recipients, test date, and reporting city and state.
- The exact location of the Test Center and the time you are to report to take the test will not be indicated on the Registration Confirmation. This information will be on your Admission Ticket.
- Approximately 10 days prior to the PCAT test date, you will receive another email message with instructions about how to access your Admission Ticket.
- The Registration Confirmation is **not** an Admission Ticket and will **not** be accepted for admission to the test.

**For more information about your Admission Ticket, see the “At the Test Center.”**

# PCAT Fees and Special Services

- All PCAT fee payments are deposited immediately upon receipt.
- Deposit of fee payments does not guarantee that you will be admitted to the test.
- If your registration does not meet the requirements in the most recent version of the CIB on the PCAT website, your registration may be cancelled.
- All PCAT fees are subject to change without notice.

## Registration Fee: \$150.00

---

- Allows you to register online or via paper Registration Form
- Allows you to take the test as long as all requirements and deadlines are met
- Includes one paper personal Score Report mailed to you
- Includes Official Transcripts sent to three schools that you specify at registration  

If you do not designate all three schools or you wish to change your schools after you submit your registration, you **MUST** pay the Additional Transcript Fee for each change requested later.
- You **CANNOT** change your Test Center Location after you submit your registration.

## Fees for Optional Services

---

**All Optional fees are in addition to the Registration Fee.**

- All Optional fees will only be accepted if all requirements and deadlines are met.
- **Paper Registration Form Fee: \$50.00**  
See “Submitting a Paper Registration Form.”
- **Late Registration Fee: \$49.00 (for online registration only)**
- **Special Testing Location Fee:** \$189.00 (non-refundable) for locations within the U.S., Canada, or Puerto Rico; \$189.00 (non-refundable) + \$271.00 administrative fees (total \$460.00) for locations outside the U.S., Canada, or Puerto Rico.

To test at a special location:

1. You must live 150 miles from a scheduled Test Center.
2. You must register for the PCAT

If you register and pay your fees online and want to test at a Special Testing Location in the U.S., Canada, or Puerto Rico, follow the instructions online to make your request at the time of registration.

If submitting a paper Registration Form and requesting a Special Testing Location in the U.S., Canada, or Puerto Rico, you must also submit the following:

- a. A written statement explaining why you need a Special Testing Location
  - b. A money order (payable in U.S. dollars) for the Special Testing Location Fee
3. You must pay an additional administrative fee if you need a Special Testing Location outside the U.S., Canada, or Puerto Rico. Call or email PSE Customer Relations for instructions.
  4. It is your responsibility to locate a test site and make arrangements, including finding a Special Test Administrator, for the PCAT to be administered to you. A PCAT Special Test Administrator for a Special Testing Location must have at least a master's degree, but preferably a doctorate, and experience administering a standardized test.
  5. Your registration, written request, and entire fee payment must have been received by the Special Registration Deadline or no arrangements for a Special Testing Location will be made.

Although Pearson cannot guarantee that the PCAT will be administered at the testing location you prefer, every attempt will be made to have it administered at your preferred location or within 75 miles of the address at which you will be residing on the test date for which you are applying.

- **Additional Official Transcript Fee: \$20.00 each**

You must pay the Additional Transcript Fee for each Official Transcript recipient request made after you submit your registration. If you choose not to designate three score recipients when you register or if you wish to add score recipients, you **must** still pay the Additional Transcript Fee for each additional request.

- **Additional Personal Score Report Fee: \$20.00 each**

There is a fee for each additional personal Score Report requested (see “Requesting Additional Personal Score Reports and Official Transcripts”).

- **Handscoring Fee (for the five multiple-choice subtests): \$40.00 each request**  
See “Verifying Your Scores by Rescoring.”
- **Rescore Fee (for the Writing subtest): \$50.00 (non-refundable)**  
See “Verifying Your Scores by Rescoring.”
- **Online Practice Test Fee: one for \$40.00 or both at the same time for \$60.00 (non-refundable)**  
See “Online Practice Tests.”

## Non-Saturday Administrations

---

- For candidates whose religious convictions prohibit them from testing on a Saturday, a special testing date following the scheduled test date may be arranged.
  1. Generally given on the Sunday or Monday immediately following the Saturday national test date
  2. No additional fee
- Please refer to the back cover of this booklet for deadlines.
- At the time of registration (either online or with a paper Registration Form), you must indicate your need for a special arrangement, BUT your actual request **must** be made in writing, submitted by mail, and received at Pearson by the Special Registration Deadline and include the following:
  1. A cover letter specifying that a Non-Saturday Administration is needed
  2. A letter on official letterhead from a rabbi, pastor, or religious leader in support of your request for a Non-Saturday Administration
- If registering online, you must mail all required documents to the appropriate address listed on the **inside front cover** of this booklet.
- If registering via paper registration, you must mail all required documents to the appropriate address listed on the inside front cover of this booklet along with the completed paper Registration Form.

## Accommodations for Candidates with Disabilities

---

Pearson provides testing accommodations for candidates with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Any individual who has a physical impairment or limitation described as a disability under the ADA may request special testing arrangements.

Requests for accommodations for candidates with disabilities **must** be received by Pearson by the Special Registration Deadlines as indicated on the back cover of this booklet. There is no additional charge for special accommodations for candidates with disabilities.

At the time of registration (either online or with a paper Registration Form), indicate your need for a special arrangement, but your actual request for special accommodations must be made in writing and submitted by mail. Your written request **must** include a completed Accommodations Request Form and a current letter from an appropriate professional authority describing the nature of your functional limitation that applies to taking a test and the specific accommodations you will need for testing. Your request will be reviewed by Pearson, and you will be notified whether your request for special accommodations has been approved. If your request is denied, you may appeal the decision by following the procedure described on the PCAT website. The Test Center will be notified of the accommodations that you require and will provide them appropriately.

Please refer to the PCAT website for a printable Accommodations Request Form and for complete information concerning how to request special accommodations. If you have any questions after referring to the information on the PCAT website, please email or call PSE Customer Relations.

## Additional Documentation

Additional documentation may be required if a candidate does not provide sufficient documentation or requests changes to accommodations initially requested. In order to process a request for an accommodation, the additional information must be received by Pearson at least 30 business days before the scheduled examination date.

## Appeal of Decisions

If a candidate's requested accommodations are denied or modified and he or she wishes to appeal this determination, the candidate may do so by contacting Pearson's ADA Coordinator in writing at PSE Customer Relations, 19500 Bulverde Road, San Antonio, Texas 78259, and requesting an appeal of Pearson's decision within 7 business days of the receipt of the decision. Within 12 business days of Pearson's receipt of the candidate's notice of appeal, Pearson's ADA Coordinator, General Counsel, and any experts and consultants that Pearson may deem appropriate and necessary, will hear the appeal and you will be notified of the decision.

## Cancelling Your Registration

---

- You may be able to receive a partial refund if your request for cancellation is **RECEIVED** before the Registration Cancellation Deadline for the appropriate test date.

- Refer to the back cover of this booklet for deadlines.
- **Cancellations received after the posted deadline will not be eligible for any refund.**
- If the refund requirements are met, within 6 to 8 weeks of receipt of your request you will receive:
  1. Half of your Registration Fee
  2. 80% of any additional Official Transcript fees paid at time of registration

The remainder of your fee payments will be retained by Pearson as a processing fee.
- **Fee payments may NOT be applied to future test dates.**
- **Fees for Special Testing Locations are not refunded under any circumstances.**
- If you registered online, you must cancel your registration online:
  1. You will need the three digit security code on the back of your credit card.
  2. If you lose your card or it is replaced after you register, you must contact PSE Customer Relations.
- If you registered via the paper Registration Form, you must cancel your registration by writing to Pearson and including the following:
  1. Your name, mailing address, email address, daytime telephone number, and Social Security number (or Social Insurance number, if Canadian)
  2. The name of the test you are registered to take—PCAT
  3. The date you are scheduled to take the test
  4. Your signature

Mail your registration cancellation to the appropriate address shown on the inside front cover of this booklet.

# At the Test Center

## Admission Ticket

---

Approximately 10 business days prior to the test date:

- Check [www.PCATweb.info](http://www.PCATweb.info) for PCAT policies and procedures.
- Print your Admission Ticket from the “My Profile” page of the PCAT Internet Registration Site at <http://tpc-etesting.com/pcat>.

You are responsible for contacting PSE Customer Relations in a timely manner about any errors found on your Admission Ticket.

- Microsoft Internet Explorer is the only browser that enables you access and print your Admission Ticket accurately. Using another browser will not display your Admission Ticket correctly.
- Immediately print your Admission Ticket, review it, and verify the following:
  1. Exact date
  2. Session time (a.m. or p.m.)
  3. Reporting location
  4. Your name, so it exactly matches both forms of IDs
- Make sure to bring the complete Admission Ticket to gain admittance to testing.

## Test Day Schedule and Test Center Rules

---

The following schedule (in local time) will be observed at all Test Centers.

For morning test times:

- No later than 8:30 a.m.—Registered candidates report to Test Centers
- 1:30 p.m.—Testing ends (approximately)

For afternoon test times:

- No later than 2:00 p.m.—Registered candidates report to Test Centers
- 7:00 p.m.—Testing ends (approximately)

## What You Need to Bring With You on the Day of the Test

---

Bring several sharpened No. 2 pencils (also called HB pencils) with erasers to your Test Center. For accurate scoring, only No. 2 (or HB) pencils can be used. Other pencils, ink pens, felt-tip pens, or ballpoint pens **cannot** be used.

You will not be admitted to the test without the following:

- Your Admission Ticket
- Two forms of valid, unexpired ID, one of which **must** contain both your photograph and your signature

### **Acceptable forms of primary valid, unexpired IDs with photograph and signature include:**

- Driver's license
- Government-issued identification card or passport

### **Acceptable forms of secondary valid, unexpired IDs include:**

- Credit card (with or without a photograph)
- Library card
- Utility bill (with your name and address appearing exactly the same as on your primary form of ID)

The name on the two forms of ID that you will present at the Test Center **must** be exactly the same as the name printed on your Admission Ticket.

- It is strongly recommended that you bring several forms of ID with you, in case there is a problem.
- Admittance to take the exam does not guarantee the acceptability of your IDs or that your exam will be processed.
- All reported cases of questionable identification are subject to review/approval by Pearson.
- Any candidate providing false identification or misrepresenting his or her identity at any time will be dismissed from the testing room and have his or her scores cancelled. Pearson may consider further legal action in such cases.

### **Do not bring prohibited items to the test. Prohibited items include:**

Food, beverages, calculators (including watch calculators), books, papers, highlighters, rulers, notes, pagers, PDA's, cellular phones, recording devices, cameras, headphones, or any other electronic devices or reference materials into the testing room. You may **not** wear or take a hat with a bill or brim into the testing room, unless worn for a religious or medical reason. (Please submit an Accommodations Request Form with the appropriate documentation explaining the need for this accommodation.)

You may **not** have access to any purses or backpacks during the exam. These items must be stored in a designated secure area provided by the Test Center. If at the rest break you must access a personal item, such as an item needed to take to a restroom or money to purchase a drink or snack, then you must first request permission from the Test Center staff.

**If you are found to have violated the above policy on prohibited items in any way, your PCAT scores will be cancelled.**

Neither Pearson, its affiliated companies, agents, contractors nor the Test Centers assume responsibility for the theft, loss, or damage to any prohibited electronic device or other personal property brought into the exam room.

**You will be denied access to the Test Center if you do not:**

- Have a valid Admission Ticket
- Have appropriate valid, unexpired IDs
- Report to the Test Center that you were assigned
- Have an Admission Ticket with your name exactly matching both forms of IDs
- Arrive on time for the start of the test and after the rest break. Latecomers will **not** be admitted. No exceptions will be made to this policy.

Visitors are not allowed in the testing room.

**No Exceptions or refunds will be made due to policy violations.**

## During the Test

---

- Follow all the rules and instructions explained by the Test Center staff.  
**Pearson reserves the right to take any action necessary for a candidate's failure to comply with the test administration regulations or with a Test Administrator's directions, including (but not limited to) canceling your PCAT scores and/or barring you from future testing.**
- You may **not** ask questions about the exam after it begins.
- If your scores are cancelled because of your failure to comply with Pearson's testing policies, your scores will **not** be reported and your fees will **not** be refunded.
- Provide the information requested on your Answer Booklet.
- Failure to provide or giving incomplete or inaccurate information for required fields will result in your PCAT test results being delayed or cancelled.

- If you do not sign the Acknowledgment statement on the back of your PCAT Answer Booklet AND fill in the bubble indicating that you have read and signed the statement, **your test will not be scored, your test scores will not be reported to you or to any recipient schools, and your fees will not be refunded. There will be no exceptions to this policy.** The Acknowledgment statement reads as follows:

I have read and hereby agree to the conditions set forth in the PCAT Candidate Information Booklet and on the website. I certify that I am the person whose name appears on this Answer Booklet. I further affirm and agree that I will not copy or otherwise reproduce any exam questions or answers onto material to be taken from the exam room. Likewise, I will not disclose (in whole or in part) any exam questions or answers to anyone during or after the exam, whether orally, in writing, on any Internet blogs or chat rooms, or otherwise. I recognize and acknowledge that the exam I am about to take is a secure examination protected by U.S. copyright laws, and that any unauthorized disclosure of the exam contents could result in civil liability, criminal penalties, cancellation of test scores, and/or bar me from future PCAT exams.

- Report any suspicious behavior or violation of rules to your proctor by raising your hand during the exam or informing the proctor at the rest break.
- If you are aware of any Internet activity that you believe may compromise the security of PCAT test items (such as discussing items in chat rooms or blogs), please contact PSE Customer Relations so that Pearson can investigate and take any necessary action to maintain the integrity of the test.
- Any candidate who gives or receives assistance during the test will be required to turn in all test materials **immediately** and to leave the testing room. In such a case, the candidate's Answer Booklet will **not** be scored, **no** fee payments will be refunded to the candidate, and legal action may be taken.
- Candidates are **prohibited** from removing **any** testing materials from the testing room. Doing so will result in the cancellation of your scores, the loss of your fee payments, and may result in legal action.
- You will be allowed to write in your Test Booklet.
- There will be a rest break approximately halfway through the test. Any examinee that leaves the testing room before or after the scheduled break must first receive permission from the examiner and will be escorted while outside the testing room.
- Examinees returning late from the scheduled break will **not** be admitted to the testing room and will **not** be allowed to complete the test (with PCAT scores cancelled and no refund given). If you take a break in addition to the one that is scheduled, you will not be able to make up the lost testing time.

## No Score Option

---

You can request for your test not to be scored.

- Before the test, the examiner will explain how to request the No Score Option.
- Choosing the No Score Option means that scores will **not** be released to you or to any schools.
- **This request is irrevocable**, fees will not be refunded, and any later requests to score your test and report your scores will **not** be honored.

## Test Center Closings and Delayed Starting Times

---

- Adverse conditions (such as extreme weather or a local power failure) or other circumstances may make it necessary to cancel the administration of a test or to delay the beginning of testing for several hours.
- Do not call the Test Center to determine whether testing has been cancelled or delayed. This information can be provided **only** by Pearson and will be **posted on the PCAT website**.
- If you cannot appear for a test date due to hazardous weather or other calamity, you must email PSE Customer Relations **no later than 3 days after the test date**.
- After first checking the PCAT website, you may call PSE Customer Relations, where representatives will be available to answer your questions.
- Pearson will make no reimbursements for any expenses incurred by an examinee in traveling to a Test Center.

## Test Administration Concerns

---

- Email PSE Customer Relations with concerns or questions about the manner in which the Test Center, its examiners, or its proctors administered the exam.

Email must be received **no later than 14 days following the test date**.

- You should include a thorough description of any incident (including the date, type of incident, names of individuals involved, and contact information so Pearson may follow up with you if needed.)
- Please allow 3 to 4 weeks from the receipt of your email for a response.

Do not contact PSE Customer Relations with questions or concerns about information that you provided when you registered for the PCAT (e.g., whether you indicated score recipient information correctly), about information that you provided on your Answer Booklet (e.g., whether the Acknowledgment section was completed correctly), or about your performance on the test (e.g., your scores). PSE Customer Relations does not have access to this information and cannot answer these sorts of questions.

# After the Test

## How Your Test Is Scored

---

- Answer Booklets are scanned, and the multiple-choice subtests are scored electronically. The Writing subtests are scored by trained scorers.
- Data are stored on computer files from which personal Score Reports and Official Transcripts are printed.
- Pearson uses computerized and manual quality-control procedures to ensure the accuracy of test scores.
- The personal Score Report is the only information available to you about your results.
- Test Booklets are not available for review.
- Pearson does not provide a list of the questions you answered incorrectly or correctly, or a copy of your Writing subtest.

## Score Reporting

---

- Within **6 weeks of the date of testing**, your personal Score Report will be sent to you via regular mail, and Official Transcripts will be sent via regular mail to the institutions to which you requested your scores reported.
- **Under no circumstances will scores be reported over the phone or faxed.**
- Pharmacy schools will only accept Official Transcripts.
- Your most recent PCAT scores and any PCAT scores that you earned during the previous 5 years will be reported on your Official Transcript, unless you selected the No Score Option at the time of testing.
- Scores more than 5 years old will not be reported.
- Pearson is not responsible for delayed, lost, or misdirected mail. **Pearson is not responsible for any claims or damages resulting from the delayed transmission of test scores for any reason whatsoever.**

## Interpreting Your Personal Score Report

---

- Scores on the personal Score Report are reported as scaled scores and percentiles for each of the five multiple-choice subtests and as a composite score for the whole multiple-choice test.
- Writing subtest scores are reported separately for Conventions of Language and Problem Solving.
- An example of a Personal Score Report with interpretive explanations appears in Appendix A of this booklet.
- There is no passing or failing score set by Pearson for the PCAT.
- Consult the schools to which you are applying for information about their use of test scores. Generally, pharmacy schools consider test results in combination with other information, such as high school and undergraduate records, references, and personal interviews.

## Verifying Your Scores by Rescoring

---

- Scoring methods used by Pearson are highly reliable and accurate.
- Rarely does handscoring the multiple-choice subtests or rescoring the Writing subtest result in a score change.
- You may request and pay to have your multiple-choice subtest scores be verified by handscoring, or your Writing subtest be rescored.
- The rescore fee does **not** entitle you to a copy of your essay.
- The essays cannot be released to you under any circumstances.
- If a score does change as a result of handscoring or rescoring, you will receive a corrected Personal Score Report, and corrected Official Transcripts will be sent to any institutions you had requested.
- If the handscoring of a multiple-choice subtest results in a change to your score, you will be reimbursed for the Handscoring Fee payment.
- If rescoring your Writing subtest results in a score that is either higher or lower than your original score, you will not be reimbursed due to the processing fees incurred by Pearson.
- Any requests to rescore the Writing subtest will not be fulfilled until an adequate number of similar requests have been received. The procedure for rescoring and reporting the Writing subtest takes longer than that for handscoring the PCAT multiple-choice items.

- To have your multiple-choice scores verified by handscoring and/or your Writing subtests rescored, write to Pearson and include the following:
  1. The name of the test—PCAT
  2. The date you took the PCAT
  3. Your complete name, mailing address, email address, and Social Security number (or Social Insurance number, if Canadian)
  4. A money order made payable to Pearson displaying your name for either \$40.00 (to only request handscoring of the multiple-choice subtests), \$50.00 (to only request rescoring of the Writing subtests), or \$90.00 (to request both a multiple-choice subtest handscoring and a Writing subtest rescore)
- Mail your request along with the fee payment to the appropriate address on the inside front cover of this booklet.
- **All requests and fee payments must be received within 60 days of your test date.**

## Requesting Additional Personal Score Reports and Official Transcripts

---

- PCAT scores are available for reporting 5 years after your test date.
- All percentile ranks are based on the 2007 norms (see Appendix A, “Sample Personal Score Report”). Percentile ranks earned before June 2008 (when the 2007 percentile ranks were introduced) have been converted to equivalent 2007 percentile ranks.
- Scores older than 5 years are not available. Invalidated scores and scores earned when the “No Score” option was chosen are not available.
- A fee must be paid for each additional personal Score Report or Official Transcript that you request after registering for the PCAT (see “Fees for Optional Services”).
- Additional Official Transcripts and additional personal Score Reports may be requested online at [www.PCATweb.info](http://www.PCATweb.info). Payment must be made with a credit card drawn from a U.S. bank.
- Indicate if you have a new address or if your name has been legally changed since you took the PCAT so that your records can be updated. If your name has been legally changed, please include a copy of the marriage certificate, divorce decree, or other legal documentation to that effect. Otherwise, your personal Score Report will be sent to the name and address provided when you originally registered for the test. Pearson will send additional Official Transcripts (via regular mail) within 2 weeks of the receipt of your request.

- If a request for additional Official Transcripts is received near a PCAT test date, the request may not be processed until 2 weeks after scores are sent out. Be sure to keep a record of all the schools to which you have requested your scores be sent. Check with the school to ensure that the Official Transcript was received. Allow 2 to 3 weeks from your mailing date for the school to receive your Official Transcript and get it to the proper department.
- **Pearson is not responsible for delayed, lost, or misdirected mail, and is not responsible for any claims or damages resulting from the delayed transmission of test scores for any reason whatsoever.**

## Replacement Personal Score Reports and Official Transcripts

---

- You are eligible to receive a replacement personal Score Report or an Official Transcript, at no cost to you, if:
  1. You receive a damaged personal Score Report.
  2. You have not received your personal Score Report 7 weeks after the date you tested and you had provided the correct mailing address when you registered.
  3. A school to which you had an Official Transcript sent has not received it 6 weeks after the date you tested and you specified the proper school code when you applied.
- Email your request no later than 10 weeks after the test date.
- Requests received after 10 weeks must be sent with the appropriate fees (see “PCAT Fees and Special Services”).

## Cancellation of Scores by Pearson

---

- **Pearson reserves the rights to cancel any PCAT test scores if an irregularity occurs that results in a faulty test administration (e.g., a disruption, cheating, or compromising of the time limits established for the test or for sections of the test).**
- Pearson adheres to a set of test administration and test security standards that require the review of all PCAT scores and administrative conditions.
- Pearson reserves the right to cancel or decline to score any test score believed to be obtained in a questionable manner, which includes testing/administrative irregularities, questionable score gains, questionable item responses, unusual answer patterns, misconduct, non-compliance with policies, plagiarism, or **any other reason** that would invalidate the score.

- Cancellation of a score as a result of these policies in no way suggests that cheating or any other inappropriate action has occurred.
- Score invalidation is a technicality and is necessary in order to maintain the integrity of the test and to ensure that test scores are as accurate and as reflective of each examinee's ability as possible.
- All score cancellations and invalidations are held in strict confidence, with the reason for the cancellation disclosed only to the examinee, except in certain group cases.
- When a score is cancelled after the results have already been reported, all Official Transcript recipients are notified that the score has been cancelled, but the reason for cancellation is not disclosed, except in certain cases involving groups of examinees.
- At Pearson's discretion, the Registration Fee may be refunded after retesting if the examinee is found not to have been responsible for the irregularity that caused the score cancellation.
- An examinee whose scores are cancelled may also register to take the PCAT again on a future national test date and pay all applicable fees. However, Pearson reserves the right to withhold this option, and any request to take the test again will be evaluated by Pearson with consideration for the reason that the score was cancelled.

### **Cancellation of Scores Due to Testing Irregularities**

Testing irregularities are problems that occur during a test administration. These irregularities include, but are not limited to, possible compromises to the test, inappropriate seating or timing, defective test materials, disruptions to a test administration (such as a power loss or a natural disaster), misconduct, examinees misrepresenting identity, unauthorized access to test contents, receiving or providing assistance of any kind during the test, failure to sign the PCAT Answer Booklet, failing to comply with test administration regulations or with directions given by the test administrator or proctor, having prohibited materials in the testing room, removing test materials from the testing room, creating a disturbance (such as talking during testing, letting a cell phone ring during testing, or any other action deemed disruptive by the test center staff), and violating any other Pearson test administration policy, as described in this Candidate Information Booklet or on the PCAT website.

When a testing irregularity occurs, Pearson will examine the situation and determine whether corrective action is warranted, including non-scoring of Answer Booklets or cancellation of scores.

## **Cancellation of Scores Due to Questionable Item Responses or Unusual Answer Patterns**

If the results of a test show unusual similarities in test item responses by examinees who took the PCAT at the same Test Center, or if an examinee's responses to test items show that an unusually large proportion of responses are all the same answer option (for example, an unreasonable preponderance of "A" choices), the examinee's scores may be cancelled. Pearson will examine each situation and, in its sole discretion, will determine what corrective action is warranted. When Pearson decides to cancel test scores for reasons of questionable item responses or unusual answer patterns, the examinee will be notified on the personal Score Report. The examinee should then contact PSE Customer Relations within 60 days of the test date about the available options, which may include an opportunity to submit an appeal. If such an option is offered, the examinee will then have 30 days from the day the offer is extended to respond. Within 30 days of the time the appeal is received, Pearson will review any information submitted by the examinee, will consider whether to release the examinee's PCAT scores, and will notify the examinee regarding the outcome of the appeal.

## **Cancellation of Scores Due to Questionable Score Gain**

If an examinee's scores seem questionable when compared to PCAT scores obtained by the examinee during the previous 13-month period, the scores may be cancelled. When scores are cancelled for this reason, no scores will be reported to the examinee or to any score recipient schools.

Pearson follows a strict policy in determining when a score gain is questionable and thus invalid. The following explanation of this policy refers to scaled score points, which are reported on the personal Score Report and the Official Transcripts.

- If the Composite scaled score and percentile rank earned on the test date in question are 50 or more points greater than the most recent Composite scores earned within the previous 13 months, an invalidation automatically occurs (including the Writing scores) due to the large score gain.
- The examinee is notified that his or her scores have been invalidated and that the scores will never be reported to anyone.
- If the examinee feels that the score gain of 50 or more Composite scaled score and percentile rank points was achieved through legitimate effort, the examinee must contact PSE Customer Relations within 60 days of the last PCAT test date about the available options, which may include an opportunity to submit an appeal. If such an option is offered, the examinee will then have 30 days from the day the offer is extended to submit (via mail or fax) documentation as evidence to support the legitimacy of the score gain. The documentation will be reviewed, and the examinee will be notified regarding the outcome of the appeal within 30 days of the time the appeal is received by Pearson. If the appeal is accepted, Pearson will release the Score Gain test scores. If the appeal is denied, the examinee may be allowed to retake the PCAT after paying the appropriate fees.

## **Cancellation of Scores Deemed Invalid for Any Other Reason**

Pearson may cancel scores if, in its judgment, other substantial evidence suggests that these scores are invalid. Evidence suggesting that scores must be invalidated include, but are not limited to, inconsistent performance on different parts of the test, inconsistent handwriting, plagiarism (i.e., quoting, paraphrasing, or using language that appears in published or unpublished sources without attribution), essay text similar to text found in essays written by other PCAT examinees, and item responses or essays that are in any way not produced exclusively by the examinee. Before canceling a score for any of the reasons suggested in this paragraph, Pearson will notify the examinee and provide an opportunity for the examinee to submit an explanation. The examinee will then have 60 days from date of notification to respond. Pearson will review any information submitted by the examinee in response to the notification of score cancellation, and will notify the examinee regarding the outcome of the appeal within 30 days of the date the appeal is received.

# About the Test

The PCAT is a specialized test that helps identify qualified applicants to pharmacy colleges by measuring general academic ability and scientific knowledge necessary for the commencement of pharmaceutical education.

## Test Development

---

- PCAT is constructed specifically for colleges of pharmacy.
- The design and contents of the PCAT are determined by the types of abilities, aptitudes, and skills deemed essential by colleges of pharmacy and by research concerning the kinds of tests that most accurately predict success in science oriented courses.
- Periodic reviews of the test contents are conducted with deans, faculty, and administrators from schools of pharmacy to ensure that the test items reflect current pharmacy curriculum requirements.

## Test Contents

---

- The PCAT consists of 240 multiple-choice items and two Writing topics.
- Multiple-choice items consist of a question or incomplete statement followed by four answer choices, only one of which is correct. The answer to each item can be determined independently of the answers to any other item.
- The test is divided into separate sections, or subtests, each of which is timed separately.
- You have approximately 4 hours to complete the test (plus administrative time for instructions and time for a short rest break about halfway through the test).
- During the time allowed for each subtest, you will be permitted to work only on that section.
- You will not be allowed to go back to earlier subtests or proceed to later ones. **Failure to follow this rule is one of the main reasons candidates have their scores cancelled.**

There are six content areas measured by the PCAT in seven separate subtests:

- The **Verbal Ability** subtest measures general, non-scientific word knowledge and usage using analogies and sentence completion. There are 48 questions in this section.
- The **Biology** subtest measures knowledge of the principles and concepts of basic biology, including general biology, microbiology, and human anatomy and physiology. There are 48 questions in this section.
- The **Chemistry** subtest measures knowledge of principles and concepts of inorganic and elementary organic chemistry. There are 48 questions in this section.
- The **Reading Comprehension** section measures ability to comprehend, analyze, and evaluate reading passages on science-related topics. There are 6 passages and 48 questions in this section.
- The **Quantitative Ability** subtest measures skills in mathematical processes and the ability to reason through and understand quantitative concepts and relationships, including applications of basic math, algebra, probability and statistics, precalculus, and calculus. There are 48 questions in this section.
- Two **Writing** subtests measure the effective use of language conventions and the ability to suggest the solution to a problem in written essays. There is one essay topic in each of two sections that requires you to write a problem-solving essay.

## Experimental Items

- Of the 48 items in each of the five multiple-choice subtests, 40 are core items that count towards your score and eight are experimental items.
- The experimental multiple-choice items are embedded within the five multiple-choice subtests. One of the two writing subtests is also experimental.
- Experimental items and essay topics are being tested for future use on PCAT test forms and will **not** affect your score.
- Because you will not know which items and essay topic are experimental and which count toward your score, it is very important that you do your best on all the items and sections of the test.

## Test Blueprint

The following table lists the contents and the time allowed for each of the seven subtests in the order that they appear on the PCAT. The listed percentages of item types and content areas included in each multiple-choice subtest are approximate and may vary slightly from test form to test form.

PCAT Subtests	Number of Test Items and Approximate Percent of Item Types or Content Areas in Each Subtest
<b>1. Writing (30 Minutes)</b>	<b>1 Writing Topic</b>
Conventions of Language	
Problem Solving	
<b>2. Verbal Ability (30 Minutes)</b>	<b>48 Items</b>
Analogies	60%
Sentence Completion	40%
<b>3. Biology (30 Minutes)</b>	<b>48 Items</b>
General Biology	60%
Microbiology	20%
Anatomy & Physiology	20%
<b>4. Chemistry (30 Minutes)</b>	<b>48 Items</b>
General Chemistry	60%
Organic Chemistry	40%
<b>Rest Break</b>	
<b>5. Writing (30 Minutes)</b>	<b>1 Writing Topic</b>
Conventions of Language	
Problem Solving	
<b>6. Reading Comprehension (50 Minutes)</b>	<b>6 Passages &amp; 48 Items</b>
Comprehension	30%
Analysis	40%
Evaluation	30%
<b>7. Quantitative Ability (40 Minutes)</b>	<b>48 Items</b>
Basic Math	15%
Algebra	20%
Probability & Statistics	20%
Precalculus	22%
Calculus	22%

## Test-Taking Strategies

---

The following strategies are suggested to help you do your best on the PCAT:



- Familiarize yourself with the test by reviewing test content descriptions and with the sample items and Practice Tests available at the PCAT website. Pearson does not endorse or recommend any other commercially available test preparation materials.
- Be prepared physically and mentally by getting a good night's sleep, eating what you consider a normal meal the morning of the test, and dressing comfortably.
- The heating or air conditioning systems may not be under the control of the Test Center staff, so dress in a manner that will allow you to adapt to different room temperatures.
- Allow plenty of time to get to your Test Center.
- Answer as many multiple-choice items as time allows. Your scores are based on the number of items you answer correctly. Points are not deducted for incorrect responses. If you are not sure which answer choice is correct for an item, eliminate as many incorrect options as you can first. If you have doubts about an answer to an item, change your answer only if you have a valid reason.
- Do not dwell on items that are unfamiliar or difficult, since all the multiple-choice items count the same. In each of the five multiple-choice subtests, first answer items about which you are confident, and then return to answer the more difficult items, if time permits.
- Work quickly but carefully and check regularly to make sure you are marking your answers in the correct places on the Answer Booklet.
- For the Writing sections, take a few moments to first plan your essay on the page provided, and allow yourself time to proofread your essay carefully when finished.
- Go to the PCAT website for sample test items and correct answers.

## Online Practice Test

At [www.PCATweb.info](http://www.PCATweb.info), you will find information about the Practice Tests to help you prepare for the exam. The Practice Tests are designed to familiarize you with the types of items and the specific content areas that you will encounter in the five multiple-choice subtests and on the writing subtests of the actual PCAT.

## Sample Personal Score Report

The personal Score Report lists the scaled score and the percentile rank for each of the five multiple-choice subtests and for the total multiple-choice test (Composite). These five subtest scores and percentile ranks are based on the number of core items answered correctly in relation to the performance of the norm group—all first-time examinees who took the test between October 2004 and May 2007. Each of the Writing subtest scores is displayed as a single score on a scale of 0 to 5.0.

		CID: 12345678901 TEST DATE: June 2008		 PHARMACY COLLEGE ADMISSION TEST <b>SCORE REPORT</b>	
Pearson 19500 Bulverde Road San Antonio, TX 78259					
<b>MULTIPLE-CHOICE SCORES</b>	<b>Scaled Score (SS)</b>	<b>Percentile Rank (PR)</b>	<b>WRITING SCORES</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Mean</b>
Verbal Ability	402	51	Conventions of Language	3.0	2.89
Biology	403	53	Problem Solving	3.5	2.83
Reading Comprehension	404	52			
Quantitative Ability	407	54			
Chemistry	405	53			
Composite	404	51			
				<small>SS = standardized scores based on items answered correctly and test form difficulty          PR = % of examinees from the current norm group earning lower than a given score          Writing scores = earned scores assigned by trained readers          Writing means = averages of all Writing scores earned on the same test date</small>	
Last, First M.		<b>THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT</b>		For more information, refer to: <a href="http://www.pcatweb.info">www.pcatweb.info</a>	
<small>Scores based on normative data copyright © 2008 by NCS Pearson, Inc. All rights reserved.</small>				<small>PROCESS NO. 00PCATNT-NOTRANS-0000-11100-6</small>	

- The scaled scores for the multiple-choice subtests range from 200 to 600. The five subtest scaled scores are based on the number of core items correct and are calculated separately for each subtest. The Composite scaled score is an unweighted average of the five subtest scaled scores. Scaled scores have the same meaning within each subtest from one test form to another. However, because subtest scaled scores are based on the total number of core items correct in a subtest, the scaled score for one subtest cannot be compared to the scaled score for another subtest.
- The percentile ranks are comparable across subtests because they are based on performance relative to the norm group. The Composite percentile rank is calculated independently of the five multiple-choice subtest scores. A percentile rank indicates the percentage of examinees from the norm group who received a scaled score lower than a given score. For example, in the sample personal Score Report above, a Composite percentile of 51 indicates that the examinee scored higher on the PCAT overall than 51% of the examinees who comprise the norm group.

- The Writing scores are assigned on a scale of 0 to 5.0 by highly trained scorers. Both the Conventions of Language and Problem Solving scores represent an average of scores assigned by two scorers, with discrepancies of more than one score point resolved by one or more additional scorers (see “Explanations of Writing Score Points”). A score with a .0 in the decimal place (e.g., 1.0) represents agreement by the two scorers. A score with a .5 in the decimal place (e.g., 1.5) represents an average of higher and lower scores and suggests a strong performance within the indicated score point description. For example, a score of 4.5 is the result of one scorer assigning a 4.0 and other scorer assigning a 5.0, with the two scores averaged.
- Along with the earned Writing scores, mean scores are also reported, which represent the average of all Writing scores earned on the same test date as your score was earned. The mean scores are listed for comparison purposes only and allow you to compare your performance to the average performance of other examinees who took the PCAT at the same time you did.
- The personal Score Report also indicates when the PCAT was taken. In addition to a personal Score Report, each examinee also receives a receipt listing the schools to which official score reports were sent and a form that can be used to request additional score reports.

## Explanations for the Writing Score Points

---

### Conventions of Language

- **Score Point 5.0—Superior**

The writer is in command of the conventions of language. The writer makes very few, if any, mistakes in sentence formation, usage, and mechanics. Some evidence is shown of advanced or innovative techniques.

- **Score Point 4.0—Efficient**

On the whole, the writer correctly applies the conventions of language, though there are some mistakes in sentence formation, usage, or mechanics. However, none of these errors are serious enough to interfere with the overall flow of the response or its meaning.

- **Score Point 3.0—Adequate**

The writer is fairly successful in applying the conventions of language. Several mistakes in sentence formation, usage, or mechanics are present. While the density of these errors may interfere with the overall flow of the response, they do not interfere with its meaning.

- **Score Point 2.0—Limited**

The writer is marginally successful in applying the conventions of language. Patterns of mistakes in sentence formation, usage, and mechanics significantly detract from the presentation. At times, the meaning of the response may be weakened.

- **Score Point 1.0—Weak**

The writer's achievement in applying the conventions of language is limited. Frequent and serious mistakes in sentence formation, usage, and mechanics make the response difficult to understand.

- **Score Point 0—Invalid**

The writer has either left the Writing section of the Answer Booklet blank or has written in a foreign language, written illegibly, or written in a way that indicates an inability or refusal to attempt a response.

## Problem Solving

- **Score Point 5.0—Superior**

Taking great care throughout to avoid fallacious reasoning of all kinds, the writer develops a powerful, sophisticated argument embodying important principles of effective composition. The solution discussed is clearly related to the problem and is developed in sufficient detail with relevant, convincing support provided (facts, examples, anecdotes). At appropriate points, the main tenets of the problem and the solution are discussed and explained. One or more alternative solutions are adequately discussed and evaluated. The response is organized logically (and sometimes ingeniously) from beginning to end.

- **Score Point 4.0—Efficient**

Despite possible bits and pieces of questionable reasoning, the response is a persuasive essay showing strong evidence of effective composition. The solution discussed is clearly related to the problem and is developed with relevant, appropriate support provided with some degree of depth. The main tenets of the problem and the solution are discussed and explained. One or more alternative solutions, or multiple possible solutions, are at least mentioned, with some attempt at evaluation. For the most part, the organization is logical, although minor lapses may occur.

- **Score Point 3.0—Adequate**

This response is fairly successful in using important principles of effective composition. Though the presentation may remain too general to be convincing, the discussion of the problem and solution is clear. The solution discussed is clearly related to the problem, and most of the support presented is appropriate and relevant, but the response lacks the detailed, in-depth support characteristic of the higher score points. The writing may progress logically enough but may be loosely organized; in such cases, the writer may digress from the organizational plan or offer unnecessary redundancies, thus making the presentation less straightforward and compromising its effect.

- **Score Point 2.0—Limited**

The writer may seem more concerned with self-expression than with meeting the demands of an abstract task. A solution related to the problem is discussed, though it may be either implicit or, if explicit, not clearly stated. Support is sketchy and, at times, interrupted with redundancies, digressions, irrelevancies, and/or conditions/qualifications not clearly related to the problem. Organization may be rather haphazard. In such instances, this loose structuring of ideas weakens the overall flow (and, hence, the power) of the discussion.



- **Score Point 1.0—Weak**

The response does not successfully embody important principles of effective composition. It is unclear how the solution presented relates to the problem. If a solution can be ascertained, the support is either fragmentary and unconvincing or is a combination of material that does not contribute to the presentation (contradictions, caveat, digression, redundancies, and outright irrelevancies). Chaotic organization may make it hard to follow the logic of the presentation.

- **Score Point 0—Invalid**

The writer has either left the Writing section of the Answer Booklet blank or has written in a foreign language, written illegibly, written in a way that indicates an inability or refusal to attempt a response, or has written on a topic other than the one assigned.

Sample Registration Confirmation

  <span style="float: right;">Candidate ID: 12345678910</span>	
<p><b>PCAT REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION</b></p> <p><b>NOT VALID FOR ADMISSION TO THE TEST</b></p>	
<p><b>Report on Saturday, June 20, 2009</b></p> <p>University of City City, State</p> <p>You must print out your Admission Ticket within 10 business days of the test date at <a href="http://tpc-etesting.com/pcat">http://tpc-etesting.com/pcat</a> <i>My Profile</i> and verify the test date, time, and location.</p> <hr/> <p>First M. Last 1234 Street City, State 12345</p> <p>DOB: 7/21/1981</p>	<p><b>Score Recipients:</b></p> <p>000 University of City City, ST</p> <p>000 State University Town, ST</p> <p>000 Place College Place, ST</p>
<p><b>REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION</b></p> <p><b>NOT VALID FOR ADMISSION TO THE TEST</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Registration Confirmation confirms that you have successfully registered to take the PCAT and shows your name, address, date of birth, score recipients, test date, and reporting city and state. The exact location of the Test Center and the time you are to report to take the test will not be indicated on the Registration Confirmation. Approximately 10 days prior to the PCAT test date, you will receive another email message with instructions about how to access your Admission Ticket that will indicate the exact testing time and location. Please review this Registration Confirmation to make sure that all of the information provided is correct. If any information is incorrect, immediately contact PSE Customer Relations. The Registration Confirmation is <b>not</b> an Admission Ticket and will <b>not</b> be accepted for admission at a PCAT Test Center.</li> <li>For more information, refer to <a href="http://www.PCATweb.info">www.PCATweb.info</a> or the PCAT Candidate Information Booklet.</li> </ul>	
<p>Pearson   1950 Bulverde Road   San Antonio, Texas 78259 Copyright © 2008 NCS Pearson, Inc. All rights reserved. 1-800-622-3231 or 210-339-8710 scoring.services@pearson.com</p>	

## Sample Admission Ticket

**PEARSON**

**PsychCorp**

Candidate ID: 12345678910

### PCAT ADMISSION TICKET

This Admission Ticket with two forms of valid, unexpired identification must be presented for admission to the examination. No exceptions.

#### Report on Saturday, June 20, 2009 at 08:30 AM

University of City  
Administration Building, First Floor  
1234 Road

City, State 12345

---

First M. Last  
1234 Street  
City, State 12345

DOB: 7/21/1981

#### Score Recipients:

000 University of City  
City, ST  
000 State University  
Town, ST  
000 Place College  
Place, ST

### Admission Ticket

- Check your personal information, test date and time, and Test Center location as printed on this Admission Ticket. If there are any errors, immediately contact PSE Customer Relations to correct.
- At the Test Center, present the Admission Ticket and 2 forms of valid, unexpired ID, one with your photograph and signature (e.g., driver's license or passport). Photo ID credit cards are not accepted as photo ID, but may be used as secondary ID.
- If you report to a wrong location, at an incorrect time, on a wrong date, or if you do not have the Admission Ticket and 2 acceptable IDs, you will not be able to take the PCAT and your fees will not be refunded.
- You must arrive on time. Candidates will not be admitted after testing begins.
- Bring several sharpened No. 2 pencils to the Test Center, but do not bring a calculator, cell phone, other electronic device, or reference materials. If found with a prohibited item during testing, your scores will be cancelled, and your fees will not be refunded.
- For more information, refer to [www.PCATweb.info](http://www.PCATweb.info) or the PCAT Candidate Information Booklet.

Pearson | 19500 Bulverde Road | San Antonio, Texas 78259  
Copyright © 2008 NCS Pearson, Inc. All rights reserved.  
1-800-622-3231 or 210-339-8710  
[scoring.services@pearson.com](mailto:scoring.services@pearson.com)

## Test Dates 2009-2010

Test Date	Special Registration Deadline	Standard Registration Deadline	Registration Cancellation Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
	<b>ALL Special Accommodations requests, Paper Applications, and requests for Non-Saturday and Special Locations must be RECEIVED by this date</b>	<b>Online Registration Only</b>		<b>Online Registration Only</b>
Saturday <b>June 20, 2009</b>	Friday <b>April 10, 2009</b>	Friday <b>May 8, 2009</b>	Friday <b>May 29, 2009</b>	Friday <b>June 5, 2009</b>
Saturday <b>August 22, 2009</b>	Friday <b>June 12, 2009</b>	Friday <b>July 10, 2009</b>	Friday <b>July 31, 2009</b>	Friday <b>August 7, 2009</b>
Saturday <b>October 17, 2009</b>	Friday <b>August 7, 2009</b>	Friday <b>September 4, 2009</b>	Friday <b>September 25, 2009</b>	Friday <b>October 2, 2009</b>
Saturday <b>January 23, 2010</b>	Friday <b>November 13, 2009</b>	Friday <b>December 11, 2009</b>	Friday <b>January 8, 2010</b>	Friday <b>January 8, 2010</b>

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS 8:59 PM ET**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 A B C D E