

Scoring FAQ

What is the passing score?

Pearson does not set a passing score for the PCAT. Each school has its own standards. For this information, contact the school or schools to which you are applying.

May I take the PCAT again?

You may take the PCAT again by registering for another test date and paying the test fee. The PCAT Candidate Information Booklet contains instructions for registration on a future date. However, you may want to check with the school or schools to which you are applying to see if they have a policy concerning scores from repeat exams.

Do all the items count? Are there any experimental questions or sections?

There are some experimental multiple-choice items on the PCAT and one experimental essay section. However, because you will not know which items and essay count toward your scores and which do not, you should do your best and answer every item and write both essays.

Can I average the scaled scores for each subtest and divide it by 5 to get my Composite Scaled Score?

Yes you can, but this works only for the scaled scores; the same method will not work for percentile ranks.

How long does Pearson keep scores on file?

PCAT scores are kept on file for 5 years from your testing date.

Are my scores derived by comparing them to the other students who took the exam on the same date as me?

Your percentile rank scores are based on the current norm group each time you take the PCAT. The current norm group is defined as all first-time examinees who took the test between October 2004 and May 2007. Your scaled scores are based on the number of core (live) items that you answered correctly for each subtest. Each multiple-choice subtest is calculated separately.

Why may a candidate's percentile ranks appear different on their personal Score Report now than on a previous personal Score Report?

Scaled scores for multiple-choice subtests are always reported on a scale of 200–600 and are always based on the number of core (live) items answered correctly.

Percentile ranks (PR) range from 1 to 99 and indicate a candidate's performance relative to the current PCAT norm group (all first-time examinees from October 2004 through May 2007). Percentile ranks earned before June 2008 were based on the previous norm group. For this reason, a percentile rank may now be different for a given scaled score. For reporting purposes on all Official Transcripts sent to pharmacy schools and on duplicate or replacement personal Score Reports sent to candidates, percentile ranks obtained before June 2008 (when the current norms were introduced) have been converted to the equivalent current percentile ranks. This means that all candidates' percentile ranks are being compared on the same ruler, no matter when a candidate took the PCAT.

If I have a Verbal Ability scaled score of 407 and a percentile rank of 60, what does this really mean?

Scaled scores for the multiple-choice subtests are always on a scale of 200–600, are based on the number of core (live) items correct, and are calculated separately for each multiple-choice subtest. Experimental items do not count towards your score. A percentile rank indicates the percentage of examinees (from the current norm group only) who received a scaled score lower than a given score. For example, a percentile rank of 60 indicates that 60% of the examinees in the norm group received a lower scaled score on Verbal Ability than 407.

What should I do if I want my scores reported to a school that I did not list when I registered?

The PCAT Candidate Information Booklet and the PCAT website (www.PCATweb.info) include complete information about requesting additional Official Transcripts, including the required fees.

What do I do if my scores were cancelled?

Click [HERE](#) and follow the link to determine what the next steps are.

Does Pearson provide any PCAT preparation materials?

Yes. Two PCAT Practice Tests are currently available, with the same content areas that are tested in the five multiple-choice subtests of the actual exam. Both Practice Tests consists of questions like those that you will find on the actual PCAT, along with explanations for the correct answers for each item. There is currently no practice Writing section on the Practice Tests, but sample topics are presented, along with brief descriptions of the Writing subtest and explanations for how the essays are scored.