

# About the Test

## Test Development

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- The PCAT is constructed specifically for use by colleges of pharmacy for admission purposes.
- 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 pre-requisite and curriculum requirements.

## Test Blueprint

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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. Candidates can only work on subtests in order and cannot return to earlier ones. Failure to follow this policy is one of the main reasons for score cancellations. 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. For sample items and test-taking strategies please visit [www.PCATweb.info](http://www.PCATweb.info), “Reporting and Resources.”

**Number of Test Items and Approximate  
Percent of Item Types or Content  
Areas in Each Subtest**

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%

- 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 embedded within each subtest. 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. Since the experimental items and essay are embedded, it is very important that you do your best on all the items and sections of the test.