

# After the Test

## How Your Test Is Scored

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- The multiple-choice subtests are scored electronically.
- The Writing subtests are scored by trained scorers.
- Pearson uses computerized and manual quality-control procedures to ensure the accuracy of test scores.
- The personal Score Report is the only official information available to you about your results. The unofficial preliminary Score Report you received at the Pearson VUE Test Center at the time of testing is **not** considered official.
- Lists of test items, or a copy of your Writing essay, are not available for review.

## Score Reporting

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- Within **5 weeks of the end of the testing window**, your personal Score Report will be available online for one year from the date of your test, and Official Transcripts will be sent via the U.S. Postal Service 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 other 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.

## Interpreting Your Personal Score Report

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- Scores on the personal Score Report are reported as scaled scores and percentile ranks for each of the five multiple-choice subtests and as a composite score for the combined multiple-choice subtests.
- Writing subtest scores are reported separately for Conventions of Language and Problem Solving.

- For an example of a personal Score Report with interpretive explanations, see “Sample Personal Score Report.”
- 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

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- Scoring methods used by Pearson are highly reliable and accurate.
- Rarely does rescoring the multiple-choice subtests or the Writing subtest result in a score change.
- You may request and pay a Verification Fee to have your multiple-choice subtest scores verified by rescoring, or your Writing subtest rescored.
- The Verification Fee does **not** entitle you to a copy of the test items or your essay.
- If a score does change as a result of rescoring, your corrected personal Score Report will be available online, and corrected Official Transcripts will be sent to any institutions you had requested.
- If the rescoring of a multiple-choice subtest results in a change to your score, you will be reimbursed for the Verification 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.
- Please allow 10 business days for rescoring of multiple choice subtests.
- The procedure for rescoring and reporting the Writing subtest takes longer than that for rescoring the PCAT multiple-choice items.
- To have your multiple-choice scores verified by rescoring 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 your PCAT CID.
  4. A money order displaying your name made payable to Pearson for \$40.00 to only request rescoring of the multiple-choice subtests, \$50.00 to only request rescoring of the Writing subtest, or \$90.00 to request both a multiple-choice subtest rescoring and a Writing subtest rescore.

- Mail your request along with the fee payment to the appropriate address listed in the “Contact Us” section of this booklet.
- **All requests and fee payments must be received within 60 days of your test date.**

## Requesting a Paper Version of Your Personal Score Report and Official Transcripts

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- PCAT scores are available for reporting up to 5 years after your test date.
- All percentile ranks are based on the 2007 norms (see “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 a paper version of your personal Score Report or Official Transcript that you request after registering for the PCAT (see “Fees for Optional Services”).
- Additional Official Transcripts and a paper version of your 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.
- If requesting a paper version, 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 reflect the name and address provided when you originally registered for the test. Pearson will send additional Official Transcripts (via U.S. Postal Service) 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.

## Replacement Official Transcripts

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- You are eligible to receive a replacement Official Transcript, at no cost to you, if a recipient school to which you had an Official Transcript sent has not received it 7 to 10 weeks after the date you tested and you specified the proper school code when you applied.

- Email your request to PCAT Customer Relations 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

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- **Pearson reserves the right 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 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 canceled after the results have already been reported, all Official Transcript recipients are notified that the score has been canceled, 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 testing if the examinee is found not to have been responsible for the irregularity that caused the score cancellation.
- An examinee whose scores are canceled may also register to take the PCAT again during a future testing window 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 canceled.

## 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, disruptions to a test administration (such as a power loss or a natural disaster), misconduct, examinees misrepresenting identity, receiving or providing assistance of any kind during the test, failing to comply with test administration regulations or with directions given by the proctor, having prohibited materials in 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 not scoring exams 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 canceled. 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 has the option of contacting PCAT Customer Relations within 60 days of the test date to submit an appeal. 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 canceled. When scores are canceled 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 not be reported.
- 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 PCAT Customer Relations within 60 days of the last PCAT test date to submit an appeal (via mail or fax) and documentation as evidence to support the legitimacy of the score gain (a receipt for a PCAT prep course or study materials, a letter from a tutor, etc.). 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, 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.