

# After the Test

## How Your Test Is Scored

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- **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.