

PCAT FAQs

2024

1. Can I present my Preliminary Score Report to schools as a substitute for an Official Transcript?

No, the scores displayed on the Preliminary Score Report are still pending verification by Pearson and therefore the Preliminary Score Report is not official and cannot be presented to schools as a substitute for an Official Transcript.

2. What is a 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.

3. What should I do if I want my scores reported to a school that I didn't list when I registered?

The PCAT website (www.pearsonassessments.com/pcat) includes complete information about requesting additional Official Transcripts, including the required fees.

4. What information do I need when referencing my PCAT scores with PharmCAS?

You need your Candidate Information Number (CID). If you need to obtain your CID, log into the PCAT site with your user ID. Your CID will be displayed on your "My Profile" page near your name in the Account Information section. If your CID displays that it is "Unassigned" then there are no PCAT test scores associated with your user ID. You must provide your correct CID to PharmCAS or your scores will not be matched with your PharmCAS application.

5. Can I average the scaled scores for each subtest and divide it by 4 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.

6. How long does Pearson keep scores on file?

Due to the upcoming retirement of the PCAT, all test-takers may continue to request Official Transcripts and Personal Score Reports through the Pearson website until December 2024.

7. 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 performance of examinees in the current norm group. The current norm group is defined as all first-time examinees who took the test between July 2016 and April 2019. Your scaled scores are based on the number of live items that you answered correctly for each subtest. Each multiple-choice subtest is calculated separately.

8. Why may my percentile ranks appear different on my personal Official Score Report now than on a previous 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 (operational) items answered correctly. Percentile ranks range from 1–99 and indicate a candidate's performance relative to the current PCAT norm group (all first-time examinees from July 2016 through April 2019). Percentile ranks earned before July 2016 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 Official Score Reports sent to candidates, percentile ranks obtained before July 2020 (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.

9. If I have a Biological Processes scaled score of 407 and a percentile rank of 48, what does this really mean?

Scaled scores for the multiple-choice subtests are ranked on a scale of 200–600, are based on the number of core items answered correctly and are calculated separately for each multiple-choice subtest. Experimental items do not count toward your score. A percentile rank indicates the percentage of examinees from the current norm group who received a scaled score lower than a given score. For example, a Biological Processes percentile rank of 48 indicates that 48% of the examinees in the norm group received a Biological Processes scaled score lower than 407.

10. Whom do I contact with questions?

PCAT Customer Relations at 1-800-622-3231 (toll free) Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.