

PCAT FAQs

2020–2021

1. What are the important PCAT test dates for 2020–2021?

Registration Opens 4/15/2020

- **July 2020**
9–10
- **September 2020**
10
- **January 2021**
6–7

Registration Opens 9/3/2020 (Limited Seating Available)

- **October 2020**
19–30

Registration Opens 12/21/2020 (Limited Seating Available)

- **February 2021**
1–5
- **March 2021**
29–31

2. May I take the PCAT more than five times?

After taking the PCAT five times, restrictions *may* be placed on any subsequent registration, and you *may* be required to submit additional documentation to support your registration request.

- If documentation is required, you will not be allowed to register for the PCAT until sufficient documentation is received and you are notified of approval to test.

- Documentation, if required, must include your name and PCAT Candidate ID; explain the special circumstances that require you to take the PCAT again, and one of the following:
 - A copy of a completed and submitted application to a pharmacy school or to PharmCAS for the upcoming academic year and a transaction confirmation from the institution
- OR
- A letter on official school stationery from a pharmacy school, administrator, or faculty member recommending that you take the PCAT as well as verifying that you are applying to a pharmacy school for the upcoming academic year.

Pearson will review and respond to your written request and documentation within 10 (ten) business days of receipt. Please note that heavy volume may delay the ability to reply within that time frame, so we recommend that a candidate submit documentation well in advance of an examination. Pearson has the right to deny you the ability to test, based solely on your previous test administrations. If you are denied, you can appeal by contacting PCAT Customer Relations (Scoring.Services@Pearson.com). Please use "PCAT Denied" as the subject line and include your PCAT CID and name in the correspondence. If you take the PCAT test more often than allowed, your scores from each unauthorized test administration will be withheld or canceled and your entire test fee forfeited. You may also be prohibited from future PCAT testing and subject to other actions. This policy has been established to ensure the validity and security of the PCAT exam. PCAT Customer Relations representatives are not authorized to waive or modify the retest policy for any reason.

3. Where can I take the PCAT?

The PCAT is administered by Pearson VUE Test Centers throughout the United States and in select international cities.

4. Do I register for the PCAT at Pearson VUE?

No, you can register for the PCAT at <http://tpc-etesting.com/pcat/>. Within 24 hours of submitting your online registration, you will receive an email stating how to schedule your seat to take the PCAT at a Pearson VUE Test Center.

5. What if I do not find a seat at my preferred Pearson VUE location?

If you are unable to find a seat for your preferred testing date, time, and location, you need to:

- Call Pearson VUE at 1-866-508-8836 for assistance,
- Select a future test date within the current PCAT Test Cycle, or
- Cancel your registration by the cancellation deadline.

6. If I decide to cancel my PCAT exam, what do I need to do?

To cancel your exam, please follow the two-step process. First, you need to cancel your seat at Pearson VUE (<http://home.pearsonvue.com/pcat>) **and** then you need to cancel your registration at the PCAT site (<http://tpc-etesting.com/pcat/>).

7. Will I receive a refund if I cancel my PCAT exam?

If you cancel your registration by the cancellation deadline, you will receive a refund equivalent to half of the original Registration Fee. The remainder of your Registration Fee, and of any additional fees paid at the time of registration, will be retained to cover necessary expenses for processing your registration and holding space at the Test Center.

8. What computer functions are not available during the test?

Candidates will **not** have access to any resources, aids, or notes. Internet access, spell check, and online calculators will be prohibited during the computer-based administration. However, you will have access to a periodic table (for the Chemical Processes subtest only) and a calculator (for the Biological Processes, Chemical Processes, and Quantitative Reasoning subtests), both of which are built into the exam.

9. How will I record my essay?

You will type your essay response.

10. Will I receive an unofficial Preliminary Score Report after the exam?

You will receive a printed unofficial Preliminary Score Report before leaving the Pearson VUE Test Center that will show your scaled scores and percentile ranks on each multiple-choice subtest and composite. This is **not** equivalent to an Official Score Report or Official Transcript.

11. 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.

12. 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.

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

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

14. 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.PCATweb.info) includes complete information about requesting additional Official Transcripts, including the required fees.

15. I do not want my scores reported to the school(s) that I listed when I registered, but I do want them reported to me. What should I do?

The only way for you alone to receive your scores is by not selecting any score recipients when you register. If you already listed recipient schools when you registered, you cannot receive your scores without the school(s) that you listed also receiving your scores. You can prevent your scores from being reported to the school(s) you listed by exercising the "No Score Option" at the end of the exam. However, if you exercise the "No Score Option" at the end of the exam, your exam will not be scored, you will receive a personal Score Report that says, "No scores will be reported to you or any schools because you requested the No Score Option," and no refund of your fees will be possible.

16. What do I do if my scores were canceled?

Email PCAT Customer Relations at Scoring.Services@Pearson.com for assistance.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. How long does Pearson keep scores on file?

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

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. 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.

23. Does Pearson provide any PCAT preparation materials?

Yes. The PCAT Practice Tests are currently available, with the same content areas that are tested in the four multiple-choice subtests of the actual exam. The Practice Tests consist of questions like those that you will find on the actual PCAT, along with explanations for the correct answers for each item. There is also a PCAT Writing Practice Test to help prepare you for the types of essays you may encounter on the actual exam.

24. Whom do I contact with questions?

- **For questions about registration**, call **PCAT Customer Relations** at 1-800-622-3231 (toll free) Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.
- **For questions about scheduling**, call the **Pearson VUE Call Center(s)** at 1-866-508-8836 (toll free) or 1-952-681-3872 Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CT.