

Test Development

- The PCAT is constructed specifically for use by pharmacy colleges for admission purposes.
- The design and content of the PCAT are determined by the types of abilities, aptitudes, and skills deemed essential by pharmacy colleges and by research concerning the kinds of tests that most accurately predict success in science-oriented courses.
- Periodic reviews of the test content are conducted with deans, faculty, and administrators from pharmacy colleges to ensure that the test items reflect current pharmacy prerequisite and curriculum requirements.

Test Structure

- The PCAT Test Blueprint on the following page lists the content and time allowed for each of the five subtests in the order they appear on the PCAT.
- 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.
- Included in each of the multiple-choice subtests are a few experimental items that do not count toward your score.
- These experimental items are being tested for future use on PCAT test forms. Because the experimental items are embedded, it is very important that you do your best on all the items and sections of the test.
- When taking the test, you can only work on subtests in the order they are given. You cannot return to earlier ones.
- For a more detailed test blueprint and sample items, please visit www.PCATweb.info, “About the PCAT.”

PCAT Test Blueprint

The Writing subtest presents a prompt or topic stating a problem that you are asked to address by proposing a solution in an original essay. In the Biological Processes and Chemical Processes subtests, items are presented in a set accompanying a short passage or as stand-alone items. For the Critical Reading subtest, all items are in sets that accompany reading passages. The Quantitative Reasoning subtest consists entirely of stand-alone items, with many of the items presented in a word-problem or problem-solving scenario.

PCAT Subtests	Number and Approximate Percentage of Item Types
1. Writing (30 minutes)	1 prompt
2. Biological Processes (45 minutes)	48 items
General Biology	50%
Microbiology	20%
Human Anatomy and Physiology	30%
3. Chemical Processes (45 minutes)	48 items
General Chemistry	50%
Organic Chemistry	30%
Basic Biochemistry Processes	20%
Rest Break (optional): 15 minutes (not included in total testing time)	
4. Critical Reading (50 minutes)	48 items
Comprehension	30%
Analysis	40%
Evaluation	30%
5. Quantitative Reasoning (50 minutes)	48 items
Basic Math	25%
Algebra	25%
Probability & Statistics	18%
Precalculus	18%
Calculus	14%
Total Test (220 minutes): 192 multiple-choice items, 1 writing prompt	

Note: Each multiple-choice subtest consists of 40 operational items and 8 experimental items.