

SITUATIONAL JUDGEMENT TESTS

SJTS

PREview & CASper

Nicole Roeper

Sarah Berger

Health Professions Program



Why have SJT's been introduced to the Med School application process?

SJT's help programs find students who are not only strong academically but also possess desirable professional and personal qualities/competencies that will make them more likely to succeed in medicine.

Provides more of a “complete picture” of applicants.



What is the Purpose?

Assess:

- Behavioral tendencies - i.e., how someone might act in a tough situation
- Knowledge put into action - i.e., how *effective* various responses will be in hypothetical scenarios



Medical School SJT Options:

- **CASPer** asks applicants **WHAT** they would do in a hypothetical dilemma and most importantly, **WHY** they would do it.
 - *Open-Ended Questions*
- **AAMC's SJT** asks applicants to evaluate “the effectiveness of a series of behavioral responses to each scenario.”
 - *Multiple Choice Questions*

AAMC PREview Professional Readiness Exam.



PREview

[Learn about the Pre-Med Competencies](#)





PREview: Important Information

- Offered March – September 2024: We recommend taking this by the end of June.
 - Testing Calendar
- Applicants can take this exam twice per application year (lifetime limit of 4 times)
- Exam fee is \$100. Includes distribution of your score report to unlimited # of schools
- For students approved for Fee Assistance: Test # 1 at 100%, Test # 2 at 50%
- Registration is OPEN, recommended to register a month ahead of time.





Participating Programs:

REQUIRED:

Mercer University School of Medicine
Saint Louis University School of Medicine
Spencer Fox Eccles School of Medicine at the
University of Utah
University of California, Davis, School of
Medicine
University of California, Los Angeles David
Geffen School of Medicine
University of Massachusetts T.H. Chan School of
Medicine

RECOMMENDED:

Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine
George Washington University School of
Medicine and Health Sciences
Louisiana State University School of Medicine
in New Orleans
Morehouse School of Medicine
Oakland University William Beaumont School
of Medicine
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
University of Alabama at Birmingham Marnix E.
Heersink School of Medicine



PREview Resources on AAMC Website

- **Sample:** Questions to help you familiarize yourself with the exam structure
- **Preparation Guide:** Format, Scoring, Instructions and more
- **Practice Exams:** Two free practice exams in PDF format that includes a scoring key AND rationales
- **Test Day Experience Video:** Helps you become familiar with activities that take place the day of



PREview Exam Format:



30 Scenarios



186 Response
Items



75 Minutes to
take the Exam



Check-in &
Check-out Time

Following each scenario, several behaviors describe a response to the dilemma.

You will be asked to rate the effectiveness of each behavior using a 4-point scale:

very ineffective

Ineffective

effective

very effective.

Very Ineffective (1)	Ineffective (2)	Effective (3)	Very Effective (4)
The response will cause additional problems or make the situation worse.	The response will not improve the situation or may cause a problem.	The response could help but will not significantly improve the situation.	The response will significantly improve the situation.

It's important to understand these response types!



How It's Scored:

- § Your score will be a score ranging from 1-9
- § You will also receive a percentile rank & and confidence band
- § Your score is based on the extent to which your effectiveness ratings of each response align with subject matter experts' ratings.
- § **Full credit** is awarded for an item if your response matches the medical educators' rating.
- § **Partial credit** is awarded if your rating is close to the medical educators' rating.



Tips for the PReview Exam:

- Consider each response as the **immediate** next step (unless stated otherwise)
- Remain Non-Judgemental
- Do not make assumptions, everything you need to know to evaluate the response is in the scenario
- Be open-minded
- Lead with Empathy
- Do not compare responses to each other or rank them
- Review Pre-Med Professional Competencies
- Review basic Medical Ethics Principles

Questions to ask yourself:

- Which pre-med competencies are they accessing with this scenario?
- What ethical dilemma is at play here?
- Do you have any legal responsibilities?
- What are the potential consequences of each response?
- How does your response impact others in the situation?



Let's Practice Together with a Zoom Poll

AAMC Scenario Example:

You are speaking with a patient who recently immigrated to the United States. The patient is undergoing minor surgery and asks you to contact their family in their home country if anything unexpected occurs. The patient shares the customs that should be followed when someone dies and asks you to ensure that those customs are respected.



Rate the effectiveness of each response:

1. Tell the patient that, because the surgery is minor, it is not necessary to worry about customs.

A. Very Ineffective

2. Tell the patient that you will respect the customs, but that you cannot guarantee the actions of other hospital staff.

A. Ineffective

3. Suggest the patient share their request with other hospital staff to ensure the customs are respected by everyone.

A. Effective

4. Tell the patient that you will ask whether the hospital will be able to honor the patient's requests.

A. Very Effective

5. Discuss the patient's request with your supervisor and ask how to proceed.

A. Very Effective

6. Tell the patient you will try to find a different student who is more familiar with their culture.

A. Ineffective

CASPer & Duet

CASPer:
Assesses for

Collaboration

Communication

Empathy

Equity

Ethics

Motivation

Problem Solving

Professionalism

Resilience

Self Awareness

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Collaboration



Communication



Empathy



Equity



Ethics



Motivation



Problem Solving



Professionalism



Resilience



Self Awareness

What Schools

American University of The Caribbean School of Medicine
Arkansas College of Health Education
Baylor College of Medicine
Boston University School of Medicine
California University of Science and Medicine
Central Michigan University
Drexel University
East Tennessee State University
Florida Atlantic University
Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine (HMSOM)
Hofstra/Northwell-Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine
Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine
Indiana University
Kansas Health Science Center – Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine
Marshall University
McGovern Medical School, UT Health Science Center Houston
Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University
Medical College of Wisconsin
Mercer University
Meharry Medical College
Michigan State University
Netter School of Medicine Quinnipiac University
New York Medical College
Rush University Medical College
Rutgers, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Sam Houston State University
Renaissance School of Medicine, Stony Brook University
Temple University
Texas A&M University
Texas Christian University, School of Medicine
Foster School of Medicine TTUHSC El Paso
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, Nevada
Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, NY
Tulane University, School of Medicine
University of Colorado Denver, School of Medicine
University of Miami, Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine
University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine
University of Texas at Tyler Health Science Center School of Medicine
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Long School of Medicine
John Sealy School of Medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch
University of Texas Southwestern
University of Vermont, Larner College of Medicine
Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Medicine
Wake Forest School of Medicine
West Virginia University, School of Medicine
Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific-Northwest
William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Dental Schools That Require Casper

- California Northstate University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Indiana University
- Temple University
- University of Louisville School of Dentistry
- University of California - Los Angeles
- University of Detroit Mercy
- University of Missouri-Kansas City
- University of Utah

How Is Casper Scored?

- ❑ Your scenario responses are rated on a scale from 1 (unsatisfactory) to 9 (superb). Your final score is a culmination of all your answers. Each section is scored by a different rater, which helps reduce the exam's subjectivity or biases.
- ❑ You will not be penalized for grammar or spelling mistakes, so it is more important to focus on the content of your answers while still making sure it is comprehensible. You also won't receive a lower score if you run out of time before finishing a sentence. The raters will look at your response as a whole and will rate you based on that.
- ❑ Approximately two to three weeks after you take the Casper, your score will be sent automatically to the programs you selected when registering.

Preparing for CASPer

COSTS

- Fee to take Altus Suite: \$85 (USD) Includes distribution of results to 7 programs
- Distribution fees for additional programs - \$16 (USD) per program
- Free if you qualified for the AAMC Financial Assistance Program FAP
- Rescheduling fee if reschedule within 30 days of test date (or after date)

Duet: Acuity's Other Component

An untimed, two-part assessment of what applicants value in a medical school and how that aligns with what a program offers. Applicants are asked to identify which specific value (out of two) they would give preference to when choosing a medical program.

Snapshot:

- Part 1 (longest!) focuses on the micro - e.g., “rural medicine focus” vs. “primary care focus”
- Part 2 focuses on the macro - e.g., “diversity” vs. “student wellness”

Applicants have a chance to take DUET within a 10-day window of taking CASper, only one time a year. If they don't choose Duet yet later discover a school requires it, they will be unable to take these components if their 10-day window has elapsed.

Don't worry. You can't be faulted.

What is "good judgment?"
What does it look like?



Focus on and what is most important in the situation



Articulate which uncertainties remain



Refer to life experiences that have built cultural and structural competencies



Synthesize what you know and have learned



Make choices that reflect integrity and discernment



Seeks alternative or diverse points of view



Anticipate outcomes or impact



Offers others care, empathy, and respect

***Thanks to Pre-health advisor Jessica Pennington Matzko for permission to adapt this and next 2 slides

In what kinds of (your many) **experiences** have you needed to practice good judgment?

Leadership and responsibility among peers (clubs, etc.)

In classes and discussion sections

Responsibility of making your own decisions and learning from consequences

Family and friendship situations

“Real world” work experience in customer service or community volunteer roles

Other real-world experiences

You’ve been making decisions your whole life and learning as you go!

4 Basic Principles of Ethical Decision Making

There are four basic ethical principles:

- Autonomy (respecting the rights of individuals and letting them make choices for themselves)
- Beneficence (doing good; what is in someone's best interests)
- Non-maleficence (avoiding harm)
- Justice (while acknowledging the law)

Steps in the Ethical Decision-Making Process

More details HERE

- State the problem, gather the facts
- Note the ethical issues
- Identify the affected parties and relevant factors (e.g., stakeholders)
- Think creatively about potential actions, IE: “if this, then that, on the other hand...” (vs dualistic yes/no; right/wrong)
- Identify the consequences
- Identify the obligations (principles, rights, justice)
- Consider your character and integrity
- Check your instinct
- Decide on the proper ethical action and be prepared to deal with opposing arguments

What helps applicants fare best on CASPer

According to the CASper FAQ page, students score better based on the following criteria:

- **Effort:** They may have tried harder to respond to questions (for instance, they may have explained their position fully, or used the full amount of time before moving on to the next question, compared to those who applicants who place in the first quartile)
- **Empathy:** They considered all perspectives in a meaningful way
- **Equity:** They show the same high degree of respect for the experiences and needs of others
- **Communication:** They demonstrated above-average ability to effectively articulate their ideas
- **Familiarity with the medium:** They familiarized themselves with the format of the test (video, typed response, etc.) and were able to successfully navigate these aspects of the test.

Other Practical Applicant Advice



FIND ANSWER FRAMEWORKS, SUCH AS **PPRDJ** (STANDS FOR **PROBLEM, PERSPECTIVE, RESPONSIBILITY, DECISION, JUSTIFICATION**), THAT HELP YOU METHODICALLY WORK THROUGH A PROMPT.



BE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE EXPECTATIONS AND VALUES EXPRESSED IN THE AAMC'S **INTERPERSONAL AND INTRAPERSONAL CORE COMPETENCIES**.



JOURNAL ANSWERS TO CHALLENGING QUESTIONS, SUCH AS COMMON SECONDARY ESSAY PROMPTS, WITHIN 3-5 MINUTE TIME LIMITS.



PRACTICE YOUR TYPING SKILLS.



GO THROUGH PRACTICE EXAM QUESTIONS AND READ TECHNICAL INSTRUCTIONS.

Resources on CASPer/Acuity Insights website

<https://acuityinsights.app/test-prep/>

Practice taking the test

There is a full 14-scenario sample test containing both the video and typed response sections that you can use to practice as many times as you like. As it is just a practice test, your answers will not be saved or submitted for review or feedback.

Take this opportunity to seriously consider the scenario you are presented with, then try to answer the probing questions as you would in a true test sitting. This will help you get a sense of the time limit and can help you practice formulating responses quicker. Feel free to do the practice session multiple times so you feel comfortable with the test format and being in front of the camera for the video response section.

“We have found that applicants who complete the practice test generally perform better on Casper.”

Practice Scenario

<https://acuityinsights.app/test-prep/>

Word-based scenario: Paying a Price

Think of a time when you had to make a sacrifice in order to accomplish a goal.

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Read the sentence to the left then click below to answer the questions. During the Casper test, you will have 5 minutes to answer the 3 questions.

Questions to the Applicant –

1. Briefly describe the situation and the sacrifice you made.
2. Do you regret your decision to make the sacrifice? Why or why not?
3. Did you learn anything from this situation that can be applied to your desired career? Explain your response.