

Health Professions Program
Med/Vet/Dental Application Newsletter
Information about the MCAT & Fee Assistance Program
2027-2028 Cycle
September 2026

If you’re planning or strongly considering taking the MCAT **during the 2027 MCAT testing year, mark your calendar: registration opens October 20–22, depending on your testing center location.**

IMPORTANT! Testing dates fill quickly, so if you already know when you want to take the MCAT, sign up as soon as possible. See the “MCAT Registration” section below for full details.

Be sure to read this newsletter carefully for **essential information** about signing up for the MCAT, as well as information about preparation in general. Even if you plan to take the MCAT in a future year, this information may still be helpful for you.

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Important Note about Setting MCAT Score Goals

It is very important to aim towards a goal score. When your last 3 or more practice exams are squarely in that range, that is usually a good sign. However, last year we noticed that many students were setting their goal too low by using Google searches and social media information. While MCAT goals and the national median can be useful points of reference, it’s important to relate them to the Dartmouth median, which is higher than the national median. **While there is a range of scores for accepted applicants, the Dartmouth median of accepted applicants is 517+.** We encourage you to keep the Dartmouth median in mind as you set your own goal. Many applicants we spoke to received a score in their goal range; they were just setting their goal score too low. Every student’s circumstances are different, and there is no single “right” score. However, **aiming for the Dartmouth median and above** can help ensure that you are preparing with an ambitious and realistic target in mind—so that you can achieve your acceptance outcome!

MCAT Registration: Test Dates & Calendar

- **Registration for the entire 2027 MCAT testing year will open on Oct. 20–22, depending on testing center location.**

- **IMPORTANT!** Testing dates fill quickly, so if you already know when you want to take the MCAT, sign up as soon as possible. See the [AAMC's tips for registration day](#), and research ahead of time the testing sites nearest to Dartmouth (see Nearest Testing Sites below) or home.
- See the [AAMC-MCAT website](#) for details on MCAT content, registration, financing, and [preparation resources](#).
- [Sign up to receive email updates](#) from the AAMC about MCAT updates and important logistical information.
- [Learn more about registering for the MCAT](#) ahead of time — understand the process and testing center locations before sign-up day opens, rather than scrambling that day.
- [Create your AAMC account now](#). You can do this already, so you'll be all set to register this October for the 2027 MCAT. That account will be your AAMC account for everything, including your future application and beyond.
- Review the [MCAT Testing Dates Schedule](#).
- [Learn more about fees for registration, rescheduling, and cancellation](#).

Nearest Testing Sites

Planning will be required to travel to your testing sites and may require leaving the day before to be at the site on time on test day.

- The closest testing site to Dartmouth is in Concord, NH, which is about an hour away.
- The next closest testing site is in Burlington, VT, which is about an hour and a half away.
- There are several sites in Massachusetts, including three in Boston, several in surrounding areas, and one in Springfield, MA.

Preparation Resources

It is essential to make a plan that is appropriate to YOU. When will you be best prepared to take the MCAT? When will you have time to commit to studying for the MCAT?

- There is information on [the AAMC website](#) about MCAT content, preparation materials, and more.
- The [HPP website](#) also has information and resources to help you prepare for the MCAT. See also our [MCAT Prep Tips and Advice](#).
- [Mamm](#) and [Anki](#) are two MCAT study tools students have used.
- For MCAT study strategies, watch this video by Medical Education Learning Specialist Shavonia Wynn, PhD: [Start your MCAT prep right with Proven Learning Strategies](#).

The Financial Assistance Program (FAP)

The AAMC does have a [Fee Assistance Program \(FAP\)](#) to help defray the cost of the MCAT and AMCAS application.

- **IMPORTANT NOTE!** To access the benefits, you must be approved before you register for the MCAT exam or apply to medical schools using the AMCAS application. Benefits are not retroactive. The application process can take up to 5-10 business days to be approved, so keep that in mind as you [prepare to apply](#). There is a lot of [information to gather in order to apply](#), so we recommend starting this process at least a few weeks in advance.
- If you qualify for the FAP, you'll also receive assistance for the AMCAS application, as long as you apply within the required timeframe.
- If you narrowly miss the FAP eligibility cutoff, it's still worth contacting the FAP Office directly.
- If you sign up for the MCAT before your FAP approval comes through, you can still apply for FAP assistance for the AMCAS application process.

