

# Guide to Standardized Tests



## What courses should I take before the test?

Many students feel overwhelmed when they think about preparing for a standardized test like the GRE or the MCAT. If you want to get the best score, your studying and mastery of tested concepts should begin in your pre-health courses. Using data and recommendations from UC Davis students, Health Professions Advising created this guide to help students pick which classes to take before the test.

## MCAT

### Medical School Admissions Test

**Required for:**  
Allopathic Medicine  
Osteopathic Medicine  
Podiatric Medicine

**Administered by:**  
AAMC

#### Classes students need to take:

**BIS 2ABC** Introduction to Biology  
**CHE 2ABC** General Chemistry  
**CHE 118ABC** Organic Chemistry  
**PHY 7ABC** General Physics  
**BIS 102 & 103 or 105** Biochemistry  
**NPB 101** Human Physiology  
**PSC 1** General Psychology  
Sociology  
Statistics

#### Classes that may help:

Literature  
History  
Philosophy  
**BIS 104** Cell Biology  
**MIC 102** Microbiology  
**BIS 101** Genes & Gene Expression  
**EXB 106** Human Gross Anatomy  
**PSC 41** Research Methods in Psych

## DAT

### Dental Admissions Test

**Required for:**  
Dentistry

**Administered by:**  
ADA

#### Classes students need to take:

**BIS 2ABC** Introduction to Biology  
**CHE 2ABC** General Chemistry  
**CHE 118ABC** Organic Chemistry  
**STA 100** Statistics  
**NPB 101** Human Physiology

#### Classes that may help:

**BIS 101** Genes & Gene Expression  
**BIS 102 & 103 or 105** Biochemistry  
**BIS 104** Cell Biology  
**MIC 102** Microbiology  
**EXB 106** Human Gross Anatomy  
**EVE 100** Introduction to Evolution

## OAT

### Optometry Admission Test

**Required for:**  
Optometry

**Administered by:**  
ASCO

#### Classes students need to take:

**BIS 2ABC** Introduction to Biology  
**CHE 2ABC** General Chemistry  
**CHE 118ABC** Organic Chemistry  
**PHY 7ABC** General Physics  
**NPB 101** Human Systemic Physiology

#### Classes that may help:

**EXB 106** Human Gross Anatomy  
**BIS 101** Genes & Gene Expression  
**BIS 102 & 103 or 105** Biochemistry

## PCAT

### Pharmacy College Admission Test

**Required for:**  
Pharmacy

**Administered by:**  
Pearson Education

#### Classes students need to take:

**BIS 2ABC** Introduction to Biology  
**CHE 2ABC** General Chemistry  
**CHE 118ABC** Organic Chemistry  
**PHY 7ABC** General Physics  
**STA 100** Statistics  
**NPB 101** Systemic Physiology  
**BIS 102 & 103, or 105** Biochemistry  
Calculus  
Statistics

#### Classes that may help:

**MIC 102** Microbiology  
**EXB 106** Human Gross Anatomy

## TEAS

### Test of Essential Academic Skills

**Required for:**  
Nursing (Acc. BSN)

**Administered by:**  
Assess. Technologies  
Institute

#### Classes students need to take:

**BIS 2ABC** Introduction to Biology  
**CHE 2ABC** General Chemistry  
**NPB 101** Human Systemic Physiology  
**EXB 106** Human Gross Anatomy

#### Classes that may help:

**BIS 101** Genes & Gene Expression

## GRE

### Graduate Records Examination

#### Required for:

Veterinary Medicine  
Physician's Assistant  
Dietetic Internships  
Nursing (MSN)  
Physical Therapy  
Genetic Counseling  
Occupational Therapy

**Administered by:**  
Educational Testing  
Service

Unlike other pre-health standardized tests, the GRE is not content-based. It tests concepts like vocabulary, grammar, algebra, data analysis and also includes a written portion.

While there might not be specific classes to prepare for the GRE, there are several test prep books that can help you study.

#### Classes that may help:

**CLA 30** Greek, Latin in English Vocab