

MCAT Experience #1

MCAT CONTENT:

VERBAL REASONING:

Very straight forward. Read the passage and answer questions about it. Look for key words. Read question stem and know what answer you're looking for before you read the answer choices. Practice Reading Quickly!

PHYSICAL SCIENCES:

Straight forward. Really go back to gen. chem. Also, learn some physics! Know your concepts and how to do problems.

WRITING SAMPLE:

Make sure you are to the point. Pre-writing and practice are important for timing and clarity. Make sure you unify the three parts. Practice and have profs look them over. Don't try to explain everything from all angles. Be confident.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES:

Know organic syntheses and identification of unknowns. Acids/bases, properties, etc. Biology was a lot of physiology. Hb, CO₂/O₂, Na⁺/K⁺, neurons, immunity, and organelle function were big on my test.

HOW I PREPARED FOR THE MCAT:

- I actually took a Kaplan course. It helped out just to give me direction and narrowed down what I needed to know. I took lots of practice tests (every Saturday). Get in a routine!
- Took notes.
- Made flashcards.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE "TAKERS":

- Take biology and chemistry classes your junior year. Concepts will be fresh in your mind.
- Start early, like January! Set specific times and stick with them!
- Take tests and correct them yourself, question by question. Take notes.
- Make flashcards.
- Time yourself.
- Practice reading quickly.
- Don't be overconfident. Be comfortable doing problems, not just recognizing concepts.
- Take difficult tests. Challenge yourself & learn from mistakes. That will make the real thing seem easier.
- Take the week before to relax and go over what you already know.
- See if you can get the profs to set up a review course. It's been a long time since I've had any of this stuff, and it would have helped. They could provide guidance and direction. It would be neat to have something like Loras.
- RELAX. You'll do well!