

## MCAT Experience #2

### MCAT CONTENT:

#### VERBAL REASONING:

If you have time, I recommend (highly recommend) this: Before reading the passage, go to the questions and underline the main focus of each question. I was doing this through the first half of the passages and was rolling. I got bogged down by a long, difficult passage right in the middle. If you see a passage that looks bad, skip it! Come back to it if there is time left at the end.

#### PHYSICAL SCIENCES:

I had to know two equations –  $F=ma$  and Snell's Law. Something I discovered while taking practice tests was that most general physics problems can be solved without knowing any equations. Just look at the labels in the answer or of a given constant and adjust your labels algebraically. Galvanic cells are always on practice tests and appeared on the real deal, too!

#### WRITING SAMPLE:

I think I signed something that said I wouldn't reveal this info, but my two topics were: "Progress complicates as much as it simplifies" and "Laws cannot change social values." I did not plan the direction of my essays before I began writing, and I think it may have cost me. Some solution books give examples of good essays – Read them to get ideas of what they're looking for.

#### BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES:

I don't really know how anyone could have trouble with the biology – the biology courses give you a great background! (I hope I didn't jinx myself!) I had more organic than what I expected – more than what the practice tests included. Specific reactions proved to be more difficult than stereochemistry. Make sure you're familiar with IR, NMR, Mass Spect. & UV-Vis.

### HOW I PREPARED FOR THE MCAT:

I began studying at the beginning of winter term, two times/week. I didn't study biology at all except a little genetics. I was an organic SI, so didn't really study any of the biological sciences. I studied with one other person and alternated between reviewing physics and general chem. I took one practice test before winter break (#2) and two between winter break and tour week (#4 & #5). Five was by far the most representative of the actual test. In the last month or so, I began to study three times/week, but didn't really do anything. Upon Dr. Wolff's suggestion, I began to read the newspaper daily in winter term. I also took Science & Religion – gave great practice in reading "thick" material and great practice in expressing my thoughts clearly in essays.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE "TAKERS":

Practice tests are the most important tool that you have for preparation! Take them in their entirety to simulate an actual test as best as possible! After taking the tests, go over the correct answers and learn how to do the problems you missed. You'll be surprised to see that you actually know how to answer most of the questions, but did not have enough time when taking the exam. Taking those practice exams really helps you to focus and think fast! Be as relaxed as possible going into that Saturday. I'd recommend not studying at all the week previous. You can do really well if you are relaxed and confident in your abilities!