

PEARSON



PCAT 101

September 29 and 30, 2010

PCAT 101

- PCAT Score Interpretation
 - Score Reporting
 - Scaled Scores
 - Percentile Ranks
 - Writing Scores - Mean Writing Scores
 - Sample Official Transcript
 - Reliability and Validity

PCAT 101

- PCAT Updates
 - PCAT Blueprint
 - 6X PCAT test taker
 - PCAT Computer-based test (CBT)
 - PCAT Official Practice Test
 - Reference Links

PCAT 101

- Score Reporting
 - A Personal Score Report is mailed to each examinee.
 - Official Transcripts, showing all PCAT scores earned within the previous five years, are sent to institutions, either printed (via mail) or electronically (via SFTP for Pearson subscribers or via PharmCAS).
 - Pharmacy schools receiving paper transcripts receive a summary of all candidates whose scores were sent to their institution.

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- PCAT Personal Score Reports and Official Transcripts present three types of scores
 - Scaled Scores
 - Percentile Ranks
 - Writing Scores
- Neither Pearson nor AACP establishes passing scores for individual PCAT subtests or for the PCAT as a whole. It is the responsibility of each school of pharmacy to determine how it uses PCAT scores.

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- Scaled Scores
 - Range from 200-600 making scores directly comparable across test forms and year to year
 - Available for the 5 multiple-choice subtests and Composite score

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- Percentile Ranks
 - Range from 1- 99
 - Indicate a candidate's performance relative to the current PCAT normative sample (all first-time examinees from October 2004 through May 2007)
 - Are provided for each of the 5 multiple-choice subtests and the Composite score

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- Writing Scores
 - Range from 1.0 to 5.0
 - Two scores are reported since June 2007
 - Conventions of Language
 - Problem Solving
 - Both Writing scores represent an average of scores assigned by two scorers.
 - For example, a score of 4.5 is the average of one scorer assigning a 4.0 and another scorer assigning a 5.0.

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- The mean Writing scores differ from PCAT test date to test date, reflecting
 - differences in prompt content
 - slight difference in prompt difficulty, and
 - differences in the group of candidates sitting for the PCAT on that test date.
- For this reason, a candidate's Writing scores should always be evaluated relative to the mean scores for the test date on which the scores are earned.

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Official Transcript Sample:

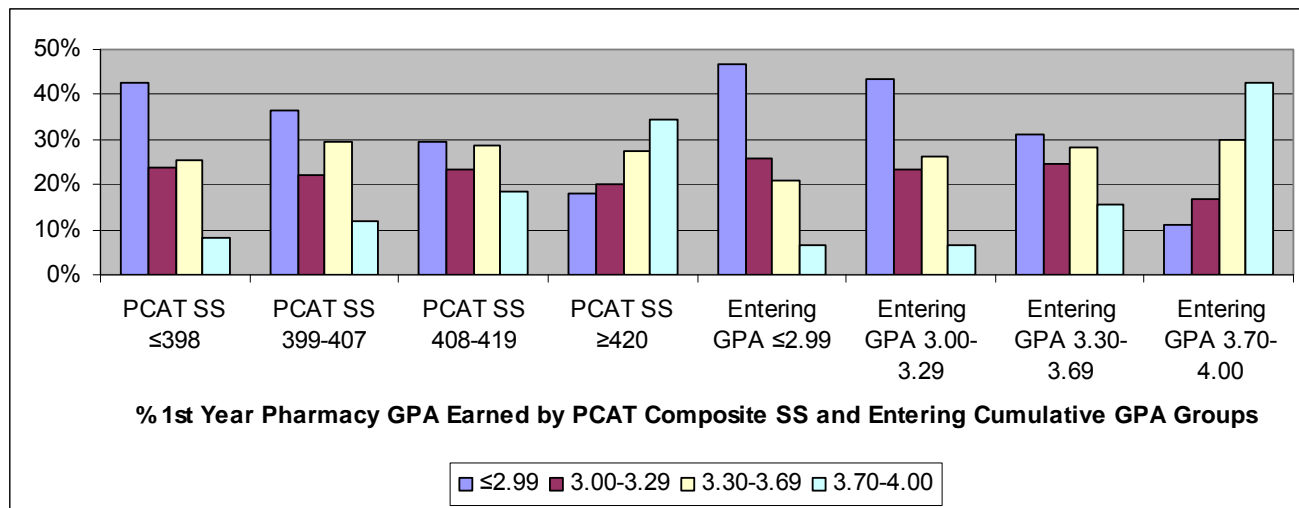
Most Recent Test Date	PCAT MULTIPLE-CHOICE SCORES							PCAT WRITING SCORES		
	Score	Verbal Ability	Biology	Reading Comp.	Quantitative Ability	Chemistry	Composite		Score	Mean
June 2009	SS	407	392	407	424	446	415	Conventions of Language	4.5	2.90
	PR	60	33	57	79	94	73	Problem Solving	3.5	2.93
Previous Test Dates	PCAT MULTIPLE-CHOICE SCORES							PCAT WRITING SCORES		
	Score	Verbal Ability	Biology	Reading Comp.	Quantitative Ability	Chemistry	Composite		Score	Mean
January 2009	SS	401	390	400	420	440	410	Conventions of Language	3.0	2.92
	PR	50	29	45	74	91	64	Problem Solving	2.5	2.89
August 2008	SS	398	385	396	412	430	402	Conventions of Language	2.0	2.90
	PR	45	22	38	62	85	47	Problem Solving	2.0	2.87

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- Reliability and Validity
 - Satisfactory internal consistency for multiple-choice subtest and Composite scores (K-R 20 = 0.080-0.95)
 - High inter-rater reliability (0.98 and above) for Writing scores
 - Pearson is currently conducting another validity study involving 22 PharmCAS schools
 - First PCAT Validity Study published in AJPE
 - <http://www.aacp.org/resources/academicpolicies/admissionguidelines/Documents/PCATPredictiveValidityStudy--GeneralReport.pdf>
 - Pearson resource of measurement terms
 - <http://education.pearsonassessments.com/pai/ai/research/resources/Glossary.htm>

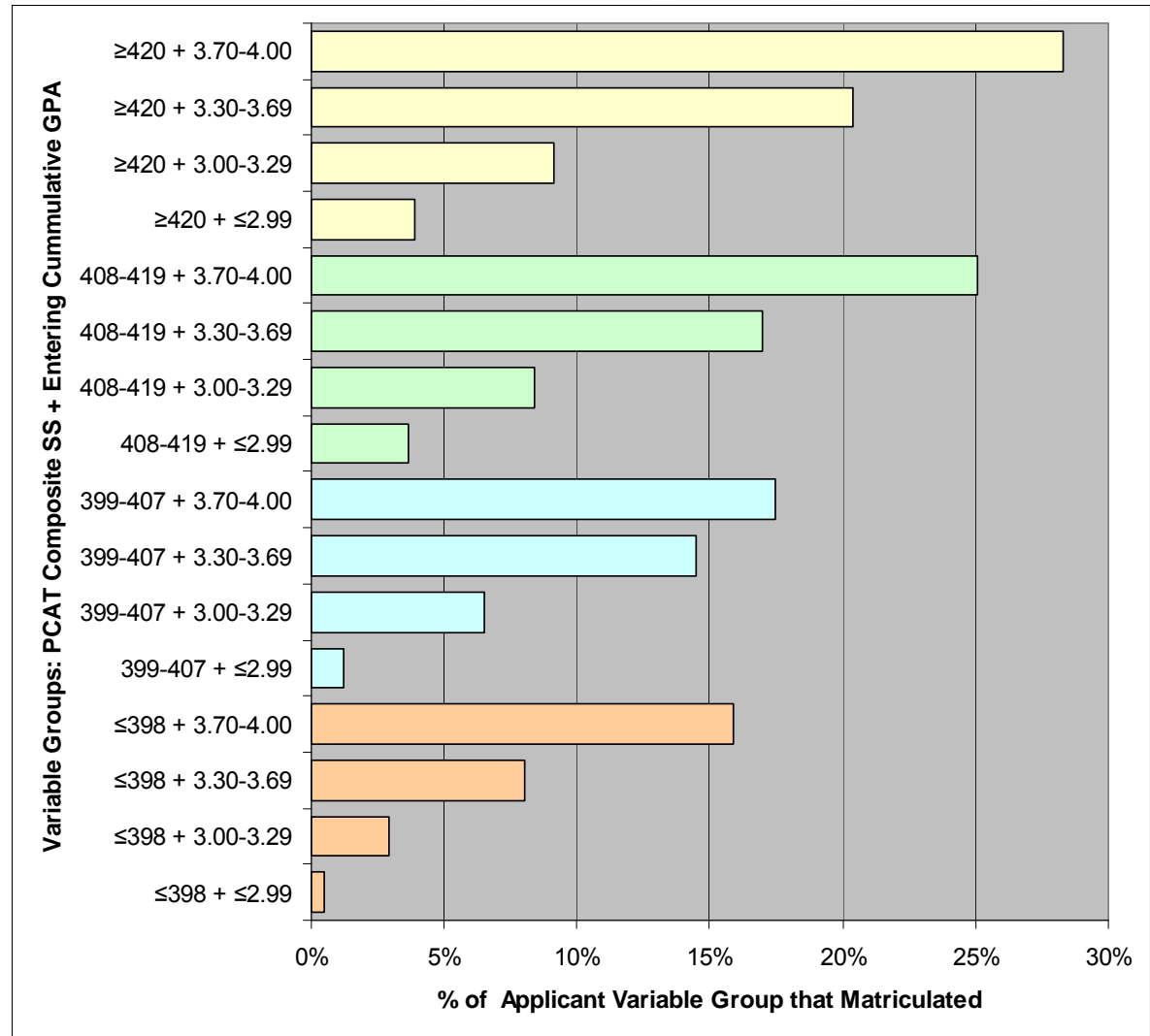
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- Preliminary Findings: PCAT Predictive Validity Study 2010 ($n = 2,244$)
 - GPA Range Percents of 1st Year Pharmacy Students by PCAT Composite Scaled Score (SS) and Entering Cumulative GPA Groups



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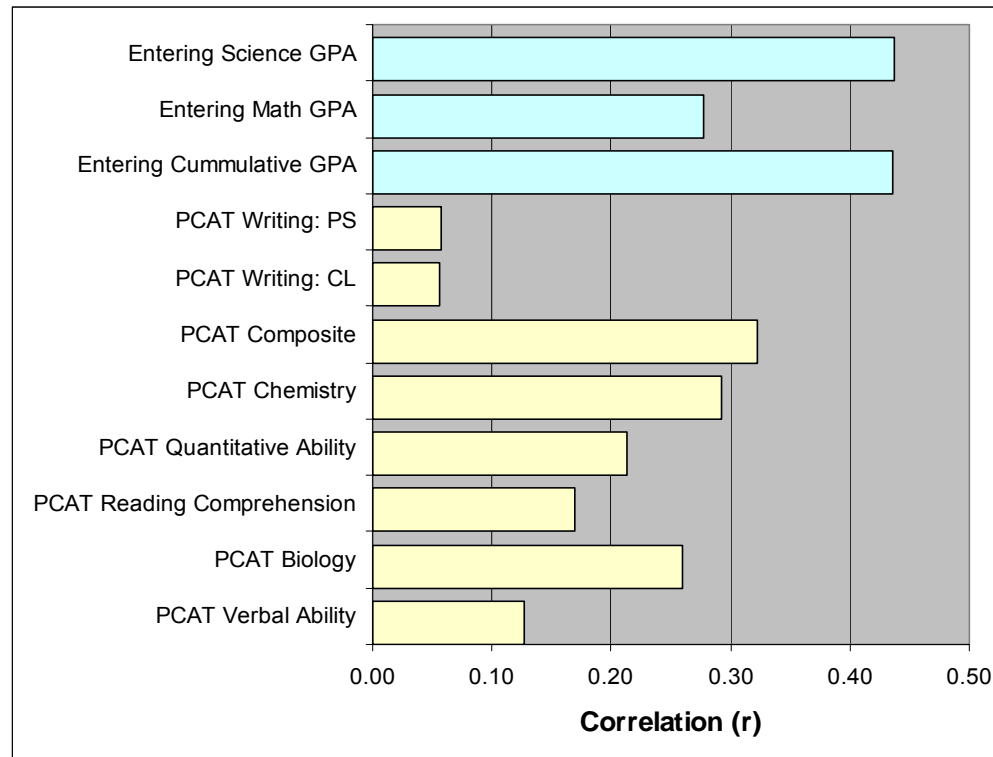
- GPA Range
Percents of 1st
Year Pharmacy
Students by Groups
of Combined PCAT
Composite Scaled
Score (SS) and
Entering Cumulative
GPA



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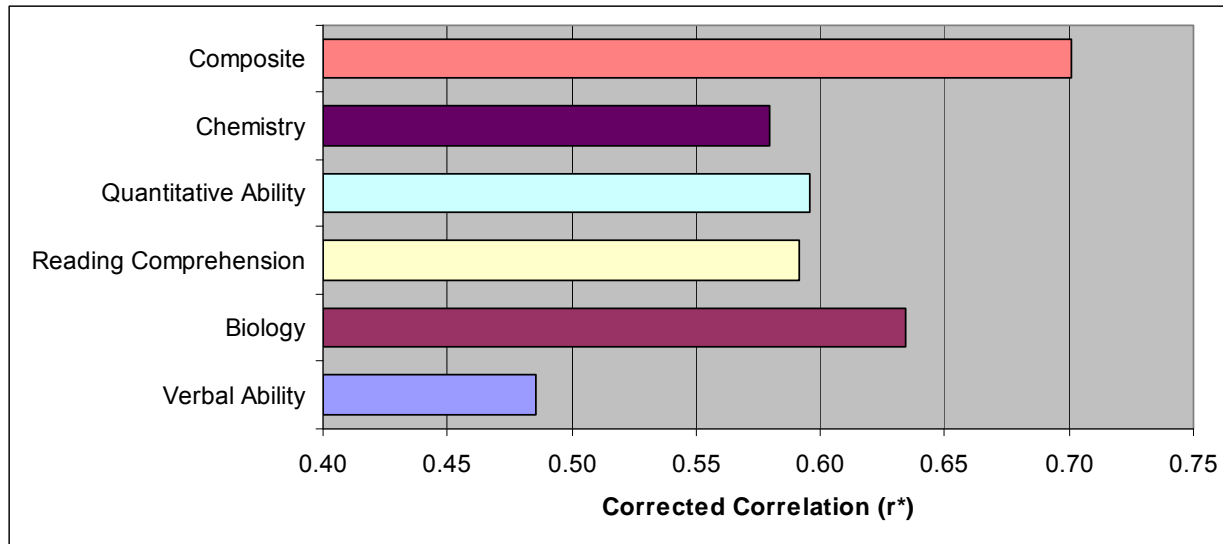
- Correlations Between Predictors and GPA in First Year of Professional Pharmacy Program

Uncorrected Correlations



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Corrected Correlations



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- PCAT Social Security Number Reporting
 - Pearson believes that the practice of identifying candidates using full Social Security numbers is an unnecessary practice that exposes the candidate to the risk of identity theft in the event candidate data is compromised in any way, on any system. Pearson is thereby using only the last four digits to identify a candidate.
 - Pearson has implemented this policy on the PCAT program, as well as on all Assessment and Information programs.
 - PCAT CID (Candidate ID) is unique and can be used to match candidates.

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- Blueprint update for 2012-13 cycle
 - Biology
 - Reduce general biology items by removing items on non-human biology
 - Increase number of items on genetics, health, and human anatomy and physiology
 - Chemistry
 - Remove items on basic organic chemistry including classification/nomenclature
 - Add biochemistry items on basic processes related to DNA, RNA, lipids, proteins

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- 6X or more PCAT test taker
 - Policy effective in 2009 after evaluation by Pearson and the PCAT Advisory Panel
 - This policy made effective to enhance the validity and security of the PCAT exam and is industry standard
 - After examinees sit for the 5th PCAT exam, they may be required to submit supporting documentation.
 - Copy of completed and submitted application to pharmacy school or to PharmCAS for the upcoming year and a transaction confirmation from the institution
- OR
- Letter on official school letterhead stationery from a pharmacy school advisor, administrator, or faculty member verifying that they are applying to a pharmacy school and recommending that they take the PCAT

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- PCAT Computer-based test
 - Computer-based test (CBT) administered same day as paper-based administration
 - October 16, 2010
 - January 22, 2011
 - October 16 and January 22 administration will be reporting live scores
 - Limited seating for both administrations
 - 100% CBT by July 2011

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- Pearson VUE
 - Testing administered at preselected Pearson VUE testing centers in the United States in October and January.
 - In July 2011, testing in Canada as well as foreign locations.
 - Supplementing with Pearson Select test centers in areas where additional capacity is needed due to location, distance for candidate to travel, etc.

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- Pearson VUE Professional Center



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- Testing will transition to “windows” of testing
- Testing windows for 2011-12:
 - July 20, 27
 - September 14, 19, 21, 26, 28
 - January 10, 11
- As always, seats are available on a first-come, first-serve basis
 - **Important:** Deadlines will be 60 days prior to test window

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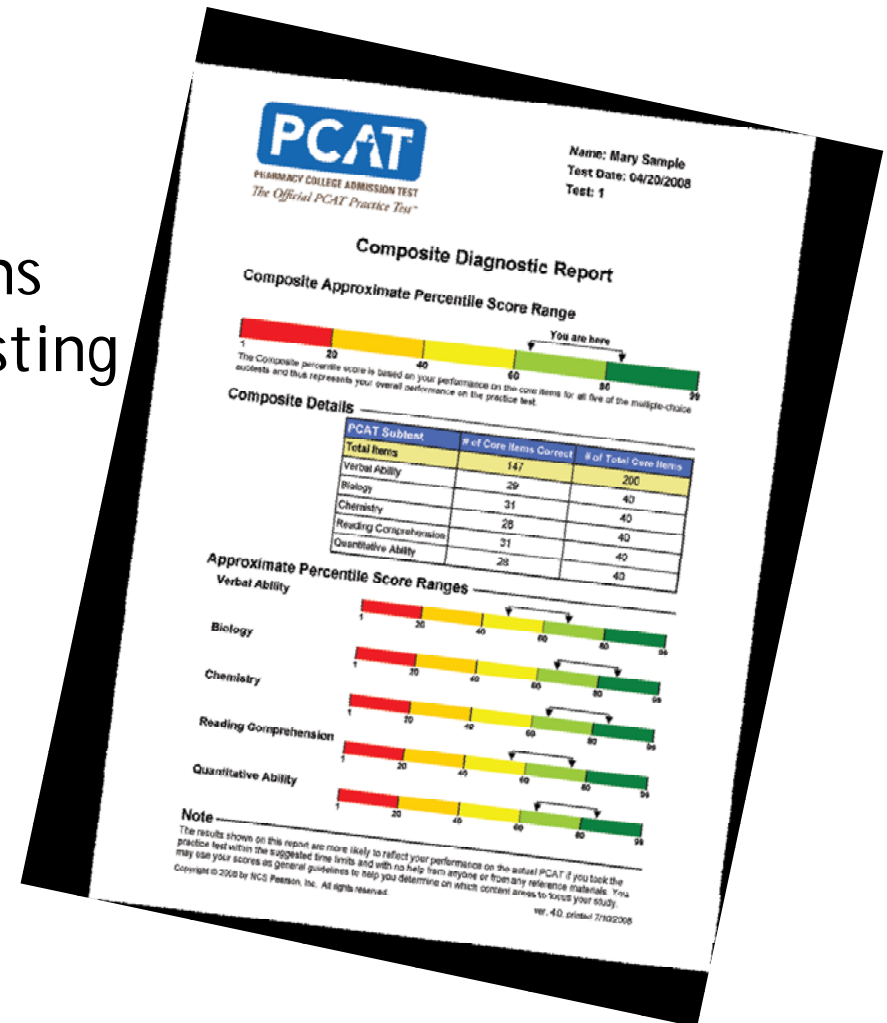
- Live CBT scores will be reported via U.S. mail in the same time frame as paper-based administration during the October 2010 and January 2011 administrations
- In July 2011, candidates will receive an unofficial Preliminary Score Report for only the multiple-choice subtests immediately following the exam.
 - Scores displayed will be pending verification by Pearson. The unofficial Preliminary Score Report is not official and cannot be presented to schools as a substitute for an Official Transcript.

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- Official PCAT Practice Test proven to increase scores
- Examinees who took the Official PCAT Practice Test
 - Scored higher on the actual PCAT compared to those who have not taken the Official PCAT Practice Test.
 - Showed a significant increase in their scores on their 2nd attempt of the actual PCAT.

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- The Diagnostic Report
 - Assesses performance
 - Helps evaluate strengths and weaknesses by suggesting which areas need the most review



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- Reference Links

- For PCAT Technical Manual and PCAT Score Interpretation Quick Reference

- <http://www.aacp.org/resources/academicpolicies/admissionsguidelines/Pages/PharmacyCollegeAdmissionsTest.aspx>

- For PCAT Website

- <http://www.PCATweb.info>

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