

Cancellation of Scores by Pearson

- Pearson reserves the right to cancel any PCAT test scores if an irregularity occurs that results in a faulty test administration (e.g., a disruption, cheating incident, or other event compromising the integrity of the test).
- Pearson adheres to a standard of test administration and test security standards that require the review of all PCAT scores and administrative conditions.
- Pearson reserves the right to cancel or decline to score any test believed to be obtained in a questionable manner, which includes testing/administrative irregularities, misconduct, noncompliance with policies, plagiarism, or **any other reason** that would invalidate the score.
- Cancellation of a score as a result of a violation of these policies in no way suggests that cheating or any other inappropriate action has occurred. Score invalidation is a technicality and is sometimes necessary to maintain the integrity of the test and to ensure that test scores are as accurate and as reflective of each candidate's ability as possible.
- All score cancellations and invalidations are held in confidence, with the reason for the cancellation disclosed only to the candidate, except in certain group cases.
- When scores are canceled after the results have already been reported, all Official Transcript recipients are notified that the scores have been canceled. Usually the reason for cancellation is not disclosed, except in certain cases involving groups of candidates.
- At Pearson's discretion, the Registration Fee may be refunded after testing if the candidate is found not to have been responsible for the irregularity that caused the score cancellation.
- A candidate whose scores are canceled may register to take the PCAT again during another future testing window and pay all applicable fees. **Exception:** Pearson reserves the right to withhold this option, and any request to take the test again will be evaluated by Pearson with consideration for the reason that the score was canceled.

Cancellation of Scores Due to Testing Irregularities

Testing irregularities are problems that occur during a test administration. These irregularities include, but are not limited to, possible compromises to the test, inappropriate seating or timing, disruptions to a test administration (such as a power loss or a natural disaster), misconduct, candidates' misrepresenting identity, receiving or providing assistance of any kind during the test, failing to comply with test administration regulations or with directions given by the proctor, having prohibited materials in the testing room, creating a disturbance (such as talking during testing, letting a cell phone ring during testing, or any other action deemed disruptive by the Test Center staff), and violating any other Pearson test administration policy, as described in this *Candidate Information Booklet* or on the PCAT website.

If a testing irregularity occurs, Pearson will examine the situation and determine what corrective action is warranted, including not scoring exams or canceling scores.

Cancellation of Scores Deemed Invalid for Any Other Reason

Pearson may cancel scores if, in its sole discretion, other substantial evidence suggests that the scores are invalid. Evidence suggesting that scores must be invalidated include, but are not limited to, inconsistent performance on different parts of the test, plagiarism (i.e., quoting, paraphrasing, or using language that appears in published or unpublished sources without attribution), essay text similar to text found in essays written by other PCAT candidates, and item responses or essays that are in any way not produced exclusively by the candidate. Before canceling a score for any of the reasons listed in this paragraph, Pearson will notify the candidate and provide an opportunity for the candidate to submit an explanation. The candidate will then have 60 days from the date of notification to respond. Pearson will review any information submitted by the candidate in response to the notification of score cancellation and will notify the candidate regarding the outcome of the appeal within 30 days of the date the appeal is received.