

Applicant Webinar Q&A

Have these assessments been checked for fairness/ anti-discrimination for people of color, or those from disadvantaged backgrounds or who speak English as a second language?

We have a strong psychometrician and test content team that work with subject matter experts (SMEs) to come up with scenarios and questions for Casper. All test content goes through a rigorous process to check for construct relevance. However, as with other standardized tests, we observe some demographic differences. Compared to MCAT and GPA, the effect size of these differences are smaller for Casper.

Is there consistency with how the questions are structured?

The content for the Casper test goes through a rigorous QA process with SMEs and our internal research team for consistency of structure and content.

Can you avoid a Casper exam and retake?

The Casper test can only be taken once during any admissions cycle. It cannot be retaken within that same cycle.

What happens if you do not write complete sentences or have a hard time typing out your responses?

Our raters receive very detailed training, and part of that training involves ignoring spelling mistakes and grammar errors to focus solely on the content of responses.

Is there a word limit to the responses?

There is no word limit for responses.

Is there a Casper prep book similar to an MCAT prep book?

We provide test prep resources on the applicant's account. There is a full length Casper sample test that applicants can take as many times as they please.

With questions unanswered due to time, does this work against the applicant scoring?

Part of the rater training is to ensure applicants are not penalized for not being able to answer all three questions. Raters assign ratings based on the content of the response available to them.



Some people receive percentile scores and some don't after taking their Casper. How is that decision made, about who is being chosen to have their scores disclosed? It would be very helpful if every test taker receives their Casper score.

We ran a controlled pilot last year with select applicants receiving their quartile scores. After receiving great feedback from applicants, we made the decision to release quartiles to all applicants this admission cycle. Their quartile score will be available to them on their Altus account 4 weeks after they take their test.

How many applicants does each rater rate a day? Are raters checked on how consistent their rating is (let's suppose there is someone who is continuously rating responses lower compared to others) or are their ratings final?

We run various QA processes for raters to ensure they are rating appropriately. There is oversampling of between 10-20% of responses to get inter-rater reliability. Raters also receive feedback in the form of score cards that show how well they use the full scale of scoring. We also have attention checks installed within the rating process to make sure raters are reading full responses. Raters have to undergo training every year in order to continue rating.

What is the difference between Snapshot for medical school and Casper for Health sciences?

Casper is a situational judgement test with 12 sections and written responses. Snapshot is a 1-way interview with 3 questions and 2 minutes to answer each question in an AV format.

Do the questions for Snapshot follow the same format as Casper?

Snapshot questions are dependent and not related to any video or text-based scenarios.

Are there any accommodations provided through Snapshot for people who may need more time to read and process questions?

Applicants can submit accommodation requests to our Applicant Support team.

How many attendees are at this event?

We currently have 27 attendees.

Is there financial assistance for lower income applicants?

We honour the AAMC's Fee Assistance Program. Applicants who qualify for the FAP program have both base test fees and distribution fees waived.

If we were awarded financial aid by AMCAS, can the fee be waived for Altus exams?

For all AAMC FAP qualified applicants, their Altus Suite fee is waived completely.

