



OAT Preparation and Scores

The OAT (Optometry Admissions Test) is administered by ASCO (www.opted.org) and is given at a Prometric testing center. You must reserve a test date. Should it be necessary to repeat the test to improve your scores, you are permitted to retake the OAT at 90 day intervals.

You are advised to take the OAT by August of any admissions cycle. If your scores are not satisfactory, taking it this early in the cycle will give you plenty of time to retake the test and not be too late for rolling admissions. For more information about rolling admissions, visit www.optometryadmissions.com/faqs

It is not necessary to have taken the OAT before submitting your application through OptomCAS (www.optomcas.org). OAT scores are officially reported directly to SCCO by ASCO. To meet the March 15 application deadline, the last date to take the OAT is March 1 of any admissions cycle.

OAT scores do expire. For the OAT scores to be valid, it is required that the OAT test date be no more than 24 months prior to the beginning of the admissions cycle, which begins on July 1 of any given year. For example, if you apply for the 16-17 admissions cycle, you will have had to have taken the OAT in the time period of 24 months prior to July 1, 2016 for your OAT test scores to be valid.

How does SCCO evaluate OAT scores?

SCCO the most recent test date scores when doing the evaluation. No averaging of OAT scores is done.

The OAT test score is indexed on a scale of 200 to 400. If you get a score of 300 which represents the 50th percentile, it would mean that 50% of candidates taking the OAT scored higher than you and 50% lower. To be a competitive applicant for SCCO, you are advised to be at or above the 50th percentile; therefore, at or above 300 in all sections of the OAT.

What are some of the preferred ways to prepare for the OAT?

ASCO's FAQs for the OAT: <https://www.ada.org/oat/index.html> ASCO's website also offers the option to take a practice OAT.

MCAT Prep Book: Students preferred this book over all other study guides. Their comments were that it was the MOST similar to the actual OAT test. They reported that it was "Great

because it was a very condensed, straight-forward review that pulls out all the main points that you need to know for the exam.”

Kaplan Study Course and Prep Book: Kaplan offers a live-taught course and also a very good prep book. For more information go to www.kaptest.com or 800-527-8378. The live-taught course is good but sometimes doesn't begin and end to accommodate a desired testing date. Many courses are now offered online.

OAT Professor www.OatProfessor.com is a new, online subscription service with sample questions, tests and flash card formats. A fee is paid for the time interval you choose to utilize their service. It is interactive. There is an advisor who chats in live time should help be needed. Students report that it is challenging—just what one would want in this type of venue. Go online and take advantage of their free trial offer.

Exam Krackers www.examkrackers.com is an online site dedicated to MCAT preparation which will also be helpful with the OAT. I like the “Daily MCAT Quiz Questions”. Membership is free.

OAT Achiever can be found at www.3tquest.com is a downloadable OAT test prep program. It is very new and I have no recommendations pro or con.

OAT Destroyer <http://orgoman.com/oatdestroyer.html> is a syllabus which encompasses a wide range of problems with detailed solutions that act as a teaching aid.

ScholarWare www.scholarware.com They offer a CD-ROM available for purchase. Someone savvy with computers could download the info to a PDA for convenient study. No user reviews were available.

Coursesaver <http://www.coursesaver.com/> Coursesaver is a compilation of shared resources made up by many students who are focused on a pre-health career.

SCCO's Admissions Blog is a comprehensive resource for OAT preparation tips:
<http://optometryadmissions.com/category/oat/>

There is also a listing of used OAT materials for sale: <http://optometryadmissions.com/oat-materials-for-sale/>

Revised 6Sept2016