
US Professional Health Sciences Applicant Webinar Questions & Answers

General Test Questions:

What is the difference between the Graduate Medical Education CASPer test vs the Professional Health Sciences CASPer test?

The Graduate Medical Education CASPer test is **only** for applicants who are applying to medical residency programs.

The Professional Health Sciences CASPer test is for many programs, including allopathic medicine (medical school), osteopathic medicine, physician assistant, graduate nursing, and many more.

Please visit the [Dates and Fees](#) page to see a full list of participating programs and the associated test types and test dates.

Is the cost the same for Canadians?

The fee to take the CASPer test varies by program type and country. Generally, CASPer fees consist of two components:

1. A fee to take CASPer
2. A fee to distribute your results to the selected programs

You will find the fees for your country and program type listed at the bottom of the [Dates and Fees](#) page after you have selected which country, program type, and individual programs you are applying to.

Pre-Test Questions:

When do CASPer test dates typically open up in Canada?

When can I register for CASPer test in Canada?

CASPer test dates for Canadian programs in the 2019-2020 admissions cycle will be announced in July/August 2019.

All test dates are pre-arranged with academic programs and then posted on our website as they become available. If you can't find your program listed on the [Dates and Fees](#) page, there are three possible causes:

1. You have missed the last possible test date offered for your program during the current admissions cycle.
2. You have arrived too early for the next admissions cycle and the test dates have not yet been posted.
3. You have already taken a test for the same test category (ex. US Health Sciences) during the current admissions cycle.

If I am applying for the Fall 2020 cycle, when should I aim to take CASPer?

We encourage CASPer applicants to take their test as early as possible to avoid any last minute scheduling issues, and account for any possible technical difficulties that could cause delays.

Please browse the available test dates on the [Dates and Fees](#) page

How early do we need to register for a test date? Can it be the day before?

We recommend that applicants register for their CASPer test as early as possible, but at least 3 days in advance of their desired test date.

What is the latest date most MD/DO/PA schools want casper scores in?

The final testing date for CASPer is different for every program.

Please visit the [Dates and Fees](#) page to determine the latest posted CASPer test date that is available based on the programs you are applying to

If we have the AAMC FAP program, and have paid for the test and a few programs, how do we update and add new programs without more fees?

Each time you add a new program to your CASPer distribution fee, you can select the checkbox that indicates you are and FAP approved applicant and your fees will be waived.

Do programs see if you take CASPer with an accommodation?

All accommodation related forms and documents submitted are strictly confidential, and will only be used to inform accommodation decisions for the CASPer test. Accommodation statuses will not be shared with the academic program(s) or any CASPer rater(s).

Please visit <https://takecasper.com/faq/#accommodations> for more information about how to apply for CASPer testing accommodations

How do I reserve my CASPer test?

After you have completed the registration for your CASPer account, you'll be able to reserve a test.

1. Go to the 'Reserve a test' page.
2. Click 'Add another test'.
3. Select the country for the program you've applied to.
4. Select the test type for your program (e.g. US Health Sciences, etc.).
5. Select the admission cycle for your program.
6. Select the schools under the program type that you are applying to (more can be added later), then click the check mark button to save.
7. If prompted, type the application/student ID number into both of the text fields, then click the check mark button to save.
8. Select a test date, then click the green 'I'm done selecting a test' button.
9. Review your order details, then click the 'Continue to checkout' button.
10. Type in your payment details, and click 'Submit' to confirm your payment and save your test date. [Some applicants report payment issues when trying to submit large orders (i.e. to more than 20 programs). Please add fewer than 10 programs at a time. Once processed, you will be able to go back and add more programs to your distribution list.]

If you don't know which test to select, please browse the programs on the [Dates and Fees](#) page.

Please note that all fees are non-refundable.

Do the CASPer test dates fill up? Are there limited spots for each day it is offered? If so, how far in advance should one sign up for the test?

Test time slots do fill up but the cap is set very high, and if they begin to fill up we may open additional time slots to accommodate everyone who wishes to take the test. The closer to the test date you reserve, the more flexible you may need to be about the time / date you take your test.

This is why we recommend that you register for your test as early as possible (at least **three days**) before your preferred test date and time to allow for account verification and payment processing timelines.

Last minute bookings are not recommended or guaranteed

Where do I take the CASPer test?

CASPer does not use testing centers. You take the online CASPer test on a computer at a location of your choice (i.e. your home, a library, school). Since the test requires your full concentration, we strongly recommend that you take the test in a space that is free from distractions and noise.

What is the test distribution cut off?

Do we have to take the 3 week score distribution time into account?

Test dates and distribution deadline dates are prearranged with academic programs and posted on our website.

The last test date for a program may differ from the distribution deadline date. The last testing opportunity for a given program takes into account the 3 week test score processing period. You must take your test on or before the last test date in order to add that program to your CASPer distribution list. If an applicant has taken their CASPer test on or before the last test date for a particular program, the distribution deadline is the last possible date that applicant has to add the program to their distribution list.

Scores are delivered to programs approximately 3 weeks following the completion of a test.

When we are selecting schools to submit to, the website gives us an option to just select all of them. Do you pay per school? I am not sure what schools I am applying to yet.

The fee to take the CASPer test varies by program type and country. Generally, CASPer fees consist of two components:

1. A fee to take CASPer
2. A fee to distribute your results to the selected individual programs and schools

You will find the fees for your country and program type listed at the bottom of the [Dates and Fees](#) page.

If you are unsure of all the programs that you are applying to, you can add programs to your distribution list after writing your test, as long as they are still accepting scores.

**Can you take the sample test multiple times?
Will we receive feedback on our performance on the practice test?**

Applicants may take the 12 section practice test as many times as they like!

The practice test, found in the CASPer System Requirements Check, will allow you to become more familiar with the test format and get a sense of what it will really feel like to take the CASPer test. It can be taken as many times as you'd like, but it will not be rated nor provide applicants with feedback.

During Test Questions:

If I take the test at work and my coworkers are in the background doing their own work & not talking to me, will that be sufficient for "taking the test alone"?

Yes, this should be sufficient as long as we can see that you are not interacting with anyone during your test. Although, we always encourage and recommend that CASPer applicants try taking their test in a room away from others.

You can take the CASPer test on a computer and at a location of your choice (e.g. at home, a public library, etc.) Since the test requires your full concentration, we strongly recommend that you take the test in a space that is free from distractions and noise.

For your test, you will need access to a computer, webcam, and reliable internet connection that passes the 'CASPer System Requirements Check' found on the reservations page.

Please remember that must take your test alone.

**How long do you recommend each question to be - is there a word limit?
What's the best way to use the five minutes we have to answer the three questions?
Can you answer questions with bullet points or are you required to provide answers in paragraph format?**

There is no word limit for the response section of your CASPer test. You can type as much or as little as you like within the 5 minute time limit. We recommend that you use the full 5 minutes to answer each question to the best of your ability.

CASPer raters are instructed to disregard spelling and grammar mistakes when evaluating responses, so we strongly encourage you to focus on the content of your responses and use all of the time provided to complete the questions in each answer section rather than worrying about minor spelling mistakes.

CASPer raters will accept any typed answer, whether it be in point form/bullet points or complete sentences.

How does grammar and spelling factor into grading?

CASPer raters are trained to disregard spelling and grammar errors when evaluating responses.

We strongly encourage you to focus on the content of your answers, rather than fixing minor spelling mistakes

Are any of the open-ended questions asking about our personal experiences?

Is it better to just give a concrete yes or no answer for a given scenario and continue to justify your reasoning? Or would it be better to weigh both the pros/cons of each option?

CASPer is a form of situational judgement test (SJT) that presents applicants with a series of hypothetical scenarios and asks them to type out a response to what they would do if they were in that particular situation. There are also some word-based questions that ask about your personal experiences (For some examples, please refer to the 12 section practice test that can be found in the System Requirements Check.)

There is no “right” answer to CASPer test questions, focus on what you feel is right and why. We encourage you to read the questions and word based scenarios carefully, draw upon your life experiences, and be your authentic self.

Are we allowed to take notes during the test?

You are permitted to use a blank piece of paper and a pen/pencil to take notes during your test. You are NOT allowed to have pre-written notes.

Translation and language apps/websites are not permitted as they can affect test content and experience.

Even though you are permitted to take notes during your test, please be cognizant of the 5-minute time limit given to answer each section (set of 3 questions).

We strongly encourage you to focus on the content of your answers and spend the vast majority of your time typing your responses rather than taking notes or planning your responses

What happens if you experience technical difficulties during the exam? Who do I contact if I experience a technical issue?

If you experience a technical issues during your CASPer test you can reach out to one of our live test support agents via the orange chat bubble on the bottom right hand side of your testing screen.

Many of our most common technical issues can be resolved by trying the following strategies in the order that they are listed:

1. Refresh your browser
2. Update and/or switch browsers (Chrome or Firefox are the only supported browsers)
3. Restart your computer
4. Use Incognito/Private Browser
5. Check your internet speed [HERE](#) (You need a high-speed internet connection with a bitrate of at least 1.5 Mbps)

If you are unable to contact us during the time of your test (i.e. if there is a power outage), please make sure to reach out to support@takecasper.com within 24 hours of your scheduled test date (we do not have a phone number where you can reach us).

Are you able to re-watch or pause the video scenarios?

Applicants cannot pause, rewind, or replay a video, nor return to any previous test page, so please ensure you are alert and paying attention for the duration of your test!

If you restart your browser when you are answering the questions, will your responses be lost?

No, your responses will not be lost. Typed responses are automatically saved every second if you are connected to the internet.

Does the video count for the 5 minutes per section? Is there any preparation time between the questions being asked and the 5-minute timer starting?

No, the 5 minute timer starts once you are directed to the answer section **after** you are presented with a word-based / video-based scenario.

There is no designated preparation time between viewing/reading the scenario. The 5 minute time limit encompasses the time you have to read the 3 questions following the video or word based scenario, prepare your responses, and type your responses.

Can you use headphones during the exam to hear the audio?

Yes, applicants are permitted to use headphones during the CASPer test. Since the test requires full concentration, we strongly recommend that applicants take the test in a space that is free from distractions and noise. Headphones may help concentration and/or enable applicants to hear the videos more clearly.

Can I use an ergonomic keyboard and monitor if the laptop camera is pointed at me?

Yes, you can use this type of testing setup as long as our test proctors are able to see your face and your testing setup via your laptop webcam.

Your webcam must be on, uncovered and facing towards your face for the duration of your CASPer test

Does every scenario have 3 questions?

Yes, each video / word based scenario is followed by a response section (set of 3 questions).

If you answer a question in another question of the same response section (i.e. if you accidentally answer question 3 in question 1), will your answer for both be counted as complete?

During the test, be sure to read all three questions fully, take a few seconds to reflect, then plan your response. Being aware of what all three questions are asking can help you avoid repeating yourself in your responses as you move from question to question. It can also help you avoid missing a question altogether given the time limit.

The rater for a given response section will see your answers to all three of the questions at once, so you can try to indicate that you have answered Question 3 in Question 1.

Post-Test Questions:

Will my application be delayed if I fully complete the AMCAS application before submitting my CASPer scores?

Can we submit our applications before the CASPer scores come out?

Is your application considered incomplete without the CASPer for schools that require it?

Is it okay if the CASPer score get to the schools you're applying before you officially applied yet?

Can you send in applications before your scores get sent to your schools?

The order you submit to schools your AMCAS and CASPer score doesn't matter. However, most programs won't deem your application complete until your CASPer score has been delivered. As well, in many cases you are required to submit your application for admission prior to taking CASPer because you will need to provide ID requirements (eg. student number, application number, etc.) in order to reserve your CASPer test.

Some programs will start the preliminary file review without the application being complete, but many won't (please reach out directly to your programs of interest for any specific admissions details). Having said all of this, we encourage applicants to take their CASPer test as early as possible.

Can you add or remove schools to send the score to after you take the test?

The quick answer:

Yes and no. YES, you can add programs to your distribution list after you have taken CASPer. NO, you cannot remove programs from your distribution list after you have taken CASPer. list, please read below.

Adding programs to your CASPer distribution test:

You can add programs to your distribution list even after writing your test, as long as they are still accepting scores.

To add a program, click the pencil icon on your reservations page. After selecting the program, you will need to submit a payment in order to confirm your selection.

If you do not see the pencil icon, the distribution deadline for the program may have passed. You can browse all of the program distribution deadlines on the [Dates and Fees](#) page.

Removing programs from your CASPer distribution list:

You can request for a CASPer support person to remove a program from your distribution list, as long as you have not yet taken your test.

Once you have taken a test, you cannot cancel or withdraw the distribution of your CASPer score.

All fees are non-refundable. Although we cannot offer refunds for a program that is removed from your distribution list, we can swap the program for a different one (in the same test category) at no additional cost prior to your test date.

To request for a program to be removed/swapped from your distribution list, please reach out to support@takecasper.com

Please note: Once you have taken your CASPer test you cannot cancel or withdraw the distribution of your CASPer score for any reason.

When you add a program after taking the test, does the score get sent immediately or at the time of the distribution deadline?

If you add a program to your distribution list after the 3 week processing period following the completion of your test, your CASPer score will be made available to that program within 24 hours.

How long after a test date can we expect the score to be distributed?

Your CASPer score will be distributed to the programs on your distribution list approximately 3 weeks after the completion of your test.

If the CASPer scores are distributed 3 weeks after our test date, will our schools receive our scores on that date or would there be additional processing time for school after Altus distributes our scores?

It may take extra time for some programs to update the status of your CASPer score in their system. Please allow programs ample time to update their system.

In order to ensure a smooth distribution process, it is important to verify that all of the information in your CASPer account is correct. Furthermore, please use the same email address for your CASPer account and application(s) for admission, whenever possible.

Can you retake CASPer within the same admissions cycle? How long is CASPer valid for?

CASPer scores are only valid for a single admissions cycle and for the test-type (e.g. American Professional Health Sciences, etc.) for which applicants have taken the test.

CASper applicants can only take the CASPer test of the same test-type (i.e. US Professional Health Sciences) once per admissions cycle. You will need to take a separate CASPer test for future admissions cycles or different test categories, including for programs offered in different countries or in different languages.

Therefore, a CASPer score for one type of program or admissions cycle cannot be used for other types of programs or future admissions cycles.

Tests evolve each year and your responses must be assessed against each new pool of applicants, therefore there is no lifetime limit to the number of times students can take the CASPer test.

Can we view our score?

All test scores are processed and distributed directly to academic programs as a group. Your CASPer score will be made available to the programs on your distribution list approximately 3 weeks after taking your test.

It is up to the individual programs to determine how they will incorporate the CASPer score into their application decisions, meaning every school may use the scores differently. That means that the same CASPer score may be competitive for one program but less competitive for another. The influence of the score also depends on the competitiveness of the applicant pool for each individual program.

This is why we do not provide applicants with their CASPer score nor do we provide feedback on their answers.

Additionally, applicants like yourself will not receive their CASPer score in the same way that they would not expect to get 'results' from an interview, reference letter, or personal statement. It is meant to be a way for programs to get a better sense of their applicant pool.

Finally, the CASPer score is a total numeric number that is not broken down by areas/topics covered. Therefore, sharing this information with applicants would not provide any insights into learning opportunity about where they excelled and/or where they could have improved.

It was weighing all this information, that we made the decision not to distribute scores.

It was mentioned that applicants do not get penalized for addressing CASPer constructs in their responses outside of the intended constructs, what does this mean?

CASPer raters are provided with a document containing background and theory based on the CASPer scenario that they will be rating.

This includes outlining the specific CASPer constructs that each of the three questions in the response section are probing for (eg. motivation, resilience, etc).

If the applicant has chosen to focus their response around another construct, say communication, the rater will evaluate the response appropriately and not grant a lower score because they did not address the intended constructs.

In certain scenarios we prob for certain constructs so if one scenario is say probing for motivation and resilience but the applicant has however has focused more on communication

and you (the rater) still thinks its a good response you shouldn't give the response a lower score because they did not speak about intended constructs.

Are all three questions scored for each section or is there only one score per section?

The test is composed of 12 sections (8 video-based scenarios and 4 word-based scenarios) that are presented in a randomized order. Each scenario is followed by a response section (set of 3 questions).

Each response section, made up of the answers to the 3 questions, is evaluated by a unique rater. As such, an applicant's final score is always comprised of 12 unique rater impressions.

What information does a CASPer rater see about me?

Do CASPer raters see the time that I spent responding to each answer?

CASPer raters are also not provided with any information about who you are (i.e. name, race, gender, age, etc.). All of your information is anonymized. All a CASPer rater sees is your typed response for that particular section. Raters are not provided with information regarding the amount of time you spent on each response section (set of 3 questions). They also do not know the score that other CASPer raters assigned to your other 11 response sections.

Research Questions:

Does this test provide a good measure or predictor of a medical students resiliency over the 4 years?

Resilience is one of the 10 constructs assessed in the CASPer test, and thus CASPer scores also include other competencies such as empathy, professionalism, and communication skills. As the score is a composite of different attributes, it is difficult to extract just one competency of resilience from the test. Additionally, most medical schools don't track the resiliency of their medical students so it is difficult for us to tie the CASPer scores to some sort of a resilience measure. However, we are in the process of collecting proxy information that will help better address this question.

Can this test provide the type of information that medical schools could use to evaluate an applicant who previously attended medical school, but withdrew in good standing for personal reasons, and now is reapplying to return to medical school? In other words, can this test assist in answering the question of whether or not this medical student will now successfully matriculate through the full 4 years?

[Past research](#) has demonstrated that CASPer scores can predict performance on licensure exams pertaining to the non-cognitive competencies, which have been shown to predict [success in clinical practice](#). We are currently collecting data in conjunction with medical programs to examine whether CASPer scores can predict the successful completion of medical school.

Does this test provide information to assess mental health fitness of a medical student?

No, CASPer is not a mental health assessment.

How does CASPer boost diversity other than being more affordable than say an MCAT? What types of diversity are in mind? Purely racial/ethnic, gender, SES? Any other forms of diversity boosted via CASPer?

[Recent research](#) has illustrated that the inclusion of CASPer can help reduce the reliance on traditional academic metrics such as GPA and MCAT, which have been shown to more heavily restrict diversity. We also have some data demonstrating equitable performance across rurality and are currently collecting other demographic information to examine other subgroups.

Internal bias is universal. How does this exam guarantee that internal bias will not affect the reviewers from rating a response favorably based on their own opinions?

As every person holds their own personal biases, CASPer creates a composite score based on 12 unique impressions from 12 different raters to [dilute the impact of personal bias](#). Raters are also provided with some training on being more cognizant of their biases to avoid their personal beliefs from affecting the scores that they assign.

How can an exam “designed” to measure my emotional intelligence against my peers possibly be considered fair?

CASPer is not an emotional intelligence measure, but rather a broad measure of people skills. Having a low CASPer score does not necessarily mean a lack of these skills, it is more an indication of the competitiveness of the applicant pool. As medical schools typically receive far more applicants than they can accept, they are forced to compare applicants to each other to make these decisions on whom to accept.

You mentioned a composite Z score. Is the CASPer score relative specifically to other applicants to the same institution? Or across all applicants to all schools for a given year?

Your CASPer score is scored relative to other applicants in the same test session.

How many times can you retake the CASPer assessment before it disadvantages you in medical school admissions process?

As schools only receive your most recent CASPer scores, you will not be disadvantaged on CASPer by retaking the exam.

Do you score higher if you finish faster and have good answers?

The time spent on the test is not taken into consideration when rating your responses, only the quality of the content is assessed.