
Canadian Professional Health Sciences Applicant Webinar Questions & Answers

General Test Questions:

How long does the test take?

The CASPer test takes approximately 90 minutes, which includes the introduction, about 65 minutes of questions, and an optional 15-minute break at the halfway point (after six sections).

Can you retake the test?

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

If you take the test more than once do schools see the most recent score, the best score, or all scores?

The program will only receive the score from the admissions cycle in which you took your test. Applicants are unable to take the same CASPer test type more than once per admissions cycle.

Could I use scores from one application cycle for another? Or would I have to take the test every time I apply per cycle?

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One reason why your scores are valid for only one test cycle is because exams evolve each year and your answers must be assessed against the new pool of candidates. Therefore, a CASPer score for one type of program or admissions cycle cannot be used for other types of programs or future admissions cycles.

Would an iPad work?

iPads do not support the CASPer test. Applicants must use a laptop or desktop computer with a working webcam, microphone, and high-speed internet connection.

It is indicated that the CASPer test is meant to screen for characteristics that can't be taught. But there are courses/resources that teach you how to answer the questions i.e. teach the formula to the questions.

We firmly believe that test publishers should never offer a paid test prep course, as it will further distance applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds who are already disproportionately shut off from pursuing a career in medicine. Equity is one of the ten competencies of CASPer, and also one of our core values as a company, as we want to level the playing field as much as possible to increase the diversity of incoming students from all different backgrounds. We DO NOT, and will never ask you to pay for a prep course or any prep materials for the CASPer test. Additionally, we do not offer any additional sample questions to sell to applicants. Even though many third-party companies may have the word "CASPer" in their name, they are in no way affiliated with our company, Altus Assessments, and we do not endorse them. They have all been asked directly by us to make sure that they are being transparent with applicants that they are not associated with us or the CASPer test.

If I write the exam on October 15 (fake date), but the last distribution date is November 1st, will I make it? Considering the 3 week delay for results. Thank you!

All test dates and distribution deadlines are pre-arranged with academic programs to align with their admissions processes and timelines. The distribution deadline is the last day that a program can be added to a distribution list. Programs are aware that it can take up to 3 weeks from the last available test date to receive an applicant's score.

To clarify, for example if the submission deadline for a professional school is October 20th, if I write CASPer on October 10th, would that be valid?

The individual program application submission deadlines are often different to the CASPer test dates and distribution deadlines. If you are able to reserve a test date for a given program, your score will be valid and accepted by the program. The test dates are organised in consultation with the schools ensuring all important timelines are met.

What are the 12 CASPer constructs?

The 12 CASPer constructs are - collaboration, communication, empathy, equity, ethics, motivation, problem solving, professionalism, resilience and self-awareness.

The University of Alberta website does not list the November 19th test date, but the CASPer website does. Which is accurate?

You are able to reserve a test for The University of Alberta (Undergraduate Medicine) on November 19th. We strongly recommend that you contact the programs directly for questions regarding their admissions requirements and deadlines.

Pre-Test Questions:

Is there a practice test?

We have provided applicants with a full 12-section sample test. This allows applicants to become more familiar with the test format and get a sense of what it will really feel like to take the CASPer test. This sample test can be found in the CASPer System Requirements Check on your reservation page, accessed through your TakeCASPer account, and can be taken as many times as you'd like.

What is the best way to prepare?

You are strongly encouraged to familiarize yourself with the standard CASPer test format and to complete the 'CASPer System Requirements Check' found on the reservations page in your intended test environment. This will help to reduce test day anxiety and to ensure no technical issues prevent you from having a smooth test. For a sample test, please log-in to your CASPer account and go to the 'CASPer System Requirements Check'.

For tips on how to prepare for the test, visit our 'Test Prep' page.
<<https://takecasper.com/test-prep/>>

During Test Questions:

Are we allowed to have notes or papers with us during the test?

You are permitted to use a blank piece of paper, a pencil/pen, and a hard copy dictionary during your test. You are not allowed to have pre-written notes. Translation and language apps/websites are not permitted as they can affect the content of the exam. 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.

How important is spelling in the responses?

CASPer raters are trained to disregard spelling mistakes when evaluating responses. We strongly encourage you to focus on the content of your responses and to use all of the time provided to complete the questions in each answer section. Keep in mind that raters will accept any typed answer, whether it be in point form/bullet points or complete sentences.

Can we take the test in point format?

Raters will accept any typed answer, whether it be in point form/bullet points or complete sentences. CASPer raters are also trained to disregard spelling errors when evaluating responses. The most important part is ensuring that you get your thoughts about the scenario across clearly, so we strongly encourage you to focus on the content of your answers, regardless of the format of your response.

How long should our responses to each open ended question be?

There is no minimum required length for responses. We strongly encourage you to focus on the content of your responses and to use all of the time provided to complete the questions in each answer section. This is important because we have found that test takers who have taken all five minutes versus those who have not, tend to score higher. So do yourself a favour and take all five minutes!

What happens if I don't have enough time to answer the three questions? Or if some of them are incomplete?

CASPer raters are used to seeing unfinished responses. We encourage test takers to do their best to respond to ALL three questions. If you are disappointed by your response, don't worry. Take a deep breath and try your best on the next section. There is no need to panic as it is common for time to run out while you are finishing your thoughts, this happens to almost everyone, and raters are trained to ignore spelling and grammar errors, so focus on the content of your responses rather than fixing minor typos.

How will scores be affected if you can only answer 2 of 3 questions per scenario?

We encourage test takers to do their best to respond to ALL three questions. Answering just one question out of the three may impact your final score as it's harder for raters to interpret which thought is associated with which question prompt.

Are breaks in between the scenarios?

Although, there are no breaks in between scenarios and you will be automatically directed from one scenario to the next, there is an optional 15-minute break halfway through the test (after 6 sections).

If you refresh the page during the test, do you lose what you wrote?

Responses are automatically saved every second. Refreshing the page during the CASPer test will allow you to pick up where you have left off.

Post-Test Questions:

All scores are on a scale of 1-9. Are part marks awarded?

That is correct, CASPer raters do not award part marks. For more information about how the CASPer test is scored, please click [HERE](#).

<https://takecasper.com/2019/04/how-is-your-casper-test-scored/>

Research Questions:

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.