

The Admission Assessment Exam for prospective DPD students

Exam Content

The Admission Assessment Exam for prospective DPD students tests the following basic verbal, quantitative and science skills:

1. Mathematics

Students have 50 minutes to complete this 50-item exam. It focuses on math skills needed for healthcare fields, including basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, fractions, decimals, ratio and proportion, household measures, and useful, general math facts such as the skill needed to calculate nutrient needs.

The student entering the DPD will need to demonstrate ability in - whole numbers, fractions, decimals, proportions, percents, metrics (length, area, and volume), signed numbers, algebra properties, equations, polynomials and graphing points.

2. Reading Comprehension

Students have 60 minutes to complete this 47-item exam. It consists of reading scenarios that are health related and measure reading comprehension. For example, it includes identifying the main idea, finding meaning of words in context, passage comprehension, making logical inferences, etc. Students entering the DPD will need to read at the 12th grade level and be able to identify main ideas and supporting information.

In addition, students must be able to distinguish fact from opinion, fiction from nonfiction; identify bias, point of view and authors' intent, identify relevant background information, and analyze and evaluate the credibility of evidence and source, logic of reasoning, and how the type of communication shapes or limits information.

They must also be prepared to read and apply technical information from varied English language documents or electronic media by demonstrating ability to: build or assemble from a plan, operate, maintain or repair from a technical manual, analyze a situation based on technical information, create a design based on technical reading, interpret specialized vocabulary, identify and select relevant information for completing the application, interpret information found in charts, graphs, tables, and other visual and graphic representations of data and apply step-by-step procedures.

3. Vocabulary and General Knowledge

Students are have 50 minutes to complete this 50-item exam which contains basic vocabulary that is often used in healthcare fields.

4. Writing

Students entering the DPD must have a solid foundation in syntax, idea development and organization. Students will demonstrate the ability to write using grammar, language mechanics, and other conventions of standard written English for a variety of academic purposes and situations by writing original compositions that describe, narrate or explain observation of human events or situations.

Students must also be able to analyze patterns and relationship of ideas, topics or themes; construct support for a position argument, plan or idea and evaluate an idea, topic or theme based on expressed criteria. They should also be prepared to create or produce writing to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes as well as plan, revise, edit and publish clear and effective writing.

5. Grammar

Students have 50 minutes to complete this 50-item exam which contains basic grammar. It includes parts of speech, important terms and their uses in grammar, and commonly occurring grammatical errors.

6. Science

Students entering the DPD must have high school biology and high school chemistry. High school chemistry is essential for success in Anatomy and Physiology and is recommended for microbiology.

Chemistry

Students are allowed 25 minutes to complete this 25-item exam which contains test items that cover matter, chemical equations and reactions, the periodic table, atomic structure, nuclear chemistry, and chemical bonding. Concepts the student must understand include: atoms, molecules, ions, isotopes and compounds; chemical symbols for basic elements found in the human body; what an acid or base is, how pH is measured, and what a chemical equation represents.

Content also includes the difference between organic and inorganic molecules; basic biochemical found in the body; difference between ionic and covalent bonds and hydrogen bonds; and atomic theory. Relationships between the structure and properties of matter including organic and inorganic bond, periodicity and solutions chemistry; chemical reactions; interactions of energy and matter; metric system; major scientific advances; process of scientific inquiry; how to conduct an experiment, test a hypothesis, and use scientific evidence to defend or refute an idea are concepts that are also covered.

Anatomy and Physiology

Students have 25 minutes to complete this 25-item exam. It provides coverage of general terminology and anatomical structures and systems.

Biology

Students are allowed 25 minutes to complete this 25-item exam. It covers biology basics, water, biological molecules, metabolism, cells, cellular respiration, and photosynthesis. Content includes cells, tissues, organs and systems; structures of a cell and cell membrane, transport mechanisms, function of DNA and RNA in the cell and how proteins are synthesized and physiological terms such as excretion, absorption, elimination and secretion.

Other content covered includes general functions of each body system; terms used in genetics such as dominance, recessiveness, genes and how to use a Punnett square to solve basic monohybrid crosses. cell theory, biological change over time, interdependence of organisms, material cycles and energy flow in living systems, behavior of organisms, scientific advances through the investigation and analysis of cells, organisms and ecosystems are other important concepts. Content also includes process of scientific inquiry; how to conduct an experiment and test a hypothesis and use scientific evidence to defend or refute an idea.

7. Learning Style and Personality Profile

The Learning Style section is a 14-item assessment of preferred learning style to be completed in 15 minutes.

The Personality Profile is a 15-item assessment of personality related to preferred learning style to be completed in 15 minutes.

Students receive a printout with study tips based on their learning style and personality profile.