



The Complete Guide to Medical School Virtual Assessments



Mastering Casper, Duet, Snapshot, Kira Talent, PREview & More

www.acceptmed.com | [@accept_med](https://twitter.com/accept_med)

A comprehensive resource for pre-med applicants navigating virtual screening tools. Learn strategies, competencies, and best practices to present your best self in every assessment.

Introduction to Virtual Assessments

Medical school admissions have long relied on academic metrics. Virtual assessments now complement these traditional tools to provide a more complete picture of each applicant's potential as a future physician.

Traditional Admissions Components

GPA and academic record
MCAT scores
Personal statements
Letters of recommendation
In-person interviews
These measure academic readiness and foundational knowledge.

Role of Virtual Assessments

Virtual assessments bridge the gap between academic performance and real-world clinical readiness. They help schools identify applicants who demonstrate the human qualities essential to patient care and medical practice.

What Virtual Assessments Evaluate

Professionalism and integrity
Ethical judgment and reasoning
Empathy and compassion
Communication skills
Decision-making under pressure
Interpersonal and teamwork skills

What They Do NOT Test

Virtual assessments do NOT test scientific or medical knowledge. There are no right or wrong answers based on facts — they evaluate your reasoning process, values, and how you approach complex human situations.



Why Schools Use Virtual Assessments

Academic success alone does not guarantee the qualities needed to be a great physician. GPA and MCAT scores measure scientific knowledge — but medicine requires far more. Virtual assessments are designed to evaluate the human skills that define exceptional healthcare professionals.

Goals: Evaluate ethical reasoning, assess professional judgment, measure communication skills, understand interpersonal awareness, and gauge self-awareness.



Compassion & Empathy



Ethical Judgment



Teamwork & Communication

Understanding Situational Judgment Tests (SJTs)

SJTs present real-world scenarios designed to assess your reasoning process — not a single perfect answer. They evaluate how you think through complex situations involving competing priorities, ethical considerations, and interpersonal dynamics. The goal is to understand your judgment, empathy, and professionalism under pressure.

»» Ethical dilemmas & professional disagreements

»» Team conflicts & leadership challenges

»» Communication issues & decision-making



Overview of Common Platforms

Medical schools use a variety of virtual assessment platforms to evaluate applicants beyond GPA and MCAT scores. Each tool measures distinct competencies — from ethical reasoning and empathy to program fit and verbal communication.

Casper: Situational judgment test evaluating ethics, empathy, and professionalism through written and video scenarios.

Duet: Program-fit assessment paired with Casper — evaluates alignment between applicant preferences and school characteristics.

Snapshot: Short video-response tool assessing verbal communication and professional presence.

PREview: Professional readiness exam evaluating competencies such as service orientation, teamwork, and ethical responsibility.

Kira Talent: Recorded and live virtual interview platform covering behavioral and ethical questions.



Casper

**Kira Talent
& PREview**

**Snapshot
& Duet**

Casper Assessment

Casper is a situational judgment test used by medical schools to evaluate non-academic qualities. You will respond to a series of written and video-based scenarios under strict time limits — typically 5 minutes per section. Each scenario presents a real-world situation requiring you to demonstrate your values, reasoning, and interpersonal skills. There are no trick questions, and no single "correct" answer exists.

Casper does NOT test scientific knowledge. It is designed to assess how you think, communicate, and respond to challenging human situations — qualities essential for a future physician.



Ethics & Empathy



Communication



Professionalism

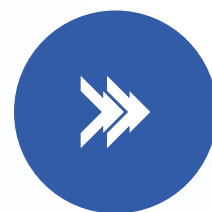


Casper Scoring & Strategy

Casper uses a quartile scoring system ranging from First (lowest) to Fourth (highest) quartile. Your responses are evaluated by trained raters who assess your reasoning, empathy, and professionalism — not whether you found a single "correct" answer.

Scores are distributed to schools as a percentile ranking, helping admissions committees compare applicants on non-academic competencies alongside GPA and MCAT.

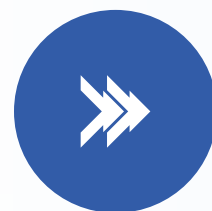
Key strategies for success: consider all stakeholders affected by the scenario, gather information before acting, avoid assumptions, demonstrate genuine empathy, and explain your reasoning clearly and concisely within the time limit.



Consider all stakeholders



Gather information



Avoid assumptions



Demonstrate empathy

Duet Assessment

The Duet assessment is paired with Casper and focuses on program fit rather than judgment. It evaluates the alignment between your preferences and a school's characteristics — helping programs identify applicants who are genuinely compatible with their environment and values.

Tip: Answer honestly — there are no "correct" answers.



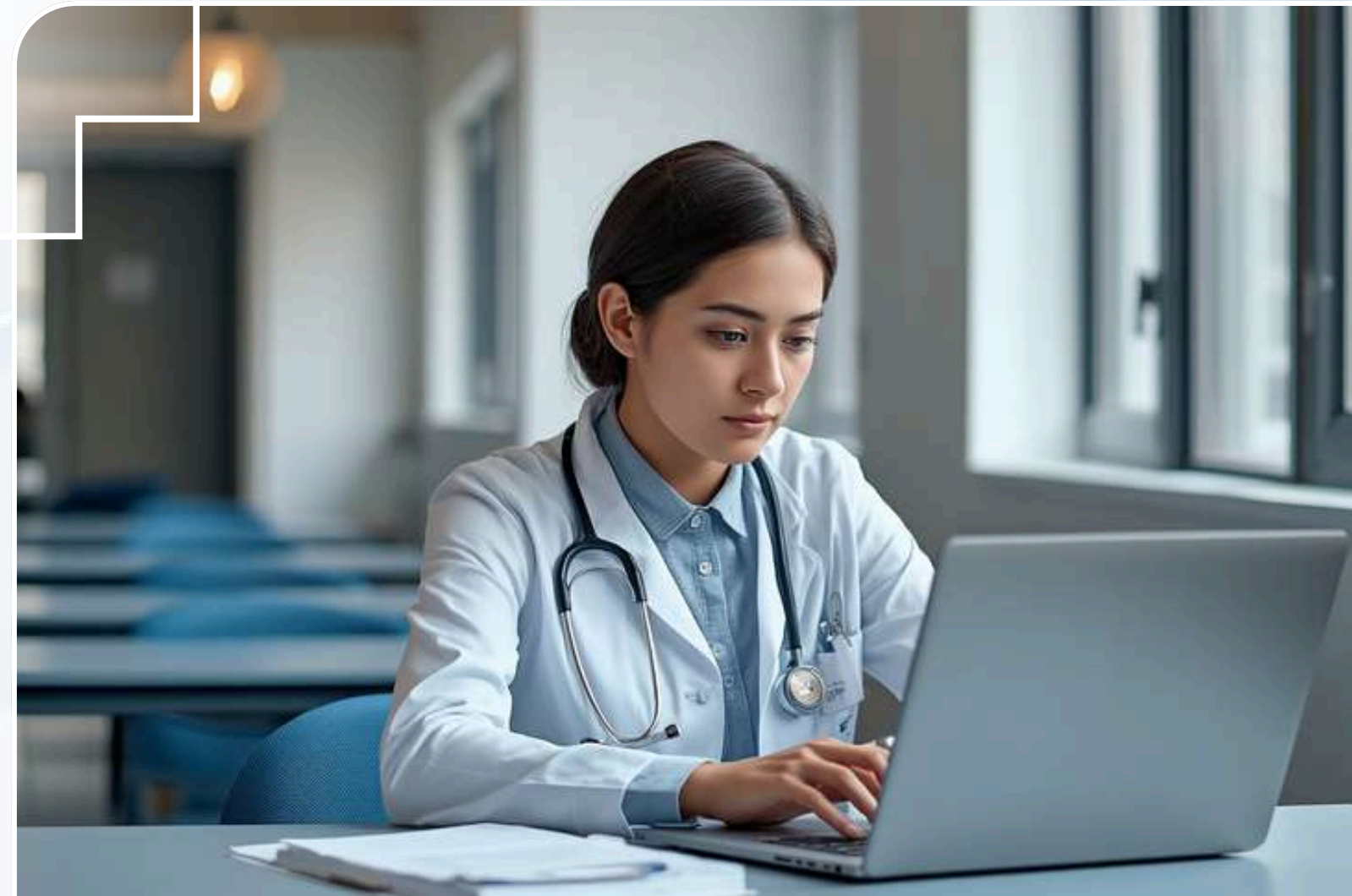
Does NOT assess judgment or ethics



Evaluates fit: curriculum, research, community



Reflects learning environment & geography preferences



Snapshot Assessment

Snapshot is a short video-response assessment that complements Casper. It evaluates your verbal communication, professional presence, clarity, and interpersonal skills. Check individual school requirements, as Snapshot may be optional.

Tip: Avoid memorized answers — authenticity matters most.

Practice clear speaking, maintain eye contact with the camera, and organize your responses quickly before answering each prompt.



Verbal Communication



Professional Presence

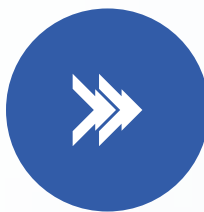


Clarity & Interpersonal Skills



PREview Professional Readiness Exam

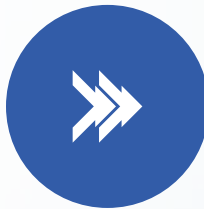
PREview evaluates the professional competencies essential for medical students and future physicians. Candidates respond to realistic scenarios with rated response options, reflecting how they would handle real-world professional situations.



**Service orientation
& ethical
responsibility**



**Teamwork &
collaboration**

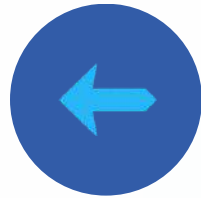


**Reliability &
resilience**



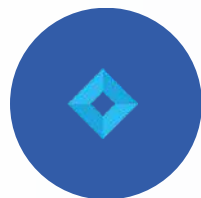
**Cultural
awareness &
communication**

Strategy: Focus on patient-centered thinking, respectful communication, ethical behavior, and professionalism in every response. There are no trick questions — prioritize the most responsible and empathetic course of action.



Video Responses

Respond to prompts on camera with limited preparation time. Common questions include: Tell me about yourself, Why medicine?, Why our school?, and ethical or behavioral scenarios. Focus on clear structure, eye contact, and a professional tone.



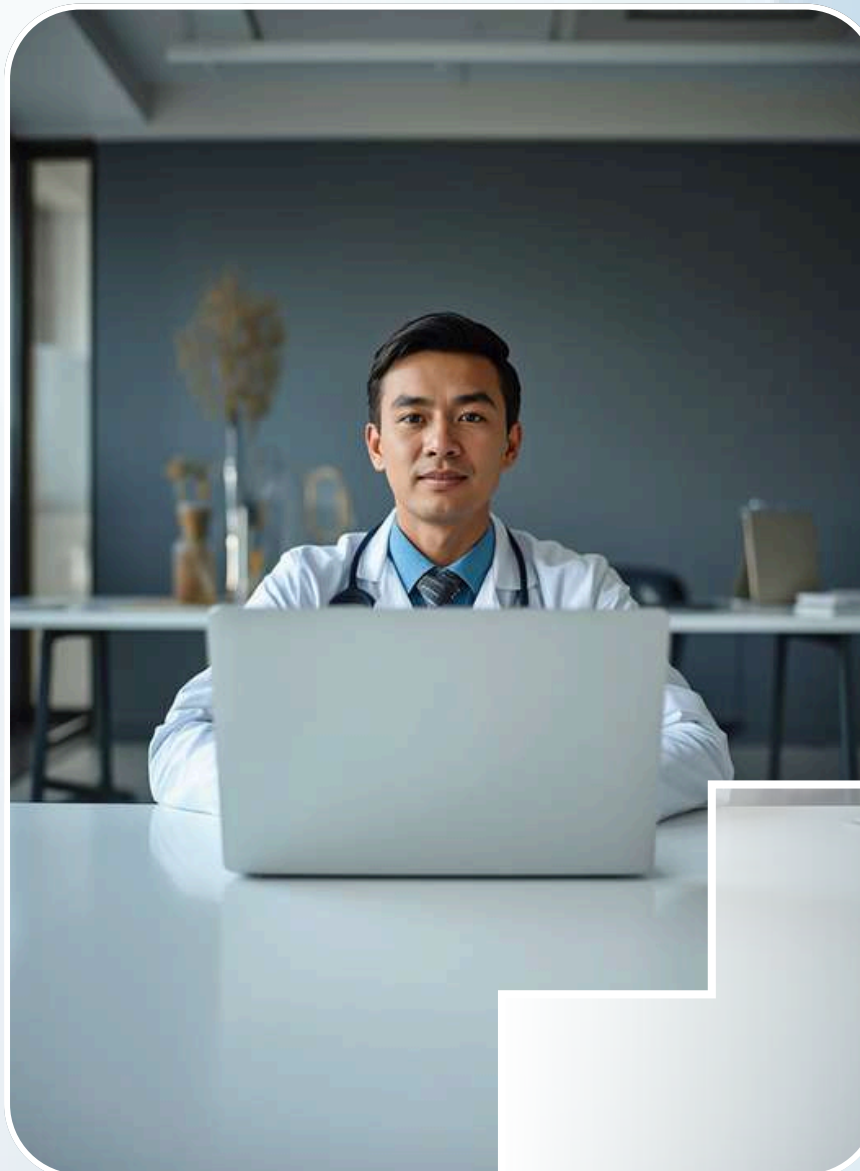
Written Responses

Type responses to scenario-based or reflective prompts within a strict time limit. Emphasize clarity, organized reasoning, and professional language. Avoid overly rehearsed answers — authenticity matters most to evaluators.



Live Interviews

Some schools use Kira Talent for real-time virtual interviews with admissions staff. Treat these like in-person interviews: dress professionally, minimize distractions, maintain eye contact with the camera, and engage thoughtfully with each question asked.



Kira Talent

Kira Talent is a virtual interview platform used by medical schools to evaluate applicants through recorded video responses, written responses, and live virtual interviews. It assesses communication, professionalism, and authenticity under timed conditions.

Other School-Specific Virtual Assessments

Many medical schools use proprietary or customized virtual assessment tools in addition to standardized platforms. Always check individual school websites for specific requirements and formats.

» Written reflections & personal essays

» Video essays & recorded interviews

» Behavioral & situational assessments



Core Competencies

Virtual assessments evaluate six core qualities that define an exceptional future physician. These competencies go beyond academic knowledge to reflect who you are as a professional and a person.

Communication

Clear expression of ideas and information. Assessed through verbal and written responses, demonstrating organized, respectful, and professional communication with patients, peers, and supervisors.

Empathy

Understanding and acknowledging others' perspectives and concerns. Empathy does not mean agreement — it means recognizing the human experience and responding with compassion and care.

Integrity

Honesty, accountability, and ethical professionalism in all situations. Includes ethical decision-making and navigating challenges with cultural competence and respect for diverse populations.

Teamwork

Effective collaboration and contribution within group settings. Demonstrates the ability to support colleagues, share responsibilities, and work toward shared goals in healthcare environments.



Ethical Decision-Making

A stepwise approach to navigating ethical dilemmas in virtual assessments. Ethical scenarios test your reasoning process — not whether you find a perfect answer. Use this framework to structure thoughtful, professional responses that demonstrate empathy and sound judgment.

Remember: Assessors evaluate HOW you think through challenges, not just what conclusion you reach. Stay calm, be methodical, and show genuine concern for all parties involved.



Step 1: Gather Info — avoid rushing to conclusions



Step 2: Consider Stakeholders — who is affected?



Step 3: Empathy & Professionalism — seek guidance



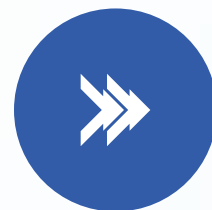
Communication Skills Evaluation

Areas Assessed:

- Clarity – expressing ideas in a straightforward, understandable manner
- Organization – structuring responses logically and coherently
- Professional tone – maintaining respectful, appropriate language
- Respectfulness – acknowledging others' perspectives with care
- Listening and understanding – demonstrating active comprehension

Effective Answer Structure:

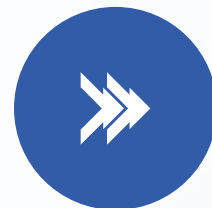
- Acknowledge the situation
- Gather relevant information
- Explain your reasoning clearly
- Describe your proposed response



**Clarity &
Organization**



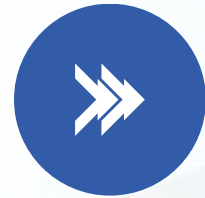
**Professional
Tone**



**Active
Listening**



**Structured
Response**



Respect & Integrity

Treat all individuals with dignity regardless of circumstance. Uphold honesty and ethical standards in every interaction — assessors look for consistency between your stated values and your actions.



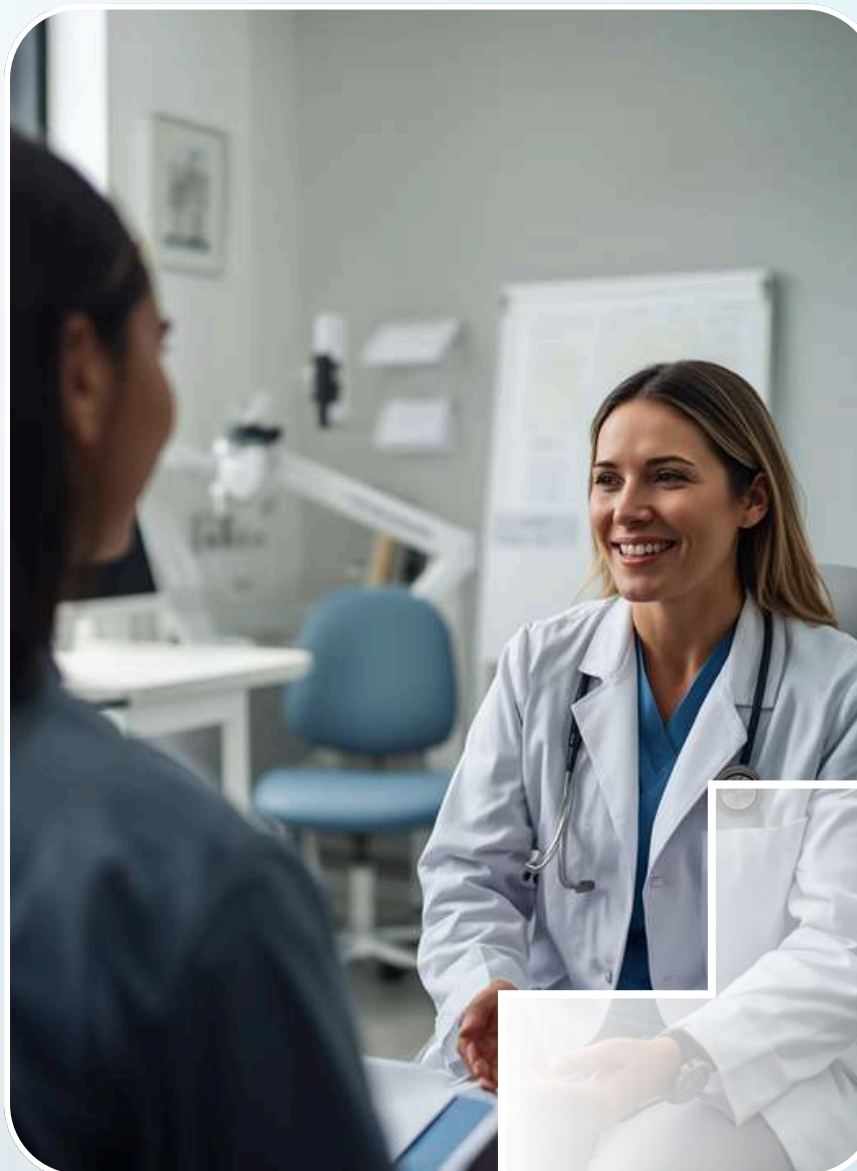
Accountability

Take ownership of your decisions and their outcomes. Acknowledge mistakes constructively and demonstrate a commitment to improvement and responsible professional conduct.



Compassion & Self-Awareness

Less effective: "I would tell them they are wrong."
More effective: "I would seek to understand their concerns before discussing solutions." — Empathy in action reflects both compassion and self-aware, patient-centered communication.



Professionalism & Empathy

In virtual assessments, empathy does not mean agreement — it means genuinely understanding another's perspective. Demonstrating empathy alongside professionalism signals your readiness to navigate complex patient and team dynamics as a future physician.

Time Management During Assessments

Effective time management is essential during virtual assessments. These timed evaluations reward candidates who can think clearly under pressure, structure their responses efficiently, and demonstrate quality reasoning — not just quantity of words.

- »» Read carefully – avoid rushing to answer
- »» Create a quick mental framework first
- »» Stay concise – length does not equal quality



Preparation Strategies

Effective preparation is key to performing well on virtual assessments. Unlike traditional exams, these tools evaluate your reasoning process, communication style, and professional judgment — qualities that improve with deliberate and consistent practice over several weeks.

Practice typing speed for written responses, review core professional competencies, and simulate real test conditions to reduce anxiety and build confidence before your assessment day.



Practice Ethical Scenarios



Mock Assessments & Verbal Responses

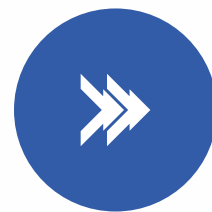


Review Core Competencies



Common Mistakes

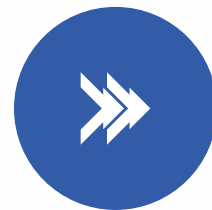
Avoiding these pitfalls can significantly improve your performance on virtual assessments. Many applicants undermine their scores not from lack of knowledge, but from avoidable errors in approach and mindset. Being aware of these common mistakes is the first step toward a stronger, more authentic performance.



Searching for the perfect answer



Making assumptions



Ignoring stakeholders



Over-rehearsing & losing authenticity

Remember: Virtual assessments evaluate your reasoning process and professional judgment — not whether you found the "perfect" answer. Authenticity and thoughtful reflection matter most.

Practice Scenario 1

Scenario: You observe a classmate presenting a group project and taking full credit for research and ideas that were primarily developed by another team member. The contributing student appears uncomfortable but says nothing.

»» What additional information would you seek?

»» How would you address this situation?

»» Who might be affected by this behavior?



Practice Scenario 2

Scenario: A member of your study group is consistently late to team meetings. The group is preparing for an important presentation, and their tardiness is affecting team morale and progress. Consider how you would handle this situation thoughtfully and professionally.



How would you approach a conversation with the team member?



What factors might explain their behavior?



How do you balance accountability with empathy?



Practice Scenario 3: Patient Frustration

Scenario: A patient is frustrated about a healthcare recommendation they have received and disagrees with the suggested treatment plan. They are visibly upset and feel their concerns are not being heard. How would you handle this situation as a future physician?



How would you respond to the patient's frustration?



How would you maintain trust and the therapeutic relationship?



What communication strategies would you use?



Frequently Asked Questions

Are virtual assessments more important than GPA or MCAT?

No — they complement traditional metrics. Schools use a holistic review process where virtual assessments add context but do not replace academic performance.

Can I study for Casper or PREview?

You cannot memorize answers, but you can improve your reasoning, ethical thinking, and familiarity with scenario formats through consistent practice.

What if I receive a lower Casper quartile score?

A lower score is not an automatic disqualifier. Most schools conduct holistic reviews, weighing all components of your application together.



**Virtual Assessments vs.
GPA/MCAT**



Studying for Casper & PREview



Lower Quartile Score Impact

Frequently Asked Questions (Part 2)

Addressing more common concerns applicants have about virtual assessments. These answers will help you prepare with clarity and confidence.

»» Should I use medical terminology?

»» How much preparation is necessary?

»» What is the best way to stay authentic?



Final Thoughts

Virtual assessments provide insight beyond grades and test scores. They are designed to evaluate your potential as a future physician — not your scientific knowledge. Approach every assessment thoughtfully, stay authentic, and let your core healthcare values shine through.



Ethical Judgment

Demonstrate sound ethical reasoning in every scenario. Consider all stakeholders, avoid assumptions, and show that you can navigate complex moral dilemmas with integrity and care.

Communication Skills

Express ideas clearly, organize your responses logically, and maintain a professional tone. Assessors evaluate how you communicate, not just what you say. Clarity and respect are essential.

Professionalism & Empathy

Show genuine respect, accountability, and compassion. Empathy does not mean agreement — it means understanding others' perspectives before responding. Authenticity matters more than a rehearsed answer.

Thoughtful Decision-Making

Take time to gather information before acting. Consider who is affected, acknowledge concerns, and follow ethical principles. Seeking guidance when needed reflects maturity and self-awareness.

**Focus on
Reasoning**

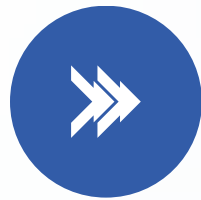
**Stay
Authentic**

**Practice
Realistically**

Key Takeaways

1. Understand the purpose of each assessment tool
2. Focus on your reasoning process, not finding a perfect answer
3. Demonstrate professionalism and empathy in every response
4. Practice under realistic, timed conditions to build confidence
5. Stay authentic to your values throughout the process

Virtual assessments are designed to evaluate your potential as a future physician — approach each one thoughtfully and let your genuine character shine through.



Official Assessment Platforms

Casper & Duet: acuityinsights.app | PREview: aamc.org/preview | Kira Talent: kiratalent.com | Snapshot: acuityinsights.app/snapshot



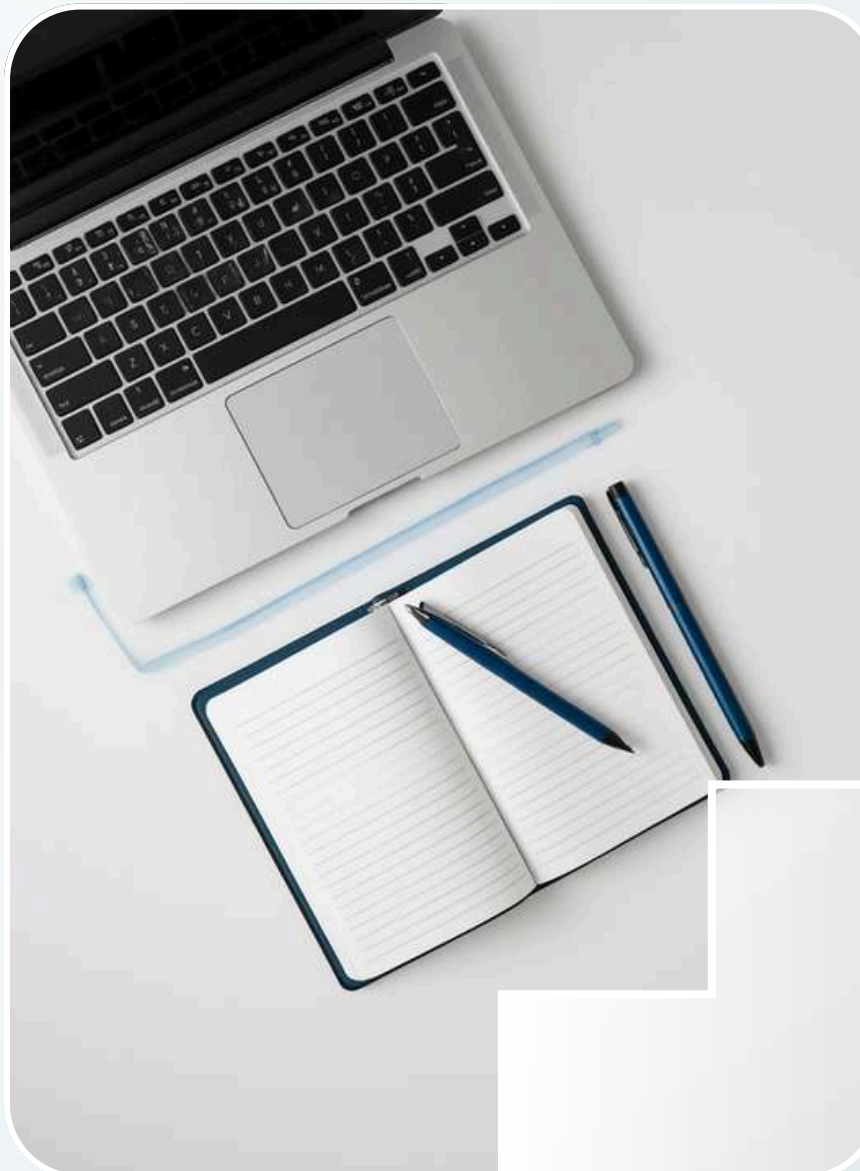
Practice & Preparation Tools

BeMo Academic Consulting: bemoacademicconsulting.com | PrepMed: prepmed.org | AAMC Practice Materials: aamc.org | Khan Academy MCAT: khanacademy.org/mcat



School-Specific Requirements

Always check individual medical school websites for current virtual assessment requirements. Requirements vary by program and may change annually. AAMC's Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR) is a reliable starting point: aamc.org/msar



Appendix / Resources

Use the following resources to deepen your preparation. Always verify requirements directly with each medical school, as platforms and policies may change each admissions cycle.

Visual Summary

Virtual Assessment Ecosystem

- Casper — Situational judgment & ethics
- Duet — Program-fit alignment
- Snapshot — Video communication skills
- PREview — Professional competency evaluation
- Kira Talent — Recorded & live virtual interviews
- School-Specific Tools — Written, video & behavioral

Core Competencies Assessed

- Communication — Clarity and professional tone
- Empathy — Understanding others' perspectives
- Integrity — Honesty and ethical conduct
- Teamwork — Effective collaboration
- Ethical Decision-Making — Responsible reasoning
- Cultural Competence — Inclusive, respectful care





**"The good physician treats the disease; the great physician treats the patient who has the disease."
— William Osler**

Approach every assessment with empathy, professionalism, and authenticity. Your journey into medicine begins with how you think, not just what you know.

