



## How Altius Compares to Other MCAT Courses

	Altius	Other Courses
<b>Apples &amp; Oranges:</b> Altius isn't a classroom course like Kaplan or Princeton Review. Remember that MCAT classes are only <i>one</i> of the many aspects of the Complete Dual-Focus Altius MCAT Program.	<b>Content of the Altius MCAT Course:</b> 1) A complete 32-session classroom course, 2) All necessary study materials and practice exams, 3) 20 private one-on-one tutoring sessions, 4) Free admissions assistance, 5) Free personal essay editing and feedback.	<b>Content of Other MCAT Courses:</b> 1) A complete classroom course with as few as 18 sessions, 2) All necessary study materials and practice exams. (No tutoring or admissions assistance included.)
<b>Private Tutoring</b>	Twenty (20) private tutoring sessions included with any classroom course at no additional charge.	NO tutoring included. Kaplan sells tutoring for an additional \$155/hour Princeton Review sells tutoring for as much as \$350/hour.
<b>Tutor/Proctor Qualifications</b>	In most cases, we require our tutors to have scored in the 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile or above on ALL three sections of the exam. Last year the average score among all tutors was a 38 (99 <sup>th</sup> percentile). All Altius tutors must have previous paid tutoring or teaching experience.	Generally, teachers are required only to score in the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile or above on any one section. They are then qualified to teach that section even though their composite score may be below average.
<b>Teaching Methods</b>	Altius instruction and program design is based on proven scientific principles of memory and learning from peer-reviewed journals. These include concepts such as spaced repetition, chunking, semantic memory, visual cues and the expensive memory principle.	The primary focus of all major prep courses is the lecture. Research indicates that lectures are one of the least effective of all possible teaching methods.
<b>Review and Repetition</b>	Spaced Repetition is one of the most widely accepted principles of long-term memory storage. Utilizing this principle, we have designed our course such that every key principle is reviewed on a minimum of 10 separate occasions! The syllabus rotates between subjects, returning multiple times to the same subject for review and mastery.	In other MCAT courses subjects are assigned to a single class (i.e., fluids is covered during the Physics 2 lecture). Once covered, the course moves on to other subjects and never returns.
<b>Accuracy of Study Questions</b>	On several occasions students have reported to us that questions on their actual MCAT exam seemed to come directly out of the Altius course materials. We have successfully predicted several trends, questions and topics.	A quick comparison of the "Subject List" produced by the AAMC and the books used by other prep courses reveals that many topics are covered which the AAMC has clearly said will not be tested on the MCAT.
<b>Focused Content</b>	At Altius we simply review far less content than is covered by the other major courses. We have removed many subjects that have not been on the MCAT for some time and focus more heavily on frequently-tested subjects. Given the large number of 99 <sup>th</sup> percentile scores earned by our students, it is clear that what was removed was not necessary.	The books produced by the major prep companies certainly win the award for breadth. Most of them are over a 1,000 pages. However, the MCAT does NOT test every science subject. It appears that these books are designed more as a truncated compilation of undergrad textbooks than as an MCAT-specific review.

	<b>Altius</b>	<b>Other Courses</b>
<b>Utilization of AAMC Materials</b>	AAMC materials ARE the MCAT. We thus believe that the focus should be primarily on AAMC content with only a secondary focus on our own materials. Students attempt real AAMC materials from day one in our course, are exposed to them on a weekly basis, and apply each topic they learn in the context of former AAMC questions asked on that subject.	Many students take the Altius course AFTER taking another course. We often discover that these students have completed an entire prep course and NEVER attempted a real AAMC practice exam. Access to the AAMC materials IS provided by these other courses, but obviously the focus is on their own exams in lieu of the AAMC materials.
<b>Tracking of Student Progress</b>	Altius coursework is divided into specified activities and measurable weekly objectives. Every week each student fills out a Student Accountability Tracking Sheet and reports their progress to their tutor on several major indicators. Each tutor must then report these indicators to Altius management on a bi-weekly basis for each of their students.	As far as we are aware, no other prep company implements any kind of targeted student-by-student tracking system. The sessions are often taught by alternating instructors, defraying even casual accountability and follow-up. Students often stop attending class and no one ever knows the difference.
<b>Expectations and Culture</b>	At Altius we simply expect higher scores. The proven performance of past students and a focus on high scores sets the stage for higher performance. We talk seriously about what is required to earn a 40 and believe that any student is capable of doing so with adequate discipline.	We once heard a teacher from another prep course tell one of his students that a 30 was a "great score." This attitude is fairly prevalent and aiming for a lower target has a measurable impact on student motivation and eventual test performance.
<b>Student Performance Statistics</b>	Over the last six years, Altius students have averaged a composite score of 32 or above. Consistently, 30 percent of our students score in the 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile or above. Altius students earn a 40 or above at a rate of 10 to 20 times the national average.	No other major prep company publishes full student performance statistics. Princeton Review at one time advertised a carefully-worded statistic that the "upper quartile of our students average a 30," but appears to have since discontinued use of this claim.
<b>Admissions Assistance</b>	Altius students receive free review and editing of their completed AMCAS application and unlimited edits, feedback and assistance with personal statements.	Other major prep companies offer similar admission assistance, but charge up to \$2,579.
<b>Guarantee</b>	Our three-pronged guarantee is the BEST in the industry. 1) We will match any competitor's guarantee policy. 2) Free Two-Week Trial Period. Try our course for two full weeks. If it isn't everything you were hoping for you can receive a full refund, no questions asked. 3) If you complete our entire MCAT course and are dissatisfied for any reason whatsoever we will PAY for you to take a comparable course from any of our competitors.	Most courses allow you to retake the classroom sessions for free, or receive a refund, if you are dissatisfied. To qualify, they usually require that you meet strict participation requirements and do NOT see a score improvement from a baseline exam. It seems almost implausible that someone would not see a single point of improvement from before the course until afterward—meaning most students won't even qualify for their so-called guarantee.
<b>Cost Comparison</b>	<b>Only \$1,849</b> Complete 32-Session Classroom Course, 20 Private 1-on-1 Tutoring Sessions, Admissions Assistance Package, and Personal Essay Editing ALL INCLUDED.	<b>\$6,000+</b> Classroom Course with only 18 sessions and no tutoring (\$2,099); Classroom Course plus 20 Private Tutoring Sessions (\$3,549); Admissions Package (\$2,579).



# Student Score Statistics

## General Parameters

### All Students Nationwide

Mean	25
Mode	26
Median	25
St. Dev.	6.4

### Altius Students

Mean	32
Mode	31
Median	31
St. Dev.	3.3

## Pie Charts

### All Students Nationwide



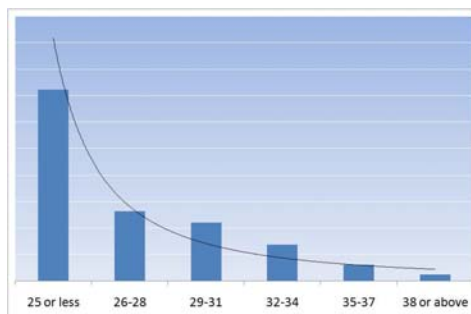
### Altius Students



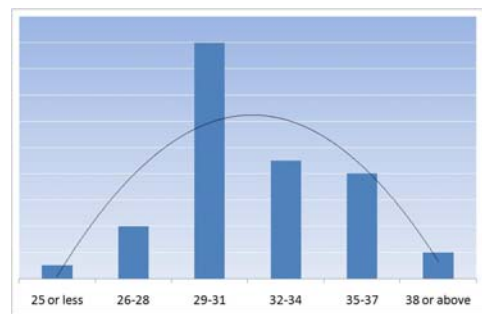
■ ≤ 25  
 ■ 26-28  
 ■ 29-31  
 ■ 32-34  
 ■ 35-37  
 ■ ≥ 38

## Histograms

### All Students Nationwide



### Altius Students



## Methodology

Data for "All Students Nationwide" was collected from the 2010 "MCAT Exam Statistics" page found on the AAMC's website:  
[https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/admissionsadvisors/mcat\\_stats](https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/admissionsadvisors/mcat_stats)

Data for "Altius Students" was collected during an August 2011 telephone survey of all Altius students who completed any Altius MCAT program during the 2010-2011 cycle. A computer software program randomly selected students to be called for the survey.