

ALTUS SUITE ASSESSMENTS

Guide to the Casper, Snapshot, and Duet assessments.

UNIVERSITY of
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WHAT IS THE ALTUS SUITE?

The [Altus Suite](#) is a standardized, three-part online assessment of non-cognitive skills, interpersonal characteristics, and personal values. Many healthcare professional programs (e.g., medical school, physician assistant programs, etc.) are now requiring applicants to complete all or some of the Altus Suite as part of the application process. Programs are looking to make sure that students are not only academically capable but also possess suitable personal and professional qualities that make them more likely to succeed in the profession.

Altus Suite currently consists of three assessments:

CASPER

The Casper test comprises 12 sections of video (8-sections) and written (4-sections) scenarios. Following each scenario, you will be required to answer a set of 3 questions within 5-minutes. The test typically takes between 60-90 minutes to complete. Each response is scored by a different rater.

No studying is required for Casper, although you may want to familiarize yourself with the test structure and ensure you have a quiet environment to take the test. We strongly urge you to take advantage of the 12-section practice test, which will not only immerse you in the test environment but will also ensure you meet the technical requirements to access and complete the test.

Importantly, your Casper score is not provided to you. Instead, you will be notified of which quartile you fall into relative to other applicants (e.g., if you are in the 4th quartile, then you scored higher than 75% of other applicants). The programs that you have indicated to receive your Casper results will receive both your score and your percentile rank.

Casper test results are only valid for one admissions cycle. Applicants who have already taken the test in previous years must re-take it for the current admissions cycle. For a more detailed look at the Casper test, [click here](#).

SNAPSHOT

Snapshot is a one-way video interview tool that takes 10-15 minutes to complete. It is used to help programs get to know their applicants better by assessing verbal and non-verbal communication skills, as well as motivation for the profession.

Snapshot includes 2 mandatory practice questions to allow applicants to get familiar with the format and to test their audio and video capabilities. After you complete the practice portion, you will move on to record responses to 3 standardized interview-style questions. You will have 2 minutes to record each response. You will have time to read and consider each question during a 30-second reflection period before they begin recording. All recorded responses will be submitted to the program for review.

DUET

Duet is a 15-minute value-alignment assessment that compares what you value in a program with what the program has to offer.

You will be shown a pair of characteristics within a given category and prompted to quickly select the one that is more important to you. After completing the comparisons within all categories, you'll be asked to compare each of the categories in pairs. As you did for the characteristics, choose the category that is most important to you.

WILL I BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE ALTUS SUITE?

Likely, yes. Many of the Texas medical and allied-health programs (PA, PT, OT, etc.) have added completion of one or more of the Altus Suite assessments to their application requirements. Casper remains the most common requirement—though some programs now also require Snapshot, Duet, or both.

Below are the Texas programs that now require one or more of the Altus Suite assessments:

Medical:

- Baylor College of Medicine
- Long School of Medicine, UT Health San Antonio
- Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Texas A&M University College of Medicine
- Texas Tech University HSC School of Medicine
- Texas Tech University HSC, Paul L. Foster School of Medicine
- The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
- UT Southwestern Medical School
- McGovern Medical School

Physician Assistant:

- UT Health – San Antonio
- The University of North Texas – Health Science Center
- The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

Veterinary:

- Texas Tech University School of Veterinary Medicine

It is your responsibility to verify the specific requirements for the programs you wish to apply.

WHEN SHOULD I PLAN TO COMPLETE THE ALTUS SUITE?

Many programs will require applicants complete the assessments prior to being invited for interviews; therefore, our office recommends that you plan to register and complete the Altus Suite after submission of your primary applications (TMDSAS, AMCAS, CASPA, etc.)—usually June through August.

If required that you complete all parts of the Altus Suite, it is recommended you do so within 10-days. The assessments can be completed at home on your personal computer (webcam required).

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR THE ALTUS SUITE?

By design, the Altus Suite assessments are not meant to be studied or prepared for as you would the MCAT or GRE. That said, there are practice questions to help familiarize you with each test that are available at www.TakeAltus.com.

It is not recommended that you pay for outside test-preparation services or coaching that claim to offer guaranteed techniques for obtaining a high score. As scores are not released to applicants, it is difficult to verify such claims. Additionally, prep-materials and practice questions found outside of the Altus site are speculative and may not mirror actual assessment items.