



CASPer & PREview Crash Course

A concise, repeatable system for showing sound judgment under pressure.

Earth Hasassri, MD

2026 testing year / 2026-2027 admissions cycle

Start with your school list, not the test

A situational judgment test (SJT) is only useful if a target program asks for it. Requirements change by cycle, track, and sometimes application service.

CASPER

Open-response judgment

CASPer presents text or video dilemmas and asks what you would do or how you would reason. You answer by typing and by recorded video.

What it samples: communication, empathy, ethics, fairness, collaboration, problem solving, resilience, motivation, and self-awareness.

AAMC PREVIEW

Effectiveness calibration

PREview presents medical-school-style situations and asks you to rate possible actions from Very Ineffective to Very Effective.

What it samples: nine AAMC preprofessional competencies, including reliability, cultural humility, teamwork, ethical responsibility, and growth.

The policy check: For every school, record *required* / *recommended* / *either SJT accepted* / *not used*, the deadline, and the eligible program track. Verify again before submitting.

2026-2027 requirement snapshot

WHAT YOU CAN SAFELY CONCLUDE	WHAT YOU MUST VERIFY
The AAMC maintains a live 2026 participating-schools list for the 2027 application year, with four categories: required, recommended, SJT required with PREview accepted, or exploring.	School and track. For example, UCLA requires PREview for its Traditional MD track in 2026-2027, while other tracks differ; UC Davis requires it for MD applicants with stated exceptions.
CASPer is used by many U.S. medical programs, but lists fluctuate. Your Acuity registration flow and each school's admissions page are the controlling sources.	Whether CASPer alone is required, whether PREview can substitute, whether another Acuity component is requested, and the last acceptable test date.

Do not rely on a cached school list. AAMC says its participating list is updated as schools confirm; school policies can change during a cycle.

The two tests reward different outputs

CASPer: produce reasoning

11

SCENARIOS

22

QUESTIONS

- **7 typed scenarios:** two questions; 3.5 minutes total per scenario.
- **4 video-response scenarios:** two questions; 1 minute to record each answer.
- Current official guidance describes a total experience of about **65-85 minutes**.
- Each scenario is rated by a different rater; ratings are averaged.

Applicant result: a quartile relative to the same test type. Q1 = 0-24th percentile; Q4 = 75-100th. Programs receive results before applicant quartiles are released.

PREview: rate effectiveness

30

SCENARIO SETS*

186

RATINGS*

- **75 minutes** maximum under standard conditions; **no break**.
- Each action is rated independently: Very Ineffective, Ineffective, Effective, or Very Effective.
- Official full-length practice materials use 30 scenarios and 186 items.
- Remote, live-proctored testing on your own equipment; total seated time can exceed exam time.

Score: 1-9, with percentile rank and confidence band. Full credit matches the expert key; half credit can apply one level away on the same side of effective/ineffective.

How much do scores matter? There is no universal weighting. Schools decide how to use either score, usually as one element in holistic review. Treat a requirement as consequential, but do not let a disappointing result erase a well-built school list.

*The current AAMC full-length Practice Exam Booklet 1 is the clearest published count reference. Confirm the live exam instructions in your 2026 appointment materials.

Use RAISE before you answer

The goal is not to sound virtuous. The goal is to show a safe, fair, workable decision process.

1

Read the role and immediate risk

What authority do you actually have? Is anyone in danger? Safety, privacy, coercion, or serious misconduct changes the urgency.

2

Assess stakeholders and competing duties

Name who is affected. Balance compassion with accountability, autonomy with safety, and individual needs with team obligations.

3

Investigate missing information

Avoid inventing motives. Ask privately, listen without accusation, and identify constraints before judging.

4

Select the least harmful effective action

Choose a specific, proportionate next step. Preserve dignity and confidentiality while addressing the real problem.

5

Escalate when needed; evaluate afterward

Escalate for imminent risk, legal or ethical duties, power imbalance, or failed direct resolution. Then document, follow up, and learn.

CASPer answer shape

1. **Position:** "I would first..."
2. **Perspective:** "Because I do not yet know..."
3. **Action:** private conversation + concrete plan.
4. **Boundary:** "If risk continues, I would..."
5. **Reflection:** check outcome and support those affected.

PREview rating ladder

Very Effective: directly and safely improves the core problem.

Effective: helps, but is incomplete, indirect, or not the best first move.

Ineffective: does little, avoids the issue, or introduces a modest problem.

Very Ineffective: worsens harm, violates a core duty, or is seriously disproportionate.

Calibration rule: "Good intention" does not automatically mean Very Effective. Ask whether the action materially improves the situation as *the immediate next step*.

FREE PREVIEW · WHAT'S INSIDE THE FULL GUIDE

CASPer & PREview Crash Course

You've read the opening pages. Here is everything else the guide covers:

- Requirements: which schools need which test
- Format and scoring for CASPer and PREview
- The core framework for sound judgment under pressure
- Eight CASPer practice scenarios with review
- PREview practice sets with review
- A focused prep plan and test-day guide

Get the full guide — \$15