



## Thinking and Reasoning Competencies

### COMPETENCY

Thinking and reasoning competencies mean more than simply using your mind to produce thoughts. It is really all about the process of using your mind to consider or reason about something; the mental process that we apply when we seek to make sense of experience.

Further, reasoning is the ability to use your thought process to form conclusions, inferences, or judgments.

The complexities of modern human and veterinary medicine and dentistry require that practitioners be effective thinkers; to exhibit cognitive attributes such as analytical skills, numerical problem solving, and good judgment.

### BEHAVIORS

**Critical Thinking:** the objective analysis and evaluation of an issue in order to form a judgment. It also involves the type of disciplined thinking that is clear, rational, open-minded, and informed by evidence.

**Quantitative Reasoning:** the application of mathematical concepts and skills to solve real-world problems.

**Scientific Inquiry:** seeking for truth, information, or knowledge through the act of inquiring through questioning or interrogation.

**Written Communication:** communication by means of written symbols (either printed or hand written) in a form that enables others to understand meaning.

### APPLICATION

The 2015 revision of the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) and other standardized tests (like the DAT and GRE) heavily examine the test takers ability to critically analyze and evaluate...to think in a disciplined manner, and make reasonable decisions based on this process.

These tests evaluate such skills because they are very important in the practice of modern human and veterinary medicine and dentistry.

Consider how you will reflect these attributes on your application.