

Funding for Graduate School Exam Study Materials

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Proposal Outline

Many students in the NSS college have aspirations to go to graduate school after graduating from Cal State LA to pursue professional degrees. Going to graduate school requires students to score well on a standardized test such as the Graduate Readiness Exam (GRE), Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), Law School Admission Test (LSAT), Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT), Dental Admission Test (DAT) and Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS). These tests are long and difficult, requiring students to start studying at least one year in advance to score competitively. Success on these tests is largely dependent on the student spending money in order to do well. For example, pre-medical students on a Student Doctor Network forum report spending at least \$400 on MCAT study materials alone.¹ Students also have the option to get a leg up on the MCAT exam by spending as much as \$2000 to attend a prep course.² This is just one example of how low-income students can be disadvantaged and feel discouraged when preparing for graduate school because of inability to expend funds on studying for graduate school admission tests. With the high population of low-income students who go to Cal State LA, we believe ASI can step-in to ensure equal footing and opportunity for any of our students who aspire to go to graduate school. Thus, as a first step, we are requesting funding to purchase study materials for these tests that we can loan out to students.

Book Loaning System

If it is possible, we think the best way to keep track of the books that we let students borrow is to set up a book loaning system on the ASI website. To check out a book, students would likely input their contact information, CIN, and how long they are requesting the book for. Whether there is a limit for how long students can check out a book and whether fees should be charged for lost/damaged books is up to the discretion of the ASI student representatives and professional staff. We recommend modeling our book loaning system after the University Library.

ASI could also consider purchasing the books to donate to the library for them to manage and loan to students. The study materials offered by the library currently are not up-to-date with the tests being offered.

Further Steps

Life after college is an area that we think ASI could assist students in by providing information and resources. Purchasing study materials for admissions tests is just a preliminary step in the different ways we can help students in preparing for graduate school. Other ways that ASI could assist students in life after college is holding informational panels for graduate school applications and admissions processes or establishing graduate school exam study groups by bringing in professionals who can advise students. We believe that funding this project is the first step in more projects geared towards assisting students with life after college.

Other Options

An option for this proposal that would enhance the variety of materials offered to students is to ask alumni in graduate schools to donate any study materials they may have. A

drawback of this option is that the graduate school admissions tests are regularly updated, and up-to-date study material is often required to prepare students for the test they will be taking.

For consideration of the Finance Committee when reviewing this proposal:

- Decide how the book loaning system would work logistically (e.g. late fees, limited time for check-out, where books are stored, where students request books, etc.)
- Decide which study books to purchase. Below we have provided some of the top rated study books for the GRE, MCAT, LSAT, PCAT, TEAS, and DAT.

References

1. “Just curious, how much have you already spend on MCAT 2015 Prep. Leave a feedback.” *Student Doctor Network*, 7 May 2015. Accessed 19 October 2017.
<https://forums.studentdoctor.net/threads/just-curious-how-much-have-you-already-spend-on-mcat-2015-prep-leave-a-feedback.1134833/>
2. “MCAT Prep Cost.” *CostHelper*, n.d. Accessed 19 October 2017.
<http://education.costhelper.com/mcat-prep.html>

Invoice/Estimates

Total Funds Requested	\$1,066.77*	
Item	Cost	Link
MCAT Complete 7-Book Subject Review 2018-2019: Online + Book (Kaplan Test Prep)	\$139.45	https://www.amazon.com/Complete-7-Book-Subject-Review-2018-2019/dp/1506223958/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1508427120&sr=8-1&keywords=mcat+study+books
Princeton Review MCAT Subject Review Complete Box Set, 2nd Edition: 7 Complete Books + Access to 3 Full-Length Practice Tests	\$146.20	https://www.amazon.com/Princeton-Review-MCAT-Subject-Complete/dp/045148715X/ref=sr_1_4?ie=UTF8&qid=1508427120&sr=8-4&keywords=mcat+study+books
Kaplan MCAT Flashcards + App (Kaplan Test Prep)	\$19.29	https://www.amazon.com/Kaplan-MCAT-Flashcards-Test-Prep/dp/161865621X/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1508427120&sr=8-3&keywords=mcat+study+books
Official MCAT ® Question Pack Bundle (all six question packs with one authorization code)	\$72.00	https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/article/bulk-pricing-official-mcat-products/
GRE Prep Plus 2018: Practice Tests + Proven Strategies + Online + Video + Mobile (Kaplan Test Prep)	\$27.19	https://www.amazon.com/GRE-Prep-Plus-2018-Strategies/dp/1506219837/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1508427389&sr=8-1&keywords=gre+study+books
Official GRE Super Power Pack	\$40.99	https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/official-gre-super-power-pack-educational-testing-service/1121002408?ean=9780071841825&st=PLA&sid=NOK_DRS_NOOK+EBooks_00000000&2sid=Google_&sourceId=PLGoP78122
Cracking the GRE Premium Edition with 6 Practice Tests, 2018: The All-in-One Solution for Your Highest Possible Score (Graduate School Test Preparation)	\$28.32	https://www.amazon.com/Cracking-Premium-Practice-Tests-2018/dp/0451487656/ref=sr_1_6?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1508455800&sr=1-6&keywords=gre+study+books
GRE Vocabulary Flashcards + App (Kaplan Test Prep)	\$16.70	https://www.amazon.com/Vocabulary-Flashcards-Kaplan-Test-Prep/dp/1618656198/ref=sr_1_7?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1508455800&sr=1-7&keywords=gre+study+books
LSAT Strategy Guide Set (Manhattan Prep LSAT Strategy Guides)	\$104.31	https://www.amazon.com/LSAT-Strategy-Guide-Manhattan-Guides/dp/1506207774/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1508455800&sr=1-2&keywords=lsat+study+books

		d=1508455727&sr=8-2&keywords=lsat+study+books+manhattan
The PowerScore LSAT Logic Games Bible (Powerscore LSAT Bible) (Powerscore Test Preparation)	\$49.00	https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0988758660/ref=as_li_ss_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=0988758660&linkCode=as2&tag=lawschoolbooklists-20
Kaplan LSAT Premier 2016-2017 with Real Practice Questions: Book + Online (Kaplan Test Prep)	\$40.77	https://www.amazon.com/Kaplan-Premier-2016-2017-Practice-Questions/dp/162523130X/ref=sr_1_4?ie=UTF8&qid=1508455684&sr=8-4&keywords=lsat+study+books
Kaplan PCAT 2016-2017 Strategies, Practice, and Review with 2 Practice Tests: Online + Book (Kaplan Test Prep)	\$37.39	https://www.amazon.com/Kaplan-2016-2017-Strategies-Practice-Review/dp/1506200907/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1508456537&sr=1-1&keywords=pcat+study+books
Barron's PCAT, 7th Edition: Pharmacy College Admission Test	\$15.85	https://www.amazon.com/Barrons-PCAT-7th-Pharmacy-Admission/dp/143800866X/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1508456583&sr=1-2&keywords=pcat+study+books
PCAT Flashcard Study System: PCAT Exam Practice Questions & Review for the Pharmacy College Admission Test (Cards)	\$92.83	https://www.amazon.com/PCAT-Flashcard-Study-System-Questions/dp/1610724917/ref=sr_1_5?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1508456583&sr=1-5&keywords=pcat+study+books
ATI TEAS Secrets Study Guide: TEAS 6 Complete Study Manual, Full-Length Practice Tests, Review Video Tutorials for the Test of Essential Academic Skills, Sixth Edition	\$33.92	https://www.amazon.com/ATI-TEAS-Secrets-Study-Guide/dp/1516703839/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1508456734&sr=8-1&keywords=teas+study+books
ATI TEAS Review Manual: Sixth Edition Revised	\$24.91	https://www.amazon.com/ATI-TEAS-Review-Manual-Revised/dp/1565335759/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1508456734&sr=8-2&keywords=teas+study+books
ATI TEAS Test Study Guide 2017: ATI TEAS Study Manual with ATI TEAS Practice Tests for the ATI TEAS 6	\$35.14	https://www.amazon.com/TEAS-Test-Study-Guide-2017/dp/1635301106/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1508456734&sr=8-3&keywords=teas+study+books
DAT 2017-2018 Strategies, Practice & Review with 2 Practice Tests: Online + Book (Kaplan Test Prep)	\$45.04	https://www.amazon.com/2017-2018-Strategies-Practice-Review-Tests/dp/1506209173/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1508456734&sr=8-1&keywords=dat+study+books

		1508468314&sr=8-1&keywords=dat+study+books
Cracking the DAT (Dental Admission Test): The Techniques, Practice, and Review You Need to Score Higher (Graduate School Test Preparation)	\$27.28	https://www.amazon.com/Cracking-DAT-Dental-Admission-Test/dp/0375427562/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1508468345&sr=8-2&keywords=dat+study+books
DAT Flashcard Study System: DAT Exam Practice Questions & Review for the Dental Admission Test (Cards)	\$70.19	https://www.amazon.com/DAT-Flashcard-Study-System-Questions/dp/1609716191/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1508468345&sr=8-3&keywords=dat+study+books

*Attached to this proposal is a supplemental document with other possible purchase variations.