What is CASPer™? (Computer-based Assessment for Sampling Personal Characteristics)

CASPer™ is a computer-based situational judgment test designed to evaluate core personal characteristics considered important for students success in medical school and ultimately, as practicing physicians. Some of these include professionalism, ethical grounding, empathy, compassion, and cultural sensitivity. CASPer™ can be taken anywhere you can access a computer with video capabilities and a reliable Internet connection in a quiet location.

CASPer™ consists of a series of hypothetical, everyday situations presented through a variety of formats including text, animation or live-action video. Each situation relates to one or more personal characteristics. Examinees are asked how they would respond or behave in the situation portrayed. No studying or advanced preparation is required to take CASPer™. This test may be taken one time ever.

CASPer™ results are considered a reliable and predictive screening tool to assess personal attributes in conjunction with the holistic review process used in our admissions process. We also believe it can help us make better decisions on selecting applicants to help meet our mission and serve the people of Tennessee and the surrounding area.

Why has Quillen chosen to use CASPer™?
Quillen places a high value on personal characteristics which we believe to be important in becoming an ethical, capable, compassionate physician. Currently, to assess an applicant’s personal attributes, the admissions committee relies on its subjective evaluation of personal essays, letters of recommendation and brief personal interviews. With CASPer™, the admissions committee gains an additional tool in assessing an applicant’s personal attributes.

Since our beginning in 1978, Quillen has always been a believer in holistic review. The incorporation of CASPer™ into our process represents an additional commitment to evaluate each applicant as a unique individual – weighing personal attributes in equal measure with academic metrics and foundational experiences.

What do I need to do to take CASPer™?
Advanced registration is required. CASPer™ is administered by an external testing company. There is a total fee of $20 associated with CASPer™ which is not part of the QCOM application fee. It consists of a $10 test fee + a $10 distribution fee which is paid directly to the testing company upon registration. These fees are waived for applicants eligible for the AAMC-FAP. Additional score reports may be forwarded to other schools requiring CASPer™ for $10 each.

Numerous test dates are available beginning in early summer. Applicants should schedule in sufficient time to allow for the reporting of results by the due date of their supplemental application information when requested. We will not accept scores from tests taken past the November 19, 2016 test date. Therefore, early scheduling is advised and applicants should anticipate a 4 week turn around in score reporting. Consideration for interviews will not occur until these scores are officially reported to us.

Specific information about registering for CASPer™ is included at www.takecasper.com. A sample scenario of a CASPer™ question may also be seen at this website.