

Psychology (B.A.) Pre-Medicine Track

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Potential Career Paths

- Physician (MD, DO)

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What is Psychology Pre-Medicine?

The purpose of the psychology pre-medicine track is to provide students with a comprehensive background in psychology while insuring that students who want to become medical doctors complete the necessary prerequisites for medical school.

Psychology is a logical major for those interested in entering the medical field. First, physicians have constant interactions with clients and care for people, much like psychologists. Additionally, patients often see general practitioners when encountering psychological problems, so it is useful for physicians to understand psychological issues, and when individuals should be referred for psychological services. Finally, medical school is required in order to become a psychiatrist. Like psychologists, psychiatrists are concerned with preventing, diagnosing, and treating mental illness. However, unlike psychologists, they are also medical doctors who are able to prescribe medication for clients.

Once a student completes his or her bachelor's degree, the student will apply to medical school. Medical school typically lasts four years. This is then followed by three to

seven years of residency to further develop the physician's skills. A psychiatric residency is four years.

To practice medicine, a physician must not only complete a medical degree from an accredited medical school, but also pass a national licensing exam and then complete the licensing requirements of the state in which the physician wishes to practice medicine.



Additional Resources

To become more involved in pre-medicine or learn about the medical profession, here is what you can do.

- 1 Visit the websites of the American Medical Association and the Association of American Medical Colleges to learn more about medical education and medical careers.
- 2 Visit the website for the American Psychiatric Association to learn more about psychiatry as a specialty.
- 3 Volunteer in hospitals or other medical settings.
- 4 Schedule a meeting with a physician to discuss the medical profession.



If you are interested in pursuing a career in medicine be sure to work with an advisor to develop an academic plan that is tailored to your interests. Your plan should lead to the completion of coursework that is required for admission to a medical school.

University and College Requirements

In addition to the requirements for the psychology pre-medicine track, which are listed below, be sure to complete all other university and college requirements, including the foreign language requirement.

If you are planning to start college-level foreign language with a course beyond 111, you are advised to begin foreign language in your first year. If you are starting foreign language with 111, begin language courses no later than the junior year.

Required Courses for the Psychology Pre-Medicine Track

First-Year Recommended Schedule (Required Courses)		Third-Year Recommended Schedule (Required Courses)	
CHEM 151, 152, 153	Principles of Chemistry (15)	PHYS 201, 202, 203	Intro to Physics (15)
BIOS 170, 171, 172, 173	Introduction to Zoology (10)	BIOS 301A, B	Human Anatomy (10)
ENG 151	English Composition (5)	BIOS 345, 346	Human Physiology (7)
PSY 101	General Psychology (5)	CHEM 489	Basic Biochemistry (4)
PSY 221	Statistics (5)		
PSY 226	Research Methods (4)		
Second-Year Recommended Schedule (Required Courses)		Additional Recommended Courses	
MATH 163A, B	Introduction to Calculus (7)	BIOS 352 or PESS 302	Biomechanics (4)
CHEM 305,306, 307, 308, 309	Organic Chemistry (15)	BIOS 413A, B	Human Neuroscience (5)
BIOS 320	Cell Biology (4)	SOC 101	Intro to Sociology (4)
BIOS 325	Genetics (5)	SW 102	Intro to Social Work (4)
PHIL 130	Introduction to Ethics (4)	HLTH 230	Medical Terminology (2)

Volunteer Hours

Most medical schools require students to complete volunteer hours prior to submitting an application to their program. Prior to your senior year, check the admissions requirement for programs that interest you.

Additional Required Courses in Psychology

Biological—at least one of the following:

- PSY 201 Sensation and Perception (4)
- PSY 203 Learning (4)
- PSY 312 Physiological Psychology (4)**
- PSY 314 Comparative Psychology (5)
- PSY 327 Human Psychophysiology (4)**
- PSY 380 Psychology of Health and Illness (4)**

Cognitive—at least one of the following:

- PSY 304 *Human Learning and Cognitive Processes (4)*
- PSY 305 Human Memory
- PSY 307 Psycholinguistics
- PSY 308 Human Judgment and Decision Making

Developmental—at least two of the following:

- PSY 273 *Child and Adolescent Psychology (4)*
- PSY 315 Behavior Genetics (5)
- PSY 374 *Adulthood and Aging (4)*
- PSY 376 Psych Disorders of Childhood (4)
- PSY 378 Psychology of Gender (4)
- PSY 470 Prenatal Influences on Development (4)

Clinical—at least two of the following:

- PSY 233 Psychology of Personality (4)
- PSY 332 *Abnormal Psychology (4)*
- PSY 341 Tests and Measurements (4)
- PSY 351 *Intro to Clinical and Counseling (4)*
- PSY 430 Psychoactive Drugs (4)

Social/Organizational—at least two of the following:

- PSY 261 Industrial and Organizational (4)
- PSY 310 Motivation (4)
- PSY 336 Social Psychology (4)
- PSY 337 Social Psychology of Justice (4)
- PSY 361 Adv Organizational Psychology (4)
- PSY 362 Personnel Psychology

Note. Courses in **bold** are required for the psychology pre-medicine major and courses in *italics* are recommended.

Fieldwork and Research in Psychology

PSY 489 (1-5, 5 max)

Credit for volunteer work in a medical setting. Volunteer hours are required for application to many medical schools.

PSY 390 (1-5, 15 max)

Credit for participating in research under the supervision of a faculty member.