

**For Psychology Students Planning to Attend Medical School:
Suggested Curriculum for the BS in Psychology with a Minor in Biology⁺ or Chemistry⁺⁺**

Freshman Year First Semester	Sophomore Year First Semester	Junior Year First Semester	Senior Year First Semester
PSY 100T1 hr	PSY 300.....3 hrs	PSY 303 or PSY elective [†]3 hrs	PSY elective [†] or PSY 303 ^{††}3 hrs
PSY 1803 hrs	PSY 301.....3 hrs	SOC 133 or 231 3 hrs	PSY 307.....3 hrs
ENG 1054 hrs	ENG 204..... 3 hrs	BIO 322..... 4 hrs	PSY 414 or PSY 415 ^{††}3 hrs
BIO 115 ⁺ 3 hrs	CHE 310/3115 hrs	CHE 530 ⁺⁺ 3 hrs	US elective [°] 3 hrs
CHE 201 ⁺⁺ 5 hrs	BIO 321..... 3 hrs	PHY 132/133..... 4 hrs	US elective [°] 3 hrs
Semester Total..... 16 hrs	Semester Total.....17 hrs	Semester Total17 hrs	Semester Total15 hrs
Second Semester	Second Semester	Second Semester	Second Semester
PSY 260 or PSY elective [†]3 hrs	PSY 3153 hrs	PSY 415 or PSY 414..... 3 hrs	PSY Capstone [#]3 hrs
BIO 216 ⁺ 4 hrs	BIO 221 ⁺ 4 hrs	BIO 300..... 4 hrs	PSY elective [†] 3 hrs
CHE 202 ⁺⁺ 5 hrs	CHE 320 ⁺⁺ 3 hrs	BIO 323..... 3 hrs	COM 161 ^{††} 3 hrs
MAT 150 or MAT 250* 5 hrs	PHY 130/131..... 4 hrs	BIO 333..... 4 hrs	US elective [°] 3 hrs
	PSY elective [†] or PSY 260 ^{††} 3 hrs		US elective [°] 3 hrs
Semester Total 17 hrs	Semester Total17 hrs	Semester Total14 hrs	Semester Total 15 hrs

Total = 128 hours.

⁺ Required course for Biology minor. For biology minor, listed BIO electives complete the minor and are suggested in order to satisfy medical school admission requirements; listed CHE courses are suggested in order to satisfy medical school admission requirements.

⁺⁺ Required course for Chemistry minor. For Chemistry minor, listed BIO courses are suggested in order to satisfy medical school admission requirements.

Note: CHE 201 requires MAT ACT of at least 24 or MAT 250 or MAT 150 or MAT 140/145 (with C or better in MAT course); CHE 530 is offered only in the fall; CHE 330 (offered only in the Spring) may be taken instead of CHE 530.

* MAT 250 requires Math ACT of at least 26; MAT 150 requires Math ACT of at least 23. A Math ACT of 21 or 22 will require MAT 140 + MAT 145. A Math ACT of 19-20 requires MAT 140-Cx + MAT 145. A Math ACT less than 19 requires MAT 110 + MAT 140-Cx + MAT 145.

[†] At least one research experience PSY elective (PSY 190 or PSY 360) is strongly encouraged.

^{††} Whichever course was not taken in a previous semester.

[°] One university studies elective from each of the following categories:

Literary and Philosophical Traditions; Cultural & Diverse Perspectives and Responsible Citizenship; Historical Perspectives; Creative Perspectives

[#] Capstone to be chosen from: PSY 402, PSY 403, PSY 408, PSY 460, PSY 487, PSY 499. Check MSU *Class Schedule* for which options will be offered in a given semester.

Note. Prior to enrolling in PSY 315, the student must have completed PSY 180, ENG 105, PSY 301 and 6 additional PSY credits and have completed or concurrent enrollment in PSY 300. All capstone courses require senior standing, prior completion of PSY 300 and 301, and completed or concurrent enrollment in PSY 260, PSY 303, PSY 307, PSY 315, PSY 414, and PSY 415; PSY 460, 487 and 499 have additional requirements (see current MSU *Bulletin*).

Additional requirements for graduation:

- Minimum of 120 hrs earned (exclusive of non-degree credit)
- Cumulative GPA of at least 2.0
- Minimum of 42 upper-level credits
- GPA of at least 2.0 in courses taken at MSU
- Minimum of 30 hrs earned at MSU
- GPA of at least 2.0 in major and minor

This suggested curriculum is intended only as a guide. Transferred credits, changes in course offerings, required preparatory courses, or individual circumstances might require a student to take courses in a different semester than listed above. Students should consult with their academic advisor regarding all course scheduling.

Psychology is the second most frequent major (after Biology) of students attending med school, and national statistics show that medical school admission rates for psychology majors is equivalent to that of biology and chemistry majors. Regardless of the undergraduate major, the Association of American Medical Colleges requires that every pre-med student must have taken one year of general chemistry, one year of organic chemistry, one year of biology, and one year of physics. Individual medical schools may have additional course requirements for applicants. You will also need to take courses that prepare you for the Medical Colleges Admissions Test (MCAT). The MCAT has sections covering four competency areas: Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems; Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills; Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems; and Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior. If you are planning to major in Psychology and attend med school after graduation, it is, therefore, advisable to minor in either Biology or Chemistry. In addition to your Psychology academic advisor, you should also consult with the pre-med advisor in either Biology or Chemistry as you plan the sequence of your pre-med courses.

Volunteering and Clinical Experiences

Volunteering in a health care setting is an excellent way to explore the option of a career in medicine. Previous volunteer experiences can increase your chances of acceptance to medical school, and volunteering experiences frequently come up as topics of discussion during medical school interviews. In addition to volunteering, you might also consider "shadowing" a physician, where you student follow that physician and directly observe the doctor provide care for patients. You might also consider summer or part-time employment in jobs at medical facilities or related to health care.

Pre-health Professional Student Organization

Murray State University has a student organization to assist in preparing you for your application to medical school. This Pre-health Professional (PHP) group holds regular meetings during the academic year that include presentations from practicing physicians, current medical students, and medical school admissions officers. PHP also provides opportunities for you to become involved in community service activities, clinical experiences, and internships. To find out more about PHP, including how to join, contact the organization's faculty advisor Dr. Ricky Cox (jcox@murraystate.edu).

Timeline for Preparing for and Applying to Medical School

In order to stay on track and complete the preparation necessary for admission to medical school as well as completion of your Psychology major, you need to plan wisely. Most students take the MCAT at the end of their junior year and interview with medical schools during their senior year. Therefore, it's important to plan carefully. The Suggested Curriculum plan will guide you in the sequencing of your courses. The following timeline will guide you in preparing for the application process.

- During your first semester, you should register with and join the Murray State University Pre-health Professionals Organization (PHP). Contact Dr. Ricky Cox (jcox@murraystate.edu) for instructions on how to register.
- After your first semester, you should begin pursuing various extracurricular activities like volunteering and physician shadowing that demonstrate a commitment to medicine.
- In the spring of your junior year, apply to the Pre-health Professions Advisory Committee for a MSU letter of recommendation to accompany your medical school application. This letter is an important part of the application process. Contact Dr. Ricky Cox (jcox@murraystate.edu) for more information.
- At the end of your junior year, take the MCAT. You'll then make primary application to medical schools using the automated American Medical College Application Service system (AMCAS).
- Over the summer, AMCAS will review primary applications based on an evaluation of your academic records, MCAT scores, extracurricular activities, work experience, and your personal statement. Applicants are selected for secondary applications to specific medical schools for which they are qualified.
- In the fall of the senior (fourth) year, qualified applicants receive invitations to interview at specific medical schools.
- In early spring, medical schools make their final decisions on acceptance.