

A top-down view of a wooden desk. In the upper right, a white keyboard is partially visible. To its left is a small black pot with green grass-like plants. Below the keyboard, a black paperclip is on the desk. In the lower right, there is a black notebook with a white page, a pen, and a white coffee cup. The background is a dark wood grain. The text 'Pre-Medicine/Pre-Psychiatry' is centered in a white, italicized serif font, with a short green horizontal line underneath it. There are also some green decorative dots in the bottom right corner.

Pre-Medicine/Pre-Psychiatry

What is Pre-Psychiatry?

- Pre-psychiatry is the branch between traditional medicine and the field of psychology, which includes diagnosis and treatment of mental illness. They focus on the medicine behind mental illness and the patient, such as what medication options a patient has, monitoring medication process, and ensuring that there are not negative interactions between medications the patient is already taking and a new medication. More information can be found using the links provided below:

<https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/articles/22702-psychiatrist>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=irVREcvXoas&ab_channel=TheWrightCenterforCommunityHealth

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zhY-iODwIVQ&ab_channel=UniversityofMedicineandHealthSciences

Potential Career Paths in Pre-Psychiatry:

- Physician/Psychiatrist – the main career choice in this subdiscipline.
 - This path requires receiving either an M.D. or a D.O.
- Pharmacist.
 - This path requires receiving a Pharm.D.
- Dentistry.
 - This path requires receiving either a DDS or DMD.

Undergraduate Recommended Courses in Psychology:

- Social Psychology (**PSY 302**).
- Child Development (**PSY 311**).
- Adult Development (**PSY 312**).
- Sensation and Perception (**PSY 324***).
- Abnormal Psychology (**PSY 408**).
- Cognitive Psychology (**PSY 415**).
- Physiological Psychology (**PSY 440**).
- Health Psychology (**PSY 443***).

* make sure to look at the pre-requisites for these courses, as there are more than just PSY 201! Ask an Advising Officer if you have any questions ☺

Undergraduate Recommended Courses Outside of Psychology (Biology):

- Principles of Biology I with Lab (**BSC 120 and BSC 120L***).
- Principles of Biology II with Lab (**BSC 121 and BSC 121L***).
- Human Anatomy with Lab (**BSC 227 and BSC 227L**).
- Human Physiology with Lab (**BSC 228 and 228L***).
- Microbiology and Human Disease with Lab (**BSC 250 and BSC 250L***).
- Principles of Microbiology with Lab (**BSC 302 and BSC 304***).
- Comprehensive Vertebrate Anatomy (**BSC 310***).
- Principles of Cell Biology (**BSC 322***).
- Principles of Genetics (**BSC 324***).
- Biostatistics (**BSC 417***).
- Neuroscience (**BSC 428***).
- Metabolic Systems (**BSC 429***).
- Molecular Biology (**BSC 450***).

* make sure to look at the pre-requisites for these courses! Ask an Advising Officer if you have any questions 😊

Undergraduate Recommended Courses Outside of Psychology (Other):

- Principles of Chemistry I (**CHM 211 and CHM 217***).
 - Principles of Chemistry II (**CHM 212 and CHM 218***).
 - Organic Chemistry I (**CHM 355***).
 - Organic Chemistry II with Lab (**CHM 356 and CHM 361***).
 - Introductory Biochemistry (**CHM 365***).
 - Applied Calculus (**MTH 140***).
 - Conceptual Physics with Lab (**PHY 101 and PHY 101L***).
 - College Physics I with Lab (**PHY 201 and PHY 202***).
 - College Physics II with Lab (**PHY 203 and PHY 204***).
 - Ethics of Health Care (**PHL 202**).
- Remember, you do not have to take all of these! They are just suggestions based on the contents of the MCAT and average medical school admissions.
- * make sure to look at the pre-requisites for these courses! Ask an Advising Officer if you have any questions 😊

Recommended Minors and Certificates:

- Biological Sciences Minor.
- Chemistry Minor.
- Health and Wellness Minor.
- Statistics Minor.

Accelerated Masters Students Recommended Courses:

- Psychometrics (**PSY 506** instead of PSY 406).
- Intermediate Behavioral Statistics (**PSY 517** instead of PSY 417).
- Physiological Psychology (**PSY 540** instead of PSY 440).
- Advanced Social Psychology (**PSY 606** instead of PSY 302).

Is Graduate Training Required?

- This pathway is specifically designed to prepare students for entry into professional school, whether that be medical school, pharmacy school, or dental school, and potentially other medical related fields. However, the main emphasis is to prepare students for the field of psychiatry. Regardless of the path taken, some sort of graduate training is required.
- If you decide to go to medical school, consider joining the American Psychiatric Association as a Medical Student Member. Membership is free! The link to apply is: <https://www.psychiatry.org/membership/join-apa/medical-students>

Ways to Stand Out in Pre-Psychiatry:

- Clinical Experience:
 - This is HIGHLY recommended, as shadowing a doctor looks great on applications to medical school. If possible, it may be a good idea to shadow in a hospital and a primary care setting. Shadow doctors in many different specialties as well, as it creates a well-rounded and diverse experience.
 - Become a medical scribe. It is a paid position that is often found in hospital settings. It is great exposure to the medical field, as your main duty would be to take notes for doctors on their medical encounters.
- Volunteer Work:
 - Consider volunteering as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or as a hospice volunteer to get more clinical experience.
 - Become involved with organizations on campus, such as the Chemistry Fraternity (Alpha Chi Sigma), the Biology Club, and the Pre-American Medical Student Association. <https://herdlink.marshall.edu/>
- Research:
 - This is also HIGHLY recommended and looks great on applications. Visit the Biological Sciences Department and find a lab that works for you! <https://www.marshall.edu/biology/faculty-research-interests/>