

## **MCAT 2015 (Psychological, Social and Biological Foundations of Behavior)**

One of the MCAT testing sections for the 2015 MCAT Exam will be on the psychological, social and biological foundations of behavior.

Dr. Shelly Marmion, from the UT Tyler's Psychology Department, has reviewed the Kaplan Study Guide on this testing area and has produced the following information for students to use to select courses offered at UT Tyler that covers this content area.

Given the new importance of this area of the MCAT exam, Dr. Marmion has recommended that students consider taking more than a course or two to prepare for the exam. Below is a summary of content areas and the list of psychology courses offered at UT Tyler.

## Chapter 6: Psychological, Social and Biological Foundations of Behavior

<b>MCAT descriptions</b>	<b>Corresponding Psychology course</b>	<b>% of this section of exam</b>
Foundational Concept 6: factors influencing perceptions, thoughts and reactions to the world		27%
6A – Sensing the environment: sensory processing, vision, hearing, other senses, perception	PSYC 3356 Sensation & Perception	
6B – Making sense of the environment: attention, cognition, consciousness, memory, language	PSYC 4315 Cognitive Psychology	
6C Responding to the world: emotion, stress	PSYC 1301 Introductory Psychology?	
Foundational Concept 7: factors influencing behavior and behavior change		33%
7A – Individual influences on behavior, biological bases of behavior, personality, psychological disorders, motivation, attitudes	PSYC 1301 Introductory Psychology	
7B – Social processes that influence human behavior: presence of others, group processes, culture, socialization	PSYC 3306 Social Psychology	
7C – Attitude and behavior change: habituation/dishabituation, associative learning, observational learning, theory of attitudes and behavioral change	PSYC 3325 Learning and Conditioning	
Foundational Concept 8: Factors influencing the way we think about ourselves and others		20%
8A – Self identity: self-concept and identity, formation of identity	PSYC 4341 Personality Theories	
8B – Social thinking: attribution theory, prejudice and bias, stereotyping processes	PSYC 3306 Social Psychology	
8C – Social interactions: elements of interaction, self-presentation, social behavior, discrimination	PSYC 3306 Social Psychology	
Foundational concept 9: Cultural and Social differences influence well-being		15%
9A – Understanding social structure: theoretical approaches, social institutions, culture	PSYC 3335 Diversity and Social Justice	
9B – Demographic characteristics and processes: demographic structure of society, shifts and social change	PSYC 3335 Diversity and Social Justice	
Foundational Concept 10: social stratification and access to resources influences		5%
10A – Social inequality: spatial inequality, social class, health disparities, healthcare disparities	PSYC 3310 Health Psychology	

<b>Psychology Courses at UT-Tyler which cover PSB Foundation areas</b>	<b>Percent of PSB Foundations of Behavior content covered*</b>
PSYC 1301 Introductory Psychology	40%
PSYC 3306 Social Psychology	24%
PSYC 3335 Diversity & Social justice	12%
PSYC 3325 Learning & Conditioning	10%
PSYC 4315 Cognitive Psychology	9%
PSYC 3356 Sensation & Perception	9%
PSYC 4341 Personality Theories	7%

\*Because of overlap, these will add to more than 100%. They are an estimate, based on a combination of the % of this exam section reported by MCAT, and the coverage in each course of the described content. These percentages and the resulting order shown above indicate an approximate prioritizing of these courses.

## Scientific Inquiry and Reasoning Skills

The B.S. in Psychology requires, as part of its core, the following courses which provide the student considerable preparation in this skill area: Psychological Statistics, Research Methods, Tests and Measurements, and Research Seminar in Psychology,

## Psychology Pre-med Degree plan

Core classes, including BIOL 1306/1106, BIOL 1307/1107, MATH 1342, PSYC 1301	42 hrs.
Psychology Core (includes Lear&Cond, Social, Cognitive, Stat, Research Methods)	30 hrs.
UD Psyc electives: Sensation & Perception, Diversity & social justice	6 hrs.
B.S. electives: Gen.Chem (8), Org.Chem (8)	16 hrs.
General electives: Physics (8)	8 hrs.
General UD electives: MicroBiol, Cell Biol, Immunology, Physiology, BioChem	19 hrs.
Total hrs: 121	