

**Student Outcomes Assessment
Department of Psychology
Submitted Spring 2008**

The assessment plan for the psychology major is based on the collection of information for the purposes of enhancing student learning and program development.

We have identified three goals for these majors.

- First, we would like to expose students to a psychological perspective of human beings by objectively viewing the behavior of others and oneself.
- Second, we want to present a diversity of methods and tools by which human and sometimes animal behavior may be scientifically studied.
- Third, we want students to become acquainted with a broad application of psychological knowledge and techniques for improving the human condition, specifically performance.

These goals define psychology as a discipline.

The curricular requirements in Psychology and Psychology for Teaching are identical because they share the same goals. Beyond a set of core requirements we require a number of courses from several categories. Our purpose here is to expose students to courses that emphasize the more scientific bases of psychology as well as its diverse applications.

After an internal review the following outcomes and their corresponding competencies were identified and relevant to the psychology major.

Outcomes and Competencies:

Outcome 1. Be a competent consumer and conductor of research.

Competency Areas

- 1a. Be able to understand the basic design and potential strengths and weaknesses of research. This includes media presented results.
- 1b. Be able to find a series of references in the library stacks.
- 1c. Be able to form a clear alternative and null hypothesis.

Outcome 2. Know the history of psychology.

Competency Areas

- 2a. Know the major schools of thought that have existed and exist today in the field of psychology.
- 2b. Know the names and basic ideas of the people involved with each of those schools.

Outcome 3. Have an understanding of the subfields of psychology such as social, developmental, abnormal and physiological.

Competency Areas

- 3a. Know the broad concepts and ideas in each field.

3b Be able to describe what a psychologist in each field does.

Outcome 4. Have an understanding of statistics.

Competency Areas

4a. Be able to know what statistical tests are appropriate in what situations.

4b. Be able to understand the results of statistical significance testing.

Outcome 5. Be computer literate.

Competency Areas

5a. Be able to run basic statistical programs.

5b. Be able to use a word processor.

5c. Be able to do electronic database searches.

5d. Be able to use internet services.

Outcome 6. Be able to effectively communicate ideas in the field of psychology.

Competency Areas

6a. Be able to generate a clearly written report in current APA style.

6b. Be able to present a clear oral presentation.

Outcome 7. Understand career possibilities in psychology.

Competency Areas

7a. Know the basic process involved in applying to graduate school.

Outcome 8. Demonstrate some self-understanding as well as understanding of others and some acceptance of individual differences and new ideas.

Outcome 9. Demonstrate changes in attitudes and beliefs regarding psychology.

Competency Areas

9a. Have more positive attitudes toward those who are undergoing psychological counseling.

9b. Have more positive attitude toward psychological interventions.

9c. Hold the belief that psychology is a science.

Outcome 10. Have the belief that their educational experience in the psychology department has been a positive one.

Outcome 11. Be able to apply an understanding of psychology to real-world social concerns.