

Southern Utah University
Psychology Department
Assessment Plan (REVISED – 2/28/02)
Academic Year 2001-2002

The Psychology Department is comprised of seven full-time faculty members assisted by one lecturer/advisor, one full-time secretary, two part-time student secretaries, one part-time student laboratory assistant and part-time adjuncts from time to time.

The Psychology Department offers an academic major (BA or BS), an academic minor, and an education minor. The Psychology Department also offers several informal areas of emphasis: Biological, Clinical/Counseling, Developmental, Human Services and Social/Environmental. We encourage our majors to follow a track (graduate or professional/agency) through their program

The Psychology Department offers twenty-two courses with a lecture/discussion format, two courses with labs, one experiential group dynamics course, one special topics course, three capstone options and the opportunity for practicum, internship, independent research, and readings and conferences. The curriculum meets the standards set by the American Psychological Association for undergraduate education.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the psychology department is to support the university and the larger community by providing a personalized learning environment and meaningful learning experiences that foster academic excellence, instill ethics and values and encourage a lifelong love of learning.

Through lectures, readings, research, discussions, laboratory experiences, practical/service experiences, writing assignments and other academic and scholarly activities, psychology students develop the knowledge, understanding, discipline and skill that enables them to function personally and professionally as informed and responsible citizens.

The Psychology Department offers an academic major and minor, an education minor, and it serves students through courses that fulfill general education requirements as well as foundation requirements for other academic and professional programs.

Goals: The psychology department will:

1. Provide expert classroom instruction.
2. Provide expert laboratory and research application experience.
3. Provide expert professional/agency practicum experience and service.
4. Meet or exceed the standards set by the American Psychological Association for undergraduate education.

Outcomes/Objectives:

- 1.a. Psychology courses will be taught by qualified faculty members with expertise in their areas of teaching.
- 1.b. Students will develop and demonstrate a well-rounded knowledge and understanding of psychology; its language, methodologies, findings, and applications.
- 2.a. Psychology laboratories and research opportunities will be offered by faculty members with expertise in the areas of their laboratory/research activities.
- 2.b. Students will develop and demonstrate their ability to conduct scientific inquiry within the domain of psychology by designing research activities, using assessment and other information collecting tools, statistically analyzing and interpreting data.
- 2.c. Students (graduate school track) will develop and demonstrate their ability to locate, analyze, and communicate scientific findings.
- 3.a. Psychology professional/agency practicum experiences will be offered and/or supervised by faculty members with expertise in the area of their practice and service activities.
- 3.b. Students (professional/agency track) will develop and demonstrate their professional expertise in professional/agency settings.
- 4.a. The psychology curriculum will meet or exceed the standards set by the American Psychological Association for undergraduate education in course offerings, content, activities and assessment.
- 4.b. Students will develop and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct as published by the American Psychological Association. Note: Students involved in animal studies will develop and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the National Animal Care Committee guidelines for the ethical use and care of animals in research.

Assessment Criteria and Activities:

The psychology faculty members meet together at least once each year to review and adjust their “Professional Activities Plan”. They meet at least annually with the department chair and department LRT committee for review and evaluation. They meet at least once each semester to review and adjust the curriculum. They also meet on a weekly basis to consider and resolve related and/or more routine issues.

Assessment of student progress and achievement includes formal grading by faculty members, informal evaluation by faculty and staff, reviews of transcripts and portfolios by the student advisor, faculty members and the department chair.

The following activities and assessment criteria guide the process:

- 1.a. The psychology department will hire, promote and tenure faculty members who are qualified and demonstrate teaching excellence.
- 1.b. Psychology majors and minors will pass psychology courses that they count toward the major or minor requirements with a minimum grade of “C” as determined by assessment instruments and assignments specific to each course.
- 2.a. The psychology department will assign faculty members with expertise to offer laboratory and research opportunities. The department will also encourage faculty to be involved in research and to involve students in their research activities.
- 2.b. Graduating psychology majors will satisfactorily complete Statistics and at least two research methods courses. Thereby demonstrating their ability to design and carry out scientific inquiry and analysis.
- 2.c. Graduating psychology majors (graduate school track) will review the professional literature on at least one area of research and write at least one acceptable APA style paper.
- 3.a. The psychology department will assign faculty with expertise to offer professional/practicum opportunities. The department will encourage faculty to be involved in professional clinical/service activities.
- 3.b. Graduating psychology majors (professional/agency track) will successfully complete practicum, internship, or some other equivalent practical experience.
- 4.a. The psychology faculty will review annually the standards for undergraduate psychology set by the American Psychological Association and make adjustments in the curriculum accordingly.
- 4.b. All students in Psychology 2010 – Models, Methods, and Professional Issues, Psychology 3800 – Practicum, and Psychology 3410 – Research Design will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct as published by the American Psychological Association. Note: Students involved in animal studies in Psychology 3401 – Experimental Analysis of Behavior, Psychology 3410 – Research Design, Psychology 4511 – Biopsychology, and/or Psychology 4915 – Independent Research will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the National Animal Care Committee guidelines for the ethical use and care of animals in

Implementation:

- 1.a. Faculty members will meet the requirements and expectations specified in the department and university policies and procedures for hiring, promotion, tenure and merit pay.
- 1.b. Students will have to perform satisfactorily (average grade of “C” or better) on course assessment instruments and assignments in order to count the course as part of their major or minor requirements in psychology.
- 2.a. The psychology department will hire, promote and tenure faculty members who are qualified and demonstrate excellence in laboratory and/or research methods.
- 2.b. Psychology majors will have to pass statistics and at least two courses on research methods, with a grade of “C” or better, to be approved for graduation.
- 2.c. Psychology majors (graduate school track) will have to have in their department portfolios at least one APA style paper, graded “C” or better, to be approved for graduation.
- 3.a. The psychology department will hire, promote and tenure faculty members who are qualified and demonstrate excellence in clinical practice and/or service.
- 3.b. Psychology majors (professional/agency track) will have to successfully complete practicum/internship and have copies of supervisor evaluations in their department portfolios to be approved for graduation.
- 4.a. The psychology department will review annually the curriculum and course syllabi and make adjustments when necessary to insure that course offerings, content, activities and assessment are in line with department goals and objectives and that they meet the standards set by the American Psychological Association.
- 4.b. The Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct will be presented to students in the following courses: Psychology 2010 – Models, Methods, and Professional Issues, Psychology 3800 – Practicum, and Psychology 3410 – Research Design. Note: The National Animal Care Committee guidelines for the ethical use and care of animals in research will be presented to students in Psychology 3401 – Experimental Analysis of Behavior, Psychology 3410 – Research Design, Psychology 4511 – Biopsychology, and/or Psychology 4915 – Independent Research. Students in these classes will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of professional ethics on exams and through their conduct in relevant situations. Students will be required to pass courses as indicated above with a grade of “C” or better in order to be approved for graduation.

Process:

- 1.a. Faculty members will be informed of department, college and university professional expectations, policies and procedures. Their professional activities, accomplishments and expertise will be evaluated at least once each year by the Department chair and department peers (LRT committee). Adjustments in teaching assignments and activities will be made accordingly.
- 1.b. Students will be informed of the course objectives, assessment instruments, and assignments in each course syllabus. They will also be informed of graduation requirements, major and minor requirements and the requirement for “C” or better grades through the SUU catalog, department handouts, the Psychology 2010 course, the Department Web site, and in student advisement. Curriculum audits and reviews of graduation worksheets and student portfolios by the student advisor and the department chair will provide formative information and also confirm that all graduating majors and minors have met this objective.
- 2.a. Faculty members will be informed of department, college and university professional expectations, policies and procedures. Their professional activities, accomplishments and expertise will be evaluated at least once each year by the Department chair and department peers. Adjustments in laboratory and research assignments and activities will be made accordingly.
- 2.b. Students will be informed of the course objectives, assessment instruments, and assignments in each course syllabus. They will also be informed of graduation requirements, major and minor requirements and the requirement for “C” or better grades through the SUU catalog, department handouts, the Psychology 2010 course, the Department Web site, and in student advisement. Curriculum audits and reviews of graduation worksheets and student portfolios by the student advisor and department chair will provide formative information and also confirm that all graduating majors have met this objective.
- 2.c. Students (graduate track) will be informed through the SUU catalog, department handouts, the Psychology 2010 course, the Department Web site, and in student advisement, of the requirement to develop a portfolio that will be reviewed before graduation papers are signed to make certain the APA paper requirement is met.
- 3.a. Faculty members will be informed of department, college and university professional expectations, policies and procedures. Their professional activities, accomplishments and expertise will be evaluated at least once each year by the department chair and department peers. Adjustments in clinical and service assignments and activities will be made accordingly.
- 3.b. Students (professional/agency track) will be informed through the SUU catalog, department handouts, the Psychology 2010 course, the Department Web site, and in student advisement, of the requirement to develop a portfolio that will be reviewed before graduation papers are signed to make certain the practicum evaluation requirement is met.
4. Student transcripts and portfolios will be reviewed by psychology faculty and staff to make certain that department requirements and American Psychological Association standards are being met.