

SUU - Psychology Department – Assessment Report – 2003 – 2004 (Revised 10-11-04)

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 foundations requirements for other academic and professional programs.

Goal Statement

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.

Intended Educational Outcomes

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 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.

Criteria for Success

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 PSY 2010 – Models, Methods, and Professional Issues, PSY 3800 – Practicum, and PSY 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.

Results and Summary of Assessment

1.a. 100% of psychology courses were taught by qualified faculty members. 100% of tenure track faculty members had a doctoral degree and experience in the discipline they taught. 100% of faculty member were rated above four on a five - point scale for teaching excellence by students and peers.

1.b. Students receiving grades of C- and above demonstrated knowledge and understanding of psychology as indicated by their scores on exams and assignments. Their scores and grades were validated by capstone and practicum performance and in some cases by standardized tests such as the GRE.

2.a. 100% of lab and research opportunities were offered by qualified faculty members. 100% of tenure track faculty members were involved with students in lab/research experiences.

2.b. 100% of graduating majors successfully completed statistics and at least two research methods courses with a grade of C- or higher. Student ability to conduct analyze and present scientific research was validated by their success at RMPA.

2.c. 100% of graduating psychology majors reviewed the professional literature on at least one area of research and wrote an acceptable paper in APA format.

3.a. 100% of practicum students were supervised by faculty members with expertise.

3.b. Over 80% of graduating psychology majors successfully completed a practicum/internship or other practical experience.

4.a. The psychology department did not review the standards for undergraduate psychology set by the APA this year. There were however, adjustments made in the course offering based on previous reviews.

4.b. All students receiving a grade of C- or better reviewed and demonstrated their knowledge of ethical principles based on the "Code of Conduct" published by the APA.

Use of Results

1.a. Continue the process... No adjustment required at this time.

1.b. Continue the process... No adjustment required at this time.

2.a. Continue the process... No adjustment required at this time.

2.b. Continue the process... No adjustment required at this time.

2.c. Continue the process... No adjustment required at this time.

3.a. Continue the process... No adjustment required at this time.

3.b. Continue the process... No adjustment required at this time.

4.a. The psychology department will review, this year, the standards for undergraduate psychology set by the APA, and make recommendations and adjustments in curriculum and course offerings and requirements accordingly.

4.b. Continue the process... No adjustment is required at this time.