

SUU - Psychology Department – Assessment Report – 2005 – 2006 (Revised 06-19-06)

Mission Statement

The mission of the psychology department is to support the university and the larger community by providing a diverse, dynamic, personalized learning environment and learning experiences that inspire student achievement, foster academic excellence, instill ethics and values, promote service, and facilitate lifelong learning.

Through lectures, readings, research, laboratory experiences, writing assignments, discussions, service, and other personal and professional academic and scholarly activities, psychology students will develop the knowledge, understanding, appreciation, discipline, and skill that will enable them to function personally and professionally as informed and socially 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.

Goal Statement

The psychology department will:

1. Provide expert classroom instruction and relevant learning experiences.
2. Provide relevant laboratories and supervised research experiences.
3. Provide supervised professional practicum and internship experiences.
4. Provide relevant academic advisement.
5. Promote and support personal and professional development.
6. Promote and support service and social responsibility.
7. Meet or exceed the standards set by the American Psychological Association for undergraduate education.

Intended Educational Outcomes

1. Students will acquire, develop and demonstrate knowledge, understanding and appreciation of psychology's methodologies, findings, and applications.
2. Students will develop and demonstrate their ability to conduct scientific inquiry by designing and conducting research activities using appropriate scientific methods and tools.
3. Students will develop and demonstrate their professional competence in professional settings.
4. Students will efficiently and effectively plan coursework and schedules to meet requirements.
5. Students will plan and implement activities that facilitate personal and professional development.
6. Students will participate in professionally relevant service and social activities.
7. The curriculum will meet or exceed the standards set by the American Psychological Association for undergraduate education in course offerings, content, activities and assessment.

Criteria for Success

- 1.a. All tenure track faculty members will be qualified with terminal degrees.
 - b. All courses will be taught by faculty members with expertise and experience.
 - c. All faculty members will average at least "4 out of a possible 5" on teaching evaluations.
 - d. All majors and minors will pass required psychology courses with at least a "C-" grade as determined by exams, assignments, and/or other assessment instruments specific to the course.
- 2.a. All laboratory and research opportunities will be offered by faculty and staff with expertise and experience.
 - b. All majors will satisfactorily complete statistics and at least two research methods courses thereby demonstrating their ability to design, carry out, and communicate scientific inquiry and analysis.
 - c. All majors (graduate school track) will review the professional literature in at least one area of research and write at least one acceptable APA style paper.
- 3.a. All practicum experiences will be supervised by faculty and staff with expertise and experience.
 - b. All majors (professional track) will successfully complete practicum, internship, or some other equivalent professional experience.
- 4.a. Academic advisors will be aware of academic requirements and be available to students.
 - b. All majors will be able to meet graduation requirements within the minimum credit hour requirement.
5. Tenure track faculty members will be involved in research and/or other scholarly and professional activities that benefit students, the university, and the larger community.
6. Tenure track faculty members will be involved in professionally related service activities that benefit students, the university, and the larger community.
- 7.a. The department will review the standards for undergraduate psychology set by the APA and make required adjustments in the curriculum.
 - b. All majors will develop and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of APA Ethical Principles and Code of Conduct.

Results and Summary of Assessment

1. 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.

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. 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.

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.

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

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

4. 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.

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. Continue the process... No adjustment required at this time.
2. Continue the process... No adjustment required at this time.
3. Continue the process... No adjustment required at this time.
4. 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.