

BA in Psychology

Assessment Plan

Program Learning Objectives (PLOs)

The Psychology program learning objectives (recommended by the APA) are:

1. **Theory and Content of Psychology:** Demonstrate familiarity with major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings and historical trends. Suggested outcomes include describing and applying psychology's concepts, language and theories, explaining its major perspectives and demonstrating understanding of its breadth and depth.
2. **Research Methods in Psychology:** Understand and apply basic research methods, including research design, data analysis and interpretation. Suggested outcomes include differentiating research methods, evaluating aptness of research conclusions, designing and conducting basic studies, and generalizing research conclusions appropriately.
3. **Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology:** Respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry and the scientific approach. Suggested outcomes include using and engaging in critical thinking, using reasoning in arguments and persuasion, and approaching problems with sophistication.
4. **Application of Psychology:** Understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social and organizational issues. Suggested outcomes include identifying psychology's major applications, articulating how it can be used toward social understanding and public policy, and recognizing the ethical complexities of applying psychology.
5. **Values in Psychology:** Weigh evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically and reflect other values underpinning psychology. Suggested learning outcomes include understanding the need for ethical behavior, tolerance of ambiguity, demonstration of skepticism and intellectual curiosity, attunement to scientific evidence, civic responsibility and respect for human diversity.
6. **Information and Technological Literacy:** Demonstrate information competence and the ability to use computers and other technology for many purposes. Suggested outcomes include demonstrating competent, ethical and responsible use of information in academic work, applying software in research reports, and mastering such computer basics as Internet navigation and spreadsheet generation.
7. **Communication Skills:** Communicate effectively. Suggested outcomes include demonstrating effective writing, interpersonal and oral communication skills, showing quantitative literacy and collaborating effectively with others.
8. **Sociocultural and International Awareness:** Recognize, understand and respect the

complexity of sociocultural and international diversity. Suggested outcomes include showing sensitivity to and respect for diversity, and being able to consider and explain the role of cultural, racial, ethnic and economic factors, and of privilege and discrimination, in people's behavior.

The following table shows program learning objectives and course alignment.

PLO								
Course	1 theory and applying concepts	2 research	3 critical thinking	4 applications in context	5 values in psych	6 info./tech. literacy	7 communication	8 sociocultural/international awareness
PSY 101	X			X	X			
Statistics from set		X						
PSY 110 neural foundations of behavior	X	X						
PSY 111 foundations of cognitive psych	X	X						
Social science core (one of PSY 161, PSY 171, PSY 181)	X	X		X	X			
5 electives (2 W courses)	X	X	X	X	X		X	X

Assessment methods (frequency of method implementation)

Direct methods

- Course learning objectives have been mapped to program learning objectives (see above). Each term, 4 courses will be chosen by the Department Chair and Undergraduate Program Director from the list of permitted degree requirements and faculty will complete a course reflective memo. In the memo, faculty review student assessments related to performance for selected course learning objectives. Course reflective memos will be sent to the undergraduate committee for review and action.
- Post-graduation placement in graduate school, medical school, or employment as reported in senior survey (percentage who attend post graduate programs, percent employed by type of employer) (annual)
- Success in professional schools and ultimate job placement as reported in alumni survey (every 5 years)
- Awards and Scholarships received by students (annual)

- Senior exit interviews in which students reflect on achievement of program learning objectives using semi-structured interview protocol (every other year, first in 2012).

Indirect methods

- Level of satisfaction with overall program, advising, and teaching quality ratings in senior survey (annual)
- Level of ability self-assessment for program learning outcomes in senior survey (annual) and alumni surveys (every 5 years)

Assessment Data Review

Assessment data will be reviewed annually by the undergraduate curriculum committee.

Recent Curriculum Changes based on Data Review

Implementation report summarizes curriculum changes in report to College Dean.