

Psychology SLO Report 2020-21

We have listed the primary outcomes submitted by the psychology department in May 2010, and identified outcome measures for each. We followed guidelines recommended by our discipline for best methods to assess these (*The 2009 Assessment CyberGuide for Learning Goals and Outcomes produced under the auspices of the Board of Educational Affairs of the American Psychological Association*). We list below those outcomes measured during the 2020-21 academic year, a description of how they were assessed, and our findings. The data contained in this report will be used in formulating our departmental action plan recommendations. All documents related to this year's work are on file in the Department Chair's office (Dr. Anthony Drago). We also have appended a copy of the rubric used in assessing papers.

Special Note: Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and the transition to remote learning/course delivery, there has been an interruption in SLO data collection. Some of the data included in this report was collected using amended online assessment procedures and data normally collected from students engaged in internships has been omitted. Internship data collection will be resumed in the 2021-22 academic year.

Sincerely,
The Psychology Department 2020-21 SLO Committee
Deena Dailey, chair, Sussie Eshun, and Patrick McMunn

Primary Outcomes and Procedures

Upon completion of the psychology degree requirements, students will:

1] Demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology

Assessment procedure:

The core courses for the 4 concentrations within our major expose all students to at least six main areas within the discipline including an overview of the field (PSY 100), statistics (PSY 201), experimental methods (PSY 202), personality (PSY 321), general socio-cultural issues (PSY 292, 294, 305, 306, 320), and general biologically based concepts (PSY 301, 311, 312, 326). We created a Psychology Department Student Learning Outcomes page in D2L for the purpose of delivering an online 30-item, multiple choice, *capstone exam*, that included five items from each of those six major areas. We used the overall score on the 30-item test as an indicator of learning for this item.

Assessment findings:

We invited all graduating psychology students during the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters to complete a capstone assessment and tested those students who responded using this 30-item multiple choice assessment that included five items from each of the six major areas listed in the assessment procedure above. The overall average for students ($n=27$) completing the exam was 72.84%, with a range from *46.67% to 96.67% (*data for two students who did not complete the exam was omitted*).

2] Understand and apply basic methods in psychology including research design, data analysis, and interpretation

Assessment procedure:

We used the 30-item multiple choice capstone exam, described above in item number 1, evaluating scores on the items associated with statistics and experimental methods, to assess learning for this item.

Assessment findings:

We invited all graduating psychology students during the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters to complete the capstone assessment and tested those students who responded. For the five **experimental** methods questions, the overall average for the students ($n=27$) completing the test was 66.67%. For the five **statistics** questions, the overall average for the students completing the test was 63.70%.

3] Use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry and when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental process

Data collection interrupted due to amended COVID-19 online course delivery and cancellation of student internships as well as cancellation of our annual research forum. We will resume normal collection procedures for AY 2021-22.

4] Understand and apply psychological principles and methods to personal, social, and organizational issues

Assessment procedure:

We used the 30-item multiple *choice capstone* exam (described above in item number 1) evaluating scores on the items associated with socio-cultural and personality theories to assess learning for this item.

Assessment findings:

We invited all graduating psychology students during the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters to complete a capstone assessment and tested those students who responded. For the five **socio-cultural** questions, the overall average for the students ($n=27$) completing the test was 77.78%. For the five **personality** questions, the overall average for the 27 students completing the test was 78.52%.

5] Prefer evidence-based decisions, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values of psychology as a discipline

Data collection interrupted due to amended COVID-19 online course delivery and cancellation of student internships as well as cancellation of our annual research forum. We will resume normal collection procedures for AY 2021-22.

6] Demonstrate information literacy

Assessment procedure:

Data collection interrupted due to amended COVID-19 online course delivery and cancellation of student internships as well as cancellation of our annual research forum. We will resume normal collection procedures for AY 2021-22.

7] Communicate effectively in a variety of formats

Assessment procedure:

Data collection interrupted due to amended COVID-19 online course delivery and cancellation of student internships as well as cancellation of our annual research forum. We will resume normal collection procedures for AY 2021-22.

8] Recognize, understand, and respect the complexity of sociocultural and international diversity

Assessment procedure: We used the 30-item multiple choice capstone exam, described above in item number 1, evaluating scores on the items associated with social-cultural issues to assess learning for this item.

Assessment findings: We invited all graduating psychology students during the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters to complete a capstone assessment and tested those students who responded. For the five **socio-cultural** questions, the overall average for the students ($n=27$) completing the test was 77.78%.

9] Have realistic ideas about how to implement their psychological knowledge, skills, and values in occupational and/or higher educational pursuits

This item was not scheduled for assessment in 2021-22.