

**DEPARTMENT ASSESSMENT PLAN:**

Original objectives, and **progress toward modification** of these objectives as of September, 2004

**ASSESSMENT PLAN:**

<b>Objectives (articulated in 1998)</b>	<b>Method of Assessment</b>	<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Current status, proposed implementation procedure, and feedback</b>
<p>1. Disciplinary content (knowledge): Student completing the psychology major will demonstrate knowledge of the ten areas of psychology: abnormal, clinical/counseling, development, research design, history, human learning/cognition, personality, physiological, social, and statistics.</p>	<p>Each spring all graduating psychology majors will take an objective achievement test.</p> <p><b>Proposed additions:</b></p> <p>1. Rotate the use of a commercially developed standardized instrument (e.g., PACAT, ETS subject, or GRE subject test).</p> <p>2. Rotate the use of an essay component (or sample half of the seniors for testing with an essay) that tests for research methods (see below), critical thinking, and Christian perspectives - see later section (each area as a separate portion).</p>	<p>All majors will answer correctly 70% of the items on 70% of the content areas.</p> <p>All students will achieve a rank of 25<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher on ALL sections. The group as a whole will be at or above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for the test as a whole.</p> <p>To be determined after initial pilot testing.</p>	<p>The PACAT was reviewed (Oct. 2000) and decided against due to item quality and cost. As an alternative, we developed our own instrument which has been given each of the last 3 years.</p> <p>The ETS subject test was administered to 20 students, Spring 2004. The results were encouraging although we did not quite meet the criteria of 75<sup>th</sup> percentile. Results are currently under review.</p> <p><i>Suggestion:</i> The research method portion could be given as an exam or exercise in psyc 256 (and/or possible "second course" - not yet developed, or in 330 level courses). The other portions could be given in 399 as an exam or exercise. – This is currently under review by the curriculum committee.</p>

<p>2. Research Methodology (knowledge): Students completing the psychology major will demonstrate knowledge of the principles of research methodology. Students will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Evaluate methods, designs and statistics - identifying the types and potential flaws in methods or conclusions</li> <li>▪ Demonstrate working knowledge of SPSS - both data management and data analysis</li> <li>▪ Design a study and implement data collection using appropriate controls. (For later development)</li> </ul>	<p>Students will turn in a copy of a data-analysis project to the assessment coordinator.</p> <p>Additional Assessment procedures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a fictitious (or real) research report that contains design flaws, statistical flaws and flaws in deductive reasoning.</li> <li>2. Develop a rubric (rating scheme with 3 levels) that rates a student's ability to format and develop a data file, and then select appropriate statistical procedures and produce and interpret appropriate statistical reports</li> </ol>	<p>All students will have completed at least one data-analysis project.</p> <p>To be determined after initial pilot testing.</p> <p>All students will achieve a level 3 in all areas. Students not achieving a 3 on all areas will repeat the test at a later time.</p>	<p>All students complete at least one data analysis project in Psych 255 (required of all majors). We have not yet worked out a procedure for these projects to be turned into the assessment coordinator.</p> <p>Could be given as an exam or exercise in psych 256 (or possible "second course" - not yet developed, or in 330 level courses)</p> <p>Could be administered in 256. Students failing to achieve a 3 rating on all areas could repeat it during the course, as part of a second level course, or during a spring assessment activity. **All of these procedures are still under review by the curriculum committee and have not been implemented (9/04).</p>
<p>3. Social Science Fundamentals (knowledge): Students completing the psychology major will demonstrate knowledge about the empirical fundamentals and their application.</p>	<p>Each spring all graduating psychology majors will take the PACAT achievement test.</p> <p>Additional items:</p> <p>See above: Objectives one and two.</p>	<p>All majors will score 70% or better on the Experimental Design and Statistics sections of the PACAT.</p>	<p>See endnote #1</p>

<p>4. Oral communications (skills): Students completing the psychology major will demonstrate oral communication competence.</p>	<p>Professors who assign oral presentations will give a copy of their assessment of the student's report to the assessment coordinator..</p> <p>The assessment will include at least some standardized categories for the dept. (professors will likely add other categories of their own). The assessment committee, in consultation with the professors who teach statistics and research methods, will develop the categories (and the rating scheme).</p>	<p>All students will have successfully given an oral presentation with a grade of C or better, in at least one of the following classes: 255, 308, 330-334, or 395.</p> <p>Revised Criteria: All students will achieve a rating of 3 on 75% of the categories and all students will have received at least a 1 (meaning they have simply completed an activity that addressed that category)</p>	<p>Most psych majors give several oral presentations (in required and elective courses). We have not yet developed a procedure to assure that they are scoring at least a C-grade on at least one of these presentations.</p>
<p>5. Written communication (skill): Students completing the psychology major will demonstrate written communication competence.</p>	<p>Students will turn in a copy of the paper to the assessment coordinator.</p> <p>Same as above</p>	<p>All students will have received a grade of C or better, either individually or in a group, on a research paper from either 308, 395, 380, or 399. This paper will conform to APA style standards.</p> <p>Revised Criteria: Same as section above</p>	<p>There is no formal procedure in place for assuring that this criterion is met.</p> <p>Could be given as an exam or exercise in psyc 256 (and/or possible "second course, or in 330 level courses)</p>

<p>6. Integration of Psychological Science and Christian Faith (value): students completing the psychology major will achieve a personal integration of science and faith.</p>	<p>Each spring the records of all graduating psychology majors will be reviewed.</p> <p>For 2 years we will add an essay component (or sample half of the seniors for testing with an essay) that tests for research methods (see below), critical thinking, and Christian perspectives (each area as a separate portion).</p>	<p>All students will have successfully passed 399.</p> <p>To be determined after initial pilot testing.</p>	<p>We are presently meeting this criterion.</p> <p>The portion dealing with Christian perspectives could be given in 399 as an exam or class exercise.</p>
<p>7. Service (value): Students completing the psychology major will demonstrate a commitment to service.</p>	<p>Instructors assigning service-learning projects will give a report of student completion to the assessment coordinator.</p> <p>Additional: Record sheet will be prepared</p>	<p>All students will have participated in at least one academic service learning project sponsored by the Psychology Department or another department.</p>	<p>The senior exit exam for 2001-2004 grads asks students to indicate whether or not they have participated in service learning and approximately how many hours they participated over the course of their undergraduate education.</p>
<p>8. Students will show entry level competence in professional skill areas such as: Interviewing, listening, behavioral analysis, etc.</p>	<p>Each summer the internship coordinator will review ratings and comments from internship supervisors.</p>		
<p>9. All objectives</p>	<p>Alumni survey This indirect measure will evaluate most of the major objectives.</p>		<p>** Alumni from 1993, 1998 and 2002 were surveyed in the spring of 2003. Results are summarized in a report available from the Psyc. dept. office.</p>

Endnotes:

1 As noted in the report on the exit exam, students scored an average of 55% on the statistics portion of the exam and 72% on the research design portion of the exam. Because most students have had statistics by the time they take the exit exam, we will need to discuss whether this criterion for statistics is set too high or whether we need to require more statistical training (possibly requiring a second statistics/design course of all majors).

Feedback loop:

Each summer the assessment coordinator and the Curriculum committee will tabulate the results, review and make recommendations for curricular revisions. Each professor will also review the results of each test, survey, essay, etc. that are relevant to their course and make recommendations for changes (typically one paragraph in length).

Obj.	03 - 04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08
1. & 3	Spring (04) - Implement essay test - or commercially prepared objective test	Spring (05) - Implement essay test - &/or commercially prepared objective test	Review and/or revise	?	?
2.	Develop SPSS rubric for continued use	Test SPSS/Research rubric	Re-evaluate	Implement	Implement
4.	Develop oral presentation rubric for continued use	Test oral presentation rubric	Re-evaluate	Implement	Implement
5.	Develop writing rubric	Test writing rubric	Re-evaluate	Implement	Implement
6.	Develop essay writing stimulus	Test essay writing stimulus	Test essay writing stimulus	Off	
7.& 8.	Revise internship evaluation instrument	Continue	Continue	Continue	Continue
9.	Summer (for 1, 5 and 10 years out)	Off	Off	Off	Summer (for 1, 5 and 10 years out)