

Program Assessment Annual Report for 2009 - 2010

What outcomes do we seek?	What will students know and be able to do upon graduation? (N = NASAD standards)	How will students learn these things (in or out of class)?	What evidence can we provide to demonstrate what students know and can do?	What are the assessment findings?	What improvements have been made based on assessment findings?	What are the results of improvements made?
PUL 1: Core communication and Quantitative Skills – the ability of students to write, read, speak and listen, perform quantitative analysis, and use information resources and technology – the foundation skills necessary for all IUPUI students to succeed.						
Division of Science: Psychology Degree Program	Graduates will have good oral and written communication skills; including mastery of APA style. They will be able to perform quantitative analyses, including basic statistics. They will be able to use technology to access information, evaluate data, and present information in Word and PowerPoint formats.	Most psychology courses require students to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discuss topics in class • write reports • evaluate data Some courses require: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mastery of APA style • research report and proposal writing • development of statistical skills 	Skills are repeatedly assessed as students progress through the major, using: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • classroom discussion • presentations in class • written reports • research proposals • exams • case studies • evaluation of all PUL 1 skills in Capstone course 	For most students, skills improve with time in the program as their knowledge grows and they develop academic maturity.	In general, expectations for level of mastery are raised as students advance through the curriculum. To improve writing, students revise papers after comments are provided. To improve quantitative skills, students do more hands on analyses and are expected to clearly describe quantitative relationships. Skills in information technology are improved through increased requirements for use of technology in information gathering and presentation.	Students complete their studies with good to excellent communication, quantitative, and information technology skills.

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PUL 2: Critical Thinking- The ability of students to analyze carefully and logically information and ideas from multiple perspectives.

<p>Division of Science: Psychology Degree Program</p>	<p>Students should be able to critically evaluate information they hear, read, or access on-line. As Psychology students, they should be aware of their own biases and those of others when they evaluate information.</p>	<p>Instructors share guidelines for objective and critical evaluation of information and provide students with opportunities to critically evaluate information in discussions and research reports. Instructors and other students may challenge students to support their interpretations or to rethink them from different perspectives.</p>	<p>We assess critical thinking by evaluating student interpretations of information in their comments, exams, presentations, and reports in all courses from introductory psychology through the capstone experience.</p>	<p>Students learn how to analyze information critically as they move through the program and are often able to apply these skills for information that is neutral to their beliefs. However, students remain reluctant to question their own beliefs and biases and tend to be less critical of information that confirms those beliefs.</p>	<p>Faculty remind students that we all see things through our own biases and must put them aside as we use techniques for objective analysis of information. It is very useful to have students evaluate information from perspectives different from their own. It gives them permission to think differently.</p>	<p>Students evaluate neutral information quite well, but continue to have some difficulty putting aside biases when dealing with information that is not neutral to their beliefs. However, students are able to recognize how their biases affect their thinking when questioned about it.</p>
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PUL 3: Integration and Application of Knowledge- the ability of students to use information and concepts from studies in multiple disciplines in the intellectual, professional and community lives.

<p>Division of Science: Psychology Degree Program</p>	<p>Students will be able to integrate and use information from across the natural and social sciences, the humanities and the arts as they work toward their degrees and later in their professional and community activities.</p>	<p>Students will gain knowledge in many disciplines through course-work and life experiences. Psychology touches on all areas of human experience and references to other disciplines will occur often in lectures, class discussions, and assignments in psychology.</p>	<p>Classroom discussions, presentations, exams, and reports reflect students' ability to integrate information from other disciplines. Practica allow students to demonstrate skills in professional/community settings.</p> <p>Our graduates often work in the mental health field in our region and can display interdisciplinary skills in their work and community activities.</p>	<p>Psychology students generally show good understanding of a variety of disciplines.</p> <p>Our graduates are successful in their employment and acceptance to graduate programs, which demonstrates their ability to use knowledge from a variety of disciplines.</p>		
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PUL 4: Intellectual Depth, breadth and Adaptiveness – the ability of students to examine and organize disciplinary ways of knowing and to apply them to specific issues and problems.

Division of Science: Psychology Degree Program	Students will be able to demonstrate both breadth and depth of understanding in psychology, and to use that knowledge to address a broad range of issues.	Students complete many psychology courses that cover a wide variety of topics from many perspectives. Faculty emphasize that the scientific method is the accepted approach to knowing in psychology.	Student understanding of specific knowledge and ways of knowing (the scientific method) are assessed using exams, reports, presentations, research proposals, case studies, projects, practicum experiences, and in the capstone course.	Our students develop a good knowledge of the content of psychology as they advance toward their degrees. They learn to accept the scientific method as the approach to knowing, usually by the end of the second year.	Students in Introductory Laboratory in Psychology develop a proposal for independent research as the final course activity. This requires students to apply their knowledge and skills in a more rigorous manner than simply writing another lab report. It provides instructors with a very good tool for assessing knowledge and skills.	Students often show initial anxiety to this assignment. After the first draft is returned with suggestions for improvement, the students usually submit revised proposals that reflect good knowledge of material and skills.
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PUL 5: Understanding Society and Culture – the ability of students to recognize their own cultural traditions and to understand and appreciate the diversity of the human experience, both within the United States and internationally.

Division of Science: Psychology Degree Program	Students will be able to recognize and appreciate cultural differences and diversity in human behavior and experience.	Specific courses outside the major address cultural diversity. Many courses within Psychology also address culture and diversity and cross-cultural psychology is a growing field of study.	Knowledge of cultural differences is assessed through exams, reports, presentations, case studies, and projects.	Student knowledge of and appreciation for cultural differences is increasing in Psychology.		
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PUL 6: Values and Ethics – the ability of students to make judgments with respect to individual conduct, citizenship and aesthetics.

Division of Science: Psychology Degree Program	Students will be able to appreciate the role of values in human behavior and be able to recognize and evaluate ethical issues in all areas of human experience. This should help them make ethical decisions in their lives.	Psychology studies all aspects of human behavior and the issues of values and ethics arise frequently in the curriculum. In addition, students learn about ethical issues involved in research with human subjects.	Understanding of the importance of values and ethics is assessed through discussions, exams, reports, case studies, presentations, practicum experiences, projects, and the capstone course.	Students' appreciation of values and ethics in human behavior grows as they advance toward degree completion.		
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Examples: www.planning.iupui.edu