Undergraduate Program Assessment

Department of Psychology

Student Learning Objectives

Conceptual skills
- Critically evaluate empirical support for various theories and findings
- Conduct literature searches using traditional and technology-based methodologies and critically evaluate and synthesize findings
- Understand the interconnections of psychology with other disciplines

Research skills
- Use and evaluate research methods and designs
- Employ and evaluate basic statistics

Applications skills:
- Appreciate how psychological findings can be used to make informed judgments that strengthen the community and build public policy

General skills
- Speak and write effectively in the discourse of the discipline
- Understand the diversity of behavior and experience
- Work effectively with others and on teams
- Synthesize natural science and social science aspects of psychology
- Understand the ethical practice of scientific inquiry
- Think scientifically, understanding the relationships between theories, observations, and conclusions

Assessment tools
- Direct: process for reviewing student performance in Psych 100 will be established, involving review of students’ writing assignments and examinations.

Highlighted recent activities
- The department has begun to review its curriculum to determine how classes address the student learning objectives, how they can be modified, and how effectiveness can be measured, beginning with Psych 100. Instructors of the large Psych 100 sections were to have met with the undergraduate director early in the summer to determine which learning objectives can or should be met in the course, and measures for determining success in achieving those objectives developed.