

## ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR:

Psychology

(Instructional Degree Program)

B.S. & B.A. Major

(Degree Level)

2008-2009 Academic Year

(Period Covered)

October 15, 2010

(Date Submitted)

### MISSION AND GOALS

#### **Department's/Program's Goal(s) in Support of Institutional Mission:**

The mission of the Department of Behavioral Sciences is to: a) contribute to meeting the educational and research need in psychology, sociology, anthropology, and related fields; b) contribute to meeting the career needs in psychological and social services and social sciences, as well as contribute to training for careers in education, engineering, physical and biological sciences, medicine, and other science fields; c) contribute to meeting the need for secondary school teacher certification in sociology and/or anthropology; and d) provide psychological and socio-cultural service and expertise for the region, as well as the greater global community.

#### **Intended Educational Outcome 1**

Demonstrate critical thinking and an understanding of psychology as applied to everyday life.

##### **A. First Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 1**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success:** Grades from the applied research project and paper assigned in Psychology 340, Developmental Psychology, and on alternate years, grades from the applied research project in Psychology 324, Abnormal Psychology or in Psychology 328, Theories of Personality. Successful completion of this objective will be demonstrated by 80% of students in the class receiving a grade of B or better on this paper.

**Summarization of results from data collected:** Both grades from the applied research project and paper assigned in Psychology 340, Developmental Psychology, and the applied autobiographical project and paper in Theories of Personality (PSY 328) were used this year. 95% of students achieved a B or better on the Developmental Psychology paper, and 86% of students achieved a B or better on the Theories of Personality Paper. *In all, 36 psychology majors were assessed on this outcome, and this objective was achieved.*

## **B. Second Means of Assessment for Educational Outcome 1**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success:** Every five years the program will complete a survey of alumni. The survey will include information on occupational status. Successful completion of this outcome will be indicated by at least 75% of our alumni indicating employment in some area of psychology.

**Summarization of results from data collected:** The Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness began surveying student alumni beginning in the summer of 2008. Only one response was collected. For this reason this activity was not completed.

## **C. Use of Results for Educational Outcome 1**

The results from the applied projects and paper assignments are highly encouraging as a measure of this outcome. With regard to the more direct measure, we expect to be able to consolidate information from the yearly OIER surveys until we have enough responses to make useful interpretations from this data.

## **Intended Educational Outcome 2**

Be able to read, understand and critique psychological literature.

### **A. First Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 2**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success:** Grades from the literature review assignment in Psychology 301, Research Methods and Analysis. Successful completion of this objective will be demonstrated by 80% of students in the class receiving a grade of B or better on this paper.

**Summarization of results from data collected:** 87.5% of the students in 301 achieved a grade of B or better on the literature review paper. This outcome was achieved and represents a 10% improvement over last year.

### **B. Second Means of Assessment for Educational Outcome 2**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success:** Grades from the final paper assigned in Psychology 405, Positive Psychology. Successful completion of this objective will be demonstrated by 80% of students in the class receiving a grade of B or better on this paper.

**Summarization of results from data collected:** The PSY 405 course was not taught this year.

### **C. Third Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 2**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success:** Grades from the autobiographical project and paper in Theories of Personality (PSY 328) and its lab, Techniques of Personality Research (PSY 329) (every other year). Successful completion of this objective will be demonstrated by 80% of students in the class receiving a grade of B or better on this paper.

**Summarization of results from data collected:** The applied autobiographical project and paper in Theories of Personality (PSY 328) and its lab, Techniques of Personality Research lab (PSY 329) were used this year. 86% of students achieved a B or better on the Theories of Personality Paper. This outcome was achieved.

**D. Use of Results for Educational Outcome 2:** Students met this outcome successfully. The 10% improvement from last year in 301 paper grades may be attributed, at least in part, to the instructor working more intensively with the 301 TA to insure to improve the outcome in Psychology 301, the instructor plans to work with the 301 TA that students understand what is expected of them in the literature review (e.g. appropriate length, correct grammar, thoughtful argument, and correct citations).

### **Intended Educational Outcome 3**

Ability to design, analyze, and interpret the results of an experiment, and to report the results in written form with impeccable use of APA format.

#### **A. First Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 3**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success:** Grades from the final paper assigned in Psychology 302, Research Methods and Analysis II. Successful completion of this objective will be demonstrated by 80% of students in the class receiving a grade of B or better on this paper.

**Summarization of results from data collected:** 75% of the students achieved a grade of B or better, indicating that this outcome was just missed.

#### **B. Use of Results for Educational Outcome 3**

A number of improvements have been made to the PSY 301/302 methods and analysis sequence. Most importantly, major candidates now have an entire year to design and execute a study. We believe the longer time frame is critical given the undergraduate students' limited background in experimental design and analysis before this sequence. There has, however, been variation in instructors assigned to this course. Completion of a standardized rubric for the paper evaluation will help increase reliability of this measure.

#### **Intended Educational Outcome 4**

Demonstrate knowledge in at least three psychology sub-disciplines.

##### **A. First Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 3**

**Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success:** Successful completion of the major.

**Summarization of results from data collected:** Nine students received their baccalaureate degrees in psychology during the 2008-2009 academic year.

##### **A. Use of Results for Educational Outcome 4**

We need a more sensitive measure of this outcome but have yet to identify one.