

ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR:

Psychology

(Instructional Degree Program)

M.S.

(Degree Level)

2007-2008 Academic Year

(Period Covered)

November 15, 2008

(Date Submitted)

MISSION AND GOALS

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

It is the mission of the master's program in psychology at NMHU to train master level psychologists who can utilize critical thinking skills, demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method, and apply their knowledge of major disciplines of psychology to their work as teachers, researchers, or practitioners. The program is designed to prepare students for either work as master level clinicians or continued study in psychology at the doctoral level. This mission is achieved through a high level of professor-to-student interaction, ample opportunities for research and practical experience, and exposure to a multicultural community setting.

Intended Educational Outcome 1

Develop hypotheses based on a body of research, and design and implement a research methodology to test those hypotheses and present the results in both written and oral form.

A. First Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 1

Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success: This outcome will be demonstrated by the successful completion of a thesis. Successful completion means a satisfactory oral defense and an approved written copy submitted to the NMHU library. Each year the theses completed during that academic year will be reviewed by the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies for quality.

Summarization of results from data collected: Three theses were completed during the time covered by this evaluation. Results indicate that this outcome was met.

B. Use of Results for Educational Outcome 1

The results do not suggest any changes to the program.

Intended Educational Outcome 2

Integrate information from diverse sub-fields of psychology into a coherent understanding of human behavior.

A. First Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 2

Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success: Each year the department will establish a portfolio of student papers from Psychopharmacology, Advanced Psychopathology, and Advanced Social Psychology. Two faculty members will assess these papers using the departmental “Portfolio Checklist for Outcomes Assessment”.

Summarization of results from data collected: While papers were collected, there was no one available to review them. In the past we have had psychologists from the community review these papers, but it was the decision of the psychology faculty that this task is too time-consuming to ask of these colleagues. We attempted to locate faculty members in the university to review portfolios, but were unsuccessful. For this reason this activity was not completed.

B. Use of Results for Educational Outcome 2

We need to re-design our outcomes assessment plan to eliminate the use of portfolios. They are just not working.

Intended Educational Outcome 3

Adopt a high standard for ethical behavior and work performance.

A. First Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 3

Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success: Each year the department will compile data from the “Faculty Review of Graduate Students”. This form is filled out at the end of the first two semester of graduate work. It reflects a consensus opinion of the psychology faculty regarding the student’s performance. Successful completion of this outcome will be indicated by a significant increase in average student scores in the second semester compared to the first semester.

Summarization of results from data collected: The mean score of all graduate students evaluated in the fall 2007 semester was 46.6 (out of a possible 60). This increased to 48.2 in the spring semester, indicating that this criteria was met.

B. Second Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 3

Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success: Each year the department will compile data from the Field Supervisors’ review of practicum students placed in that year. This is a qualitative review of practicum student performance. Successful completion of this

outcome will be indicated by at least 75% of practicum students receiving comments indicating that their performance was considered above average by their supervisors and with no students receiving comments indicating that their performance was unsatisfactory.

Summarization of results from data collected: There were seven practicum placements of graduate students during the 2007-2008 academic year. On a scale of one to five, with five being “excellent”, the practicum students had a mean over 4 on each item in the evaluation (range: 4.33-5.00). None of the Field Supervisors were dissatisfied with student performance and all were willing to work with the student again.

C. Third Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 3

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 and at least 25% of those employed in psychological work indicating that their job involves the supervision of other employees or the direction of programs.

Summarization of results from data collected: The Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness will begin surveying graduate alumni beginning in the summer of 2008.

D. Use of Results for Educational Outcome 3

The results indicate that our program is succeeding on this outcome.

Intended Educational Outcome 4

Apply knowledge of cross-cultural difference to the understanding and practice of psychology.

A. First Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 4

Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success: Each year the department will establish a portfolio of student papers from Psychopharmacology, Advanced Psychopathology, and Advanced Social Psychology. Two faculty members will assess these papers using the departmental “Portfolio Checklist for Outcomes Assessment”.

Summarization of results from data collected: While papers were collected, there was no one available to review them. In the past we have had psychologists from the community review these papers, but it was the decision of the psychology faculty that this task is too time-consuming to ask of these colleagues. We attempted to locate faculty members in the university to review portfolios, but were unsuccessful. For this reason this activity was not completed.

B. Second Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 4

Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success: Each year the department will compile data from the Field Supervisors' review of practicum students placed in that year. This is a qualitative review of practicum student performance. Successful completion of this outcome will be indicated by at least 75% of practicum students receiving comments indicating that their practicum involved work with diverse populations and that they performed well in these settings.

Summarization of results from data collected:

There were seven practicum placements of graduate students during the 2007-2008 academic year. On a scale of one to five, with five being "excellent", the practicum students had a mean over 4 on each item in the evaluation (range: 4.33-5.00). None of the Field Supervisors were dissatisfied with student performance and all were willing to work with the student again.

C. Third Means of Assessment for the Educational Outcome 4

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 50% of those alumni indicating employment in some area of psychology will indicate that their work involves diverse populations.

Summarization of results from data collected: The Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness will begin surveying graduate alumni beginning in the summer of 2008.

D. Use of Results for Educational Outcome 4

We need to replace student portfolios with another measure of student success for this outcome. Results from the evaluations of practicum students suggest the program is succeeding on this outcome.

Intended Educational Outcome 5

Apply theoretical knowledge and interpersonal skills to therapeutic relationships.

A. First Means of Assessment for Educational Outcome 5

Means of Assessment and Criteria for Success: Each year the department will compile data from the Field Supervisors' review of practicum students placed in that year. This is a qualitative review of practicum student performance. Successful completion of this outcome will be indicated by at least 75% of practicum students receiving comments indicating that their performance was considered above average by their supervisors and with no students receiving comments indicating that their performance was unsatisfactory.

Summarization of results from data collected:

There were seven practicum placements of graduate students during the 2007-2008 academic year. On a scale of one to five, with five being “excellent”, the practicum students had a mean over 4 on each item in the evaluation (range: 4.33-5.00). None of the Field Supervisors were dissatisfied with student performance and all were willing to work with the student again.

B. Second Means of Assessment for Educational Outcome 5

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 demonstrated by at least 50% of those alumni indicating employment in some area of psychology will indicate that their work involves the application of therapeutic interventions.

Summarization of results from data collected: Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness will begin surveying graduate alumni beginning in the summer of 2008. However, an informal survey of our alumni from the past five years indicates that all of them are employed in the field of psychology and all of their jobs involve the application of therapeutic interventions.

C. Use of Results for Educational Outcome 5

The results show that our program is succeeding in this outcome.