

ASSESSMENT REPORT 2014-2015

Psychology Undergraduate
(Instructional Degree Program)

B.A./B.S.
(Degree Level)

Program Mission:

The mission of the Department of Social and 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.

Student Learning Outcome 1:

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

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 1

- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills
- Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 1:

Grades from the applied papers assigned in Psychology 340, Developmental Psychology, Psychology 324, Abnormal Psychology, Psychology 328, Theories of Personality and Psychology 408 Drugs and Behavior will be used for this assessment. Successful completion of this objective will be demonstrated by 80% of students in those classes receiving a grade of B or better on these papers.

Summary of Data:

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	38	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	14
Total Number of Students Assessed:	52	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	73.1%

Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 1:

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research conducts an annual survey of alumni who received their degrees three years prior to the year the survey is administered. The survey includes a question regarding employment status. Successful completion of this outcome will be indicated by at least 75% of our alumni indicating employment in some area of psychology.

Summary of Data:

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	2	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	1
Total Number of Students Assessed:	3	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 1:

The results suggest that we fell short of meeting Outcome 1. With respect to the 1st means of assessment, we still believe this standard is appropriate, but difficult to achieve, and we will continue to provide support to our students in areas of writing and critical thinking in pursuit of this outcome. To meet this goal, we believe we need to have a more writing-intensive program; in our efforts to make our program more writing-intensive and remediate student writing, we offered an elective writing course for social/behavioral sciences in Spring, 2015. We are considering making this a mandatory course for students in the future. With respect to the second measure, one of the students was a stay-at-home parent at the time of the survey, and the other two were enrolled in graduate programs.

Student Learning Outcome 2:

Be able to read, understand and critique psychological literature.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 2

- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills
- Effective Communication Skills
- Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 2:

Grades from the paper and oral presentation in Psychology 301, Psychological Research Methods will be used for this assessment. 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.

Summary of Data

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	15	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	7
Total Number of Students Assessed:	22	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	68.2%

Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 2:

Grades from the final paper assigned in Psychology 405, Positive Psychology and the lab presentation in Psychology 411, Techniques in Physiological Psychology will be used for this assessment. Successful completion of this objective will be demonstrated by 80% of students in the classes receiving a grade of B or better on these assignments

Summary of Data:

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	29	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	8
Total Number of Students Assessed:	37	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	78.4%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 2:

The results suggest that we fell short of our goals for Outcome 2. We will continue to incorporate assignments in psychology courses that require reading, critiquing, and understanding literature in psychology and realize that extra support may need to be provided to students to assist them in successfully completing such assignments.

Student Learning 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.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 3

- Mastery of Content Knowledge and Skills
- Effective Communication Skills
- Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills
- Effective Use of Technology

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 3:

Grades from the final paper assigned in Psychology 302, Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences, and from the final projects from any students completing Psychology 499, Independent Research will be used. Successful completion of this objective will be demonstrated by 80% of students in the class receiving a grade of B or better on these

assignments.

Summary of Data

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	17	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	2
Total Number of Students Assessed:	19	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	89.5%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 3:

The results suggest that the program is meeting its goals in promoting students' 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.