

ASSESSMENT REPORT 2015-2016

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: | 66 | Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion: | 21 |
| Total Number of Students Assessed: | 87 | Percent of Students Meeting Criterion: | 75.8% |

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: This outcome was not assessed by the OIER this year perhaps because there was turnover in the office.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|-----|
| Number of Students Meeting Criterion: | 0 | Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion: | 0 |
| Total Number of Students Assessed: | 0 | Percent of Students Meeting Criterion: | N/A |

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 1: In the future, we are considering revising our second means of assessment so that outcomes assessment is firmly under the control of the Psychology Department. We have landed on the idea of conducting a survey of juniors and seniors in our major, asking them the extent they feel classes have met program objectives. We will use this survey probably to address all of the objectives herein. While we didn't fully meet the objective outlined in the first means of assessment we came very close. Discussion ensued about consideration for considering a higher percentage of students but using C or better as the comparison (e.g. 85% of the students receive a C or better on the outcome), given that we don't want to promote grade inflation in our program. It is notable that we are also having a higher number of students moving through our program.

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: | 44 | Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion: | 1 |
| Total Number of Students Assessed: | 45 | Percent of Students Meeting Criterion: | 97.7% |

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: Psy 405/411 were not taught last year, so this was not assessed.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|-----|
| Number of Students Meeting Criterion: | 0 | Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion: | 0 |
| Total Number of Students Assessed: | 0 | Percent of Students Meeting Criterion: | N/A |

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 2: We were satisfied with the results of our outcomes assessment here. Three different instructors were satisfied with students who were working in groups and individually in 301 to review literature in psychology, and write a proper APA-style literature review. It was unusual for us to not teach either Psy 405 or Psy 410/11 in one academic year, and we expect to have data for this means of assessment in the future.

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: | 50 | Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion: | 8 |
| Total Number of Students Assessed: | 58 | Percent of Students Meeting Criterion: | 86.2% |

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 3: Again, we met expectations for our program in our statistics course. Students were successfully able to complete group projects, using SPSS and Excel software in analyzing their quantitative results and writing up an APA-style report. We were satisfied with this outcome and means of assessment.