

ASSESSMENT REPORT 2015-2016

Psychology Graduate
(Instructional Degree Program)

M.S.
(Degree Level)

Program 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.

Student Learning 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.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 1

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

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 1:

Grades from the Psychology 602, Behavioral Research Methods final project will be used for this assessment. Successful completion of this outcome will be indicated by at least 90% of students will receiving a B or above on this project.

Summary of Data:

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	6	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	6	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 1:

Composite scores from the midterm and final exams in Psychology 601, Data Analysis and Statistics will be used for this assessment. Successful completion of this outcome will be indicated by at least 90% of students receiving a B or above on this composite score.

Summary of Data:

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	5	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	2
Total Number of Students Assessed:	7	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	71.4%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 1:

All of our students met the methods requirement, but a couple of our students didn't make a B in our statistics course. Discussion of this outcome has led to the reflection that the bar is set too high in the statistics course, and a couple students with C grades should not lead us to the conclusion that the program is not effective, but rather challenging in some areas. Statistics is a challenging course for many of the students who are often exposed to SPSS and more advanced quantitative modeling for the first time. So, we are considering a change to this projected outcome to 85% receiving a C or better.

Student Learning Outcome 2:

Prepare students to be M.S. level counselors or doctoral candidates in other graduate institutions.

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:

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 80% of our alumni demonstrating employment or graduate studies in some area of psychology.

Summary of Data

The OIER did not conduct this survey this year.

Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 2:

For those students who take a state exam to become a licensed counselor, we expect a 90% rate of passing. We will obtain this information from the self-report of our alumni.

Summary of Data:

Alumni were not surveyed this year.

Third Means of Assessment for Outcome 2:

Grades from the final paper in Psychology 671, Advanced Psychopathology will be used for this assessment. Successful completion of this outcome will be indicated by at least 90% of students receiving a B or above on this paper.

Summary of Data:

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	6	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	1
Total Number of Students Assessed:	7	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	85.7%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 2:

As a new department who lost the person in charge of outcomes assessment, psychology is looking to revise some of the means of assessment for both graduate and undergraduate learning outcomes. For this outcome, in place of the first means of assessment, we will switch to conducting an in house survey of current graduate students to report on their own perception of the extent to which our program is meeting these goals. We will also be more intentional about keeping track of alumni performance on licensure tests. Because we have small N sample sizes, we also should relax our outcome goals of 90% completing B or better. The faculty currently regard 6/7 or 85.7% of students making a B or better on an advanced psychopathology paper as successful.

Student Learning Outcome 3:

Adopt a high standard for ethical behavior and work performance.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 3

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

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 3:

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 semesters 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 90% of students receiving at least a 4 out of 5 on the items “Overall job performance” and “Professionalism” at the end of their second semester in the program.

Summary of Data

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	5	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	5	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 3:

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 ratings indicating that their performance was

considered above average by their supervisors and with no students receiving ratings indicating that their performance was below average or worse.

Summary of Data

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	9	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	9	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

Third Means of Assessment for Outcome 3:

The final grade in Psychology 651, Professional Ethics and Issues will be used for this assessment. Successful completion of this outcome will be indicated by at least 95% of students receiving a final grade of 90% or better.

Summary of Data:

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	4	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	4	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 3:

All students met expectations for outcome 3 so we are content with our program delivery in these areas. Still, we may consider revising the 90% or even 95% or better criteria which is simply unattainable without perfect performance in small samples such as ours.

Student Learning Outcome 4:

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

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 4

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

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 4:

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.

Summary of Data

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	9	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	9	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 4:

The final grade in Psychology 677, Multicultural Psychotherapy will be used for this assessment. Successful completion of this outcome will be indicated by at least 90% of students receiving a final grade of 90% or better.

Summary of Data

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	6	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	1
Total Number of Students Assessed:	7	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	85.7%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 4:

We believe that our program has essentially met this learning outcome. Again, we will investigate lowering the 90% criterion with such small sample sizes.

Student Learning Outcome 5:

Apply theoretical knowledge and interpersonal skills to therapeutic relationships.

NMHU Traits Specifically Linked to Student Learning Outcome 5

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

First Means of Assessment for Outcome 5:

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. Final evaluation of the semester. Successful completion of this outcome will be indicated by at least 75% of practicum students receiving ratings indicating that their performance was considered above average by their supervisors and with no students receiving ratings indicating that their performance was below average or worse.

Summary of Data

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	9	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	9	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 5:

We are delighted that our field supervisors were univocally supportive in their reviews of performance of our graduate students this year. We take seriously the professional training part of our program, and it is nice to see support from an independent review procedure.

Utilization of Results:

We will utilize this outcome report to further strengthen the program in areas where we are successful, especially outcome 3,4, and 5. We plan to change a few of our assessments to include a self-report measure from current students in the program, to also obtain their point of view. We also plan a reconsideration of the criteria for success considering the small size of our graduate samples. Finally, we will delete the assessment that used to be collected by the OIER, and place outcomes assessment firmly under the roof of the program.