

ASSESSMENT REPORT 2016-2017

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 80% 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 85% of students receiving a C or above on this composite score.

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 1:

All of our students met both requirements. We adjusted the criteria for our statistics course because it is a challenging course for many of the students who are being exposed to SPSS and more advanced quantitative modeling for the first time. Of the 9 students, 3 did receive a C, and 6 received an A or B. Students have consistently passed the methods requirement over the years.

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, and we are considering removal of this outcome or to put it under psychology's control.

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 80% 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:

We are considering revising how we assess outcome two because much of this data is difficult to obtain. Students did pass the third assessment measure of this outcome.

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 completed 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 80% 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:	4	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	6	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	67%

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 80% 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 3:

Our students met criteria in all areas except for faculty ratings of their professionalism and job performance. As a program, we will consider more mentorship in these areas to make sure students are meeting the standards we expect of them here.

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 80% of students receiving a final grade of B or better.

Summary of Data

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	4	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	01
Total Number of Students Assessed:	4	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

Interpretation of Results for Outcome 4:

We believe that our program has essentially met this learning outcome, and are happy that the field supervisors are pleased with their work as well.

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 again 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 reconsidered and implemented changes to our criteria for success considering the small size of most of our graduate samples. Finally, we will move forward this year and delete the assessment that used to be

collected by the OIER.

Changes to Program Based on Results:

We made one key change to our program last year in which we created a non-thesis option for graduate students to graduate based on feedback from graduate students and in comparison to other high enrollment helping professions such as counseling and social work. This year we are very pleased with our graduate outcomes assessment and don't see any immediate need to change the program. Because one outcome in our own ratings of the professionalism of graduate students, it is worth considering that we pay special attention to this area in our orientation at the beginning of the year, and as we advise them throughout the year and in Psy 651 our ethics course.

Retention Strategies:

Historically, we noticed that the primary barrier to graduate students' degree completion was finishing their thesis projects. As a result, we added a non-thesis professional option in which students submit several smaller projects in a written portfolio and perform an oral evaluation based on their analyses of several clinical case examples. Four students graduated this year under this option, and we graduate the greatest total number in our history last year. We anticipate our retention and completion rates will substantially improve moving forward.