

**OUTCOME ASSESSMENT REPORT  
PSYCHOLOGY - GRADUATE  
2018-2019**

**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, engage in ethical academic, clinical, and behavioral practices, 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 (1.1):**

Grades from the Psychology 602, Behavioral Research Methods final project will be used for this assessment. This project involves identification of a research topic, relevant literature review, and creating a research plan, which includes the following: identifying specific aims, forming hypotheses to be tested, and planning appropriate research methodology to test hypotheses (e.g., population from which to sample, recruitment plan, materials to use, and research plan. 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:	7	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	1
Total Number of Students Assessed:	8	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	87.5%

**Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 1 (1.2):**

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:**

Overall understanding of research methodology and statistical analysis among graduate students appears to be good. The program will continue to assess these areas over AY 2019-20 to determine whether we should raise the benchmark.

**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 (2.1):**

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

**Summary:** OIER only had five responses from alumni and only reports when more than nine respondents provide information.

**Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 2 (2.2):**

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:**

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	1	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	1	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

**Third Means of Assessment for Outcome 2 (2.3):**

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:**

These results also are positive and on par with previous years. With no data being available from OIER for Means 1, the department will look to collect data on our own, spearheaded by Dr. Heflin.

**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 (3.1):**

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:	3
Total Number of Students Assessed:	7	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	57.1%

**Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 3 (3.2):**

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:	10	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	1
Total Number of Students Assessed:	11	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	90.9%

**Third Means of Assessment for Outcome 3 (3.3):**

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:	10	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	10	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

**Interpretation of Results for Outcome 3:**

There was a dip in our graduate students' ratings of professionalism during this academic year. Upon further examination, a few students fell just under the range of our performance standards (3.5 out of 5, rather than 4 out of 5). Regardless, we will be emphasizing professionalism and job responsibilities this AY in multiple settings [i.e., graduate student orientation, practicum, and throughout coursework (especially 6710 Colloquium of Teaching)].

**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 (4.1):**

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:	10	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	1
Total Number of Students Assessed:	11	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	90.9%

**Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 4 (4.2):**

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:	8	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	8	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

**Interpretation of Results for Outcome 4:**

We are very pleased at our students' understanding of multiculturalism and believe that the standards for meeting this outcome are fair and reasonable.

**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 (5.1):**

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:	10	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	1
Total Number of Students Assessed:	11	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	90.9%

**Second Means of Assessment for Outcome 5 (5.2):**

Students in the Clinical/Counseling program are required to take an Introduction to Counseling and Therapy course. In this course students complete 3-4 mock therapy sessions. These mock sessions simulate clinical situations and require students to demonstrate basic clinical skills, motivational interviewing skills, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) skills, and if time permits, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). This means of outcome assessment would be measured by students' average performance on mock sessions. Successful completion of the outcome will be indicated by at least 75% of the students receiving an average mock session grade of B (80%) or higher.

**Summary of Data:**

Number of Students Meeting Criterion:	8	Number of Students Not Meeting Criterion:	0
Total Number of Students Assessed:	8	Percent of Students Meeting Criterion:	100%

**Interpretation of Results for Outcome 5:**

We are very pleased at our students' theoretical knowledge and implementation of clinical skills and believe that the standards for meeting this outcome are fair and reasonable.

**Utilization of Results:**

As one of the highest credit hour graduate programs in the university, there are many different outcomes that need to be attended to as a degree program. Overall, we are very pleased with this program's performance in this AY. We believe that this helps validate the effectiveness of faculty instruction and student learning, particularly in teaching about the *science* of psychology.

However, we will remain vigilant that our students' performance does not slip. Though our graduate students are generally strong professionally, we see this year that we need to be emphasizing this component of our training more.

**Changes to Program Based on Results:**

The Graduate Faculty will be taking more control of alumni data collection and emphasizing professionalism and job performance in our training.