

Department of Psychology Assessment Plan

Department Mission:

The WWU Department of Psychology provides an exemplary educational program based on the scientific study of psychological processes. The department represents the comprehensive scope of psychology including its historical, developmental, biological, cognitive, social and cultural foundations. Through pedagogy, scholarship and service the faculty emphasizes scientific methodology to enhance critical thinking, writing, research skills, and promote the application of psychological knowledge to the world's needs and problems.

Department Student Learning Objectives: Upon graduation, Psychology majors will be able to:

1. demonstrate knowledge of psychological theory across a broad range of content areas
2. design and implement theoretically based and methodologically sound research projects
3. evaluate data and draw appropriate conclusions
4. recognize applicability of psychological theories and principles in real world settings
5. communicate effectively
6. demonstrate critical thinking
7. recognize the importance of individual differences
8. view their education in psychology as relevant to their lives post-graduation

Assessment of Student Learning Objectives

| Measures | SLO Assessed | Use of Information |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Exams, papers, & presentations in 400-level seminar courses | 1,2,3,4, 5,6,7 | Instructors meet to discuss student performance relative to SLOs. Reactions are summarized and submitted to Assessment Committee(AC) and presented to department faculty. Based on faculty feedback AC develops appropriate assessment procedures (see below), and subsequent data are summarized and shared with faculty who collectively determine appropriate action for improvement. |
| Exams, papers, & presentations in PSY 301, 302 & 303 | 2,3,5,6 | Instructors meet to discuss student performance relative to SLOs. Reactions are summarized and submitted to Assessment Committee(AC) and presented to department faculty. Based on faculty feedback AC develops appropriate assessment procedures (see below), and data are summarized, shared and acted upon, as described above. |
| Alumni Survey | 4,5,6,7,8 | Alumni report their perceived ability in corresponding SLOs as provided by their WWU degree in Psychology. Data are summarized, shared and acted upon, as described above. |
| Senior Exit Survey | 1,2,3,4, 5,6,7,8 | Graduating seniors report their perceived ability in corresponding SLOs as provided by their WWU degree in Psychology. Data are summarized, shared and acted upon, as described above. |

Potential Assessment Procedures

- Evaluation of sample of final papers using faculty developed rubrics
- Evaluation of sample of presentations using faculty developed rubrics
- Evaluation of performance on exams using item analyses
- Evaluation of course syllabi