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Academic Learning Compact : Psychology [Effective 2013]

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

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Academic Learning Compacts – ALCs
Psychology
CIP: 42.0101

Academic Program Mission

The mission of the psychological science program is to provide students with an understanding of how psychological scientists measure, explain, predict, and, when appropriate, modify behavior, thoughts, and feelings. Because psychology is an empirical science, the program endeavors to enable students to critically evaluate, design, and carry out research to collect empirical data. Because psychology is primarily a quantitative science, our program trains students in statistical theory and software-based tools to analyze data in order to determine relationships between variables. Because science is useless without public dissemination, our program teaches students how to summarize and present research findings in a manner understandable both to other scientists and to the general public. Because psychological science seeks universal laws, our faculty encourages both a cross-cultural and comparative approach. The program also encourages students to become civically involved in the field through internships and organizational involvement. Finally, because psychological science typically requires graduate training, the program aims to prepare students for successful entry into graduate programs. It is our belief that preparation for graduate training will instill in our student the values of science, and that these values will be beneficial regardless of one's final career choice.

Career/Employment Options for Graduates

Employment Counselor, Researcher, Testing specialist, Human Resources Manager, Behavioral Technician, Probation or Corrections Officer, Rehabilitation specialist, Sales and marketing specialist, Mental Health Worker, Child Care Specialist

Specific Information on this Academic Program

<http://www1.usfsp.edu/coas/psychology/index.htm>

Details Relating to Student Learning Outcomes

1.Content/ Discipline skills		
Goals/Objectives	Means of Assessment	Criteria for Success
a) Understand and distinguish among the field's major theoretical traditions.	1. Student understanding of the distinctive thrust of four different sub disciplinary areas (Biological, Cognition/Learning, Developmental and Social Psychology bases of behavior) will be assessed in Psychology 2012 using an agreed upon pool of 10 items per sub-discipline (40 total), administered twice (once during mid-term exams, and again on a comprehensive final)	1. At least 70% of the majors enrolled in this course achieve an average of 70% or higher on identified items.
b) Recognize and understand appropriate use of major research designs and statistical methods of the field.	1. Students taking PSY 3204 (Psychological Statistics) will complete an agreed-upon set of items selected from a vetted item pool.	1. Seventy percent of the majors enrolled in this course achieve an average of 70% or higher on identified items.

2. Communication Skills		
Goals/objectives	Means of Assessment	Criteria for success
a) Write clear and concise summaries of published research	1. Writing assignments requiring that students read and summarize findings of at least one scientific journal article using APA style (where appropriate) will be given in select “Upper Division” courses during the review cycle.	1. In courses where we assess this skill, seventy percent of the majors will achieve a 70% or higher in the assignment.
b) Provide and interpret meaningful summaries of raw data	1. All students taking PSY 3204 (Psychological Statistics) will analyze data and complete a research report using a standardized data set developed by the psychology faculty.	1. Seventy percent of the majors will demonstrate mastery of at least 70% of the data analysis.

3.Critical thinking skills		
Goals/objectives	Means of Assesment	Criteria for success
a) Demonstrate both an understanding of how knowledge in psychology is gained and applied and the ability to effectively analyze and synthesize information.	1. As in area 2a), the ability to understand how knowledge is gained and applied and the ability to analyze and synthesize is assessed through the use of writing requirements in selected upper division courses. Area 3a's) emphasis on critical thinking.	1. In courses where we assess this skill, seventy percent of the majors will achieve 70% or higher on the assessment.
b) Demonstrate the ability to recognize and make ethical decisions based on the standards and practices of the psychological field.	1. All students taking PSY 3213 (Research Methods) will be required to complete a 2-hour online (or classroom) certification in research ethics using the CITI program (or equivalent offered by the USF system Institutional Review Board). This instruction is focused on the Protection of Human Research Subjects. The online certification students complete is the national standard for Ethics Training.	1. All students will turn in a certificate of completion and make this available only after they have passed an online examination.

4.Civic engagement		
Goals/objectives	Means of Assesment	Criteria for success
a) Demonstrate a sensitivity to and respect for diversity, and for the social and personal issues confronted by others as a function of their race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and cultural background.	All students taking PSY 2012 (Introduction to Psychology) will provide a written response to a standardized scenario developed by the faculty to assess cultural sensitivity.	1. Seventy percent of the majors enrolled in this course will write a satisfactory analysis of the scenario (showing the ability to articulate and apply one of the three social psychological principles related to biased thought).