

Psychology Department Assessment Plan

Student Learning Objectives

In the *Handbook for Enhancing Undergraduate Programs in Psychology*, published by the American Psychological Association in 1993, a distinguished panel of educators in psychology asserted that undergraduate programs in the field should embody the following aims for their majors: (a) to help them develop the capacity to think scientifically about behavior; (b) to produce in them an appreciation for human diversity; (c) to provide them with a sound knowledge base in the discipline; (d) to help them acquire competence in the methodology of psychological research; (e) to allow them the opportunity to gain practical experience in the application of psychology; (f) to strengthen their oral and written communication skills; and (g) to cultivate in them sensitivity to the ethical standards that guide research and practice within the discipline.

The Department endorses the above aims and views them as being very much in keeping with the mission and purposes of the College as a whole. Consequently, we seek to inculcate in our students the qualities and capacities outlined in the above goals.

Annual Collection of Assessment Data

A. The Department will annually administer the Major Field Test in Psychology to its senior majors. This will be the principal means through which the Department will ensure that its majors are gaining a solid knowledge base within the discipline.

MFT SCORE	Learning, Cognition, & Memory	Perception, Sensation, Physiology	Clinical, Abnormal, Personality	Developmental & Social
181 (N = 57)	77 (SD = 13)	76 (SD = 13)	75 (SD = 11)	77 (SD = 8)

B. The Department will keep annual records of the number of students presenting posters and papers at state, regional, and national meetings. This will allow us to determine how many students are gaining the opportunity to improve their oral communication skills by presenting research before their peers. In addition, the number of papers and posters presented at meetings is a good gauge of whether students have mastered research methodology and are able to pursue their research interests in depth.

Kennedy:

Asli Ahmed & Katey Gillispie: Ahmed, A. & Gillispie, K. (April 2013). The impact of negative events on sharing behavior: The role of social media. Arkansas Symposium for Psychology Students Poster Presentation. Conway, Arkansas.

Alex Paslidis & Sydnee Davis: Paslidis, A. & Davis, S. (April 2013). Party habits: Social interactions of partying and the changes in self-perception of habits. Arkansas Symposium for Psychology Students Poster Presentation. Conway, Arkansas.

Emma Rivera & Noemie Parsis: Rivera, E. & Parsis, N. (April 2013). The effects of positive moods, group size, and self-esteem on creativity. Arkansas Symposium for Psychology Students Poster Presentation. Conway, Arkansas.

Carson Hunter & Hazel Merihew: Hunter, C. & Merihew, H. (April 2013). So out of your league: The influence of self-perceived mating success on desire and desirability. Arkansas Symposium for Psychology Students Poster Presentation. Conway, Arkansas.

Maxwell:

Cox, R. (2013, April). *The associations between academic doping and depression, anxiety, and personality facets*. Paper presented at the Arkansas Symposium for Psychology Students, Conway, AR.

Combs, K. (2013, April). *Treatment for anxiety sensitivity*. Paper presented at the Arkansas Symposium for Psychology Students, Conway, AR.

Penner and Peszka:

Katherine Dennis: Dennis, K., Penner, J., Devenport, J. (2013) Explaining Individual Differences in Attitudes about Nature. Submitted for presentation at the Arkansas Symposium for Psychology Students, Conway, AR, April, 2013.

Izzy Anderson: Anderson, I., Cunningham, L.E., Johnston, C., Jordan, N.C., Leonard, A.N., Spolec, A., Peszka, J., & Penner, J. (2013). Effects of prefrontal impairment induced by sleep deprivation on strategic mating decisions. Accepted for presentation at the 2013 meeting of the Southwestern Psychological Association in Fort Worth, TX.

- Rebecca Cox:** Cox, R., Defrance, K., Lennartson, A., Penner, J., & Peszka J. (2013). The effects of sleep deprivation on commitment aversion and sexual intent. Accepted for presentation at the 2013 meeting of the Southwestern Psychological Association in Fort Worth, TX.
- Lacey Cunningham:** Cunningham, L., Anderson, I., Johnston, C., Jordan, N., Leonard, A., Litterst R., Nail, A., Spolec, A., Peszka, J., & Penner, J. (2013). The effects of sleep deprivation on men's and women's use of short-term mating strategies. Accepted for presentation at the 2013 meeting of the Southwestern Psychological Association in Fort Worth, TX.
- Katie Defrance:** Defrance, K., Cox, R., Lennartson, A., Peszka, J., & Penner, J. (2013). Do preferences for short- and long-term relationships change with sleep deprivation? Accepted for presentation at the 2013 meeting of the Southwestern Psychological Association in Fort Worth, TX.
- Jenn Guenther:** Guenther, J., Penner, J., English, J., Stansbury, L. (2013). The Effect of Socioeconomic-Status on Perceptions of Potential Sexual Partners. Accepted for presentation at the 2013 meeting of the Southwestern Psychological Association in Fort Worth, TX.
- Cole Johnston:** Johnston, C., Anderson, I., Cunningham, L., Jordan, N., Leonard, A., Spolec, A., Peszka, J., & Penner, J. (2013). The effects of sleep deprivation on romantic attraction during speed-dating interactions. Accepted for presentation at the 2013 meeting of the Southwestern Psychological Association in Fort Worth, TX.
- Nick Jordan:** Jordan, N.C., Anderson, I., Leonard, A.N., Spolec, A., Peszka, J., & Penner, J. (2013). Sleepy decision-making: does sleep deprivation influence the expression of nonverbal behavior? Accepted for presentation at the 2013 meeting of the Southwestern Psychological Association in Fort Worth, TX.
- Anna Lennartson:** Lennartson, A., Defrance, K., Cox, R., Peszka, J., & Penner, J. (2013). Sleep deprivation's influence on the need for trustworthiness in sexual relationships. Accepted for presentation at the 2013 meeting of the Southwestern Psychological Association in Fort Worth, TX.
- Andre Leonard:** Leonard A., Anderson, I., Cunningham, L., Johnston, C., Jordan N., Spolec, A., Litterst, R., Nail A., Penner, J., & Peszka J. (2013). The effects of sleep deprivation on nonverbal signs of sexual interest. Accepted for presentation at the 2013 meeting of the Southwestern Psychological Association in Fort Worth, TX.
- Amanda Spolec:** Spolec, A., Peszka, J., Penner, J., & Anderson, I. (2013). The effects of sleep deprivation on nonverbal behaviors associated with romantic interest. Accepted for presentation at the 2013 meeting of the Southwestern Psychological Association in Fort Worth, TX.
- Peszka:
- Cunningham, L., Anderson, I., Johnston, C., Jordan, N., Leonard, A., Litterst R., Nail, A., Spolec, A., Peszka, J., & Penner, J. (2013).** The effects of sleep deprivation on men's and women's use of short-term mating strategies. Presented at the 2013 meeting of the Arkansas Symposium for Psychology Students in Conway, AR.

- Johnston, C., Anderson, I., Cunningham, L., Jordan, N., Leonard, A., Spolec, A., Peszka, J., & Penner, J. (2013).** The effects of sleep deprivation on romantic attraction during speed-dating interactions. Presented at the 2013 meeting of the Arkansas Symposium for Psychology Students in Conway, AR.
- Cox, R., Defrance, K., Penner, J., & Peszka, J. (2013).** The effects of sleep deprivation on perception of attractiveness. Presented at the 2013 meeting of the Arkansas Symposium for Psychology Students in Conway, AR.
- Brumbelow, T., Burr, P., Holloway, Z., Gillett, K., DeLashmet, K., & Peszka, J. (2013).** Interactive technology use and sleep quality and quantity. Presented at the 2013 meeting of the Arkansas Symposium for Psychology Students in Conway, AR.
- Burr, P., Holloway, Z., DeLashmet, K., Gillett, K., Brumbelow, T., & Peszka, J. (2013).** Video game use and sleep quality and quantity. Presented at the 2013 meeting of the Arkansas Symposium for Psychology Students in Conway, AR.
- DeLashmet, K., Brumbelow, T., Burr, P., Gillett, K., Holloway, Z., & Peszka, J. (2013).** Cell phone dependence and sleep. Presented at the 2013 meeting of the Arkansas Symposium for Psychology Students in Conway, AR.
- Gillett, K., DeLashmet, K., Brumbelow, T., Burr, P., Holloway, Z., & Peszka, J. (2013).** The relationship between technology and sleep mediated by depression. Presented at the 2013 meeting of the Arkansas Symposium for Psychology Students in Conway, AR.
- Tai, M. & Peszka, J. (2013).** Relationship between video game use & lucid/control dreaming. Presented at the 2013 meeting of the Arkansas Symposium for Psychology Students in Conway, AR.
- Templeton:
- Campbell, C. (2013). Does the type of tattoo affect perceptions of gender and judgments of character? Paper presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse.
- Canon, E. (2013). The effects of gender and humor on romantic attraction. Paper presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse.
- Dennis, K. (2013). The effects of grammatically gendered language on views of femininity. Paper presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse.
- Flanagan, J. (2013). Music preference and perceived masculinity and femininity. Paper presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse.

Liguori, S. (2013). Gendered attitudes toward intimate partner violence as a response to infidelity. Paper presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse.

Michaud, K. (2013). Differences in attitudes toward male and female bisexuals. Paper presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse.

Stengel, M. D. & Bates, K. M. (2013). Men's and women's game performance influenced by music tempo. Paper presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse.

Zeidman, A. (2013). With a piercing gaze: Perception of individuals with facial piercings. Paper presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse.

C. The Department will annually keep a record of how many students do oral presentations during class. Similar to what was mentioned above, this will allow the Department to determine if students have sufficient opportunities to hone their oral communication skills.

Sleep and Dreaming (PSYC 185; Maymester 2012: 6

Social Psychology (PSYC 230): 30

Adult Development and Aging (PSYC 245): 27

Human Sexuality (PSYC 260): 30

Research Methods (PSYC 295):

Fall 2012: 11 (Archie)

Spring 2013: 11 (Kennedy), 11 (Penner), 6 (Puri), 6 (Thomas)

Comparative Animal (PSYC 300): 18

Cognitive Psychology (PSYC 320): 17

Human Memory (PSYC 323): 19

Sensation and Perception (PSYC 335): 27

Psych Assessment (PSYC 340): 21

Health Psychology (PSYC 351): 23

Cognitive Neuroscience (PSYC 363): 34

Practicum (PSYC 380): 10

Psychology of Gender (PSYC 400): 15

Advanced Research (PSYC 480): 8

D. The Department will maintain a record of how many students gain “W2” credit in departmental Writing-Intensive courses. This measure will be a rough gauge of how many students have demonstrated good written communication skills specifically in psychology courses.

Research Methods (PSYC 295):

Fall 2012: 11 (Archie)

Spring 2013: 11 (Kennedy), 11 (Penner), 6 (Puri), 6 (Thomas)

Comparative Animal Behavior (PSYC 300): 5

Cognitive Psychology (PSYC 320): 17
 Psychology of Gender (PSYC 400): 15

E. The Department will annually collect representative student papers from courses throughout the curriculum. These papers can be examined by members of the Department to assess the overall quality of student research and writing in any given year. In addition, copies of these papers will be provided to the external consultant who participates in the departmental self-study every five years.

F. The Department will keep a record of how many students complete internships each year, both through the departmental practicum course, Psychology Practicum, and through Career Development. This information will be helpful in assessing whether students are gaining practical experience in the application of psychology. In addition, these data will prove useful in determining whether our majors have experiences that expose them to human diversity.

Kennedy:

Amanda Spolec, Internship with Career Services (technically, CASA)
 Anna Jolliff, Volunteer Probation Officer for the Faulkner County Juvenile Court

Maxwell:

Katie Michaud: Inpatient Child Psychiatry

Peszka:

Anné Carrillo-Dallmeyer, Internship: Residential Services (Summer 2012)
 Kathleen Combs, Internship: Child Diagnostic Unit (Summer 2012)

Puri:

Internship: Complex Brain Function Lab

Templeton:

Taylor Brumbelow, Internship: Complex Brain Function Lab
 Allyson Coldiron, Internship: Child Diagnostic Unit
 Ieshea Goree, Internship: Conway Regional Health Foundation
 Alex Paslidis, Internship: United Methodist Church Youth Group Assistant
 Brie Ross, Internship: National Institutes of Health Research Assistant
 Blake Tierney, Internship: Youth Probation Program
 Molly Umble, Internship: Fundraising, Marketing and Events

Zorwick:

Intern: Children's Advocacy Alliance – Amelia Kish
 Intern: UAMS RPI CDU – Paula Burr
 Intern: UAMS Behavioral Medicine – Laura Wagner
 Intern: Counseling Center Support – Noemie Parsis

G. The Department will maintain a record of how many students are admitted to the local Psi Chi Chapter. The number of majors who earn membership in the discipline's primary honor society is a good indication of how many students are gaining distinction in psychology. Moreover, the number of students in Psi Chi is also a good gauge of the extent to which students are invested in the discipline and are seeking ways to more closely identify with it. Finally, tracking membership in this organization will allow us to see how many of our majors are gaining leadership and service experience outside the classroom.

Inducted 2013 (N = 14)

Buzurg Arjmandi	2015	Maumelle, AR
Hope Coleman	2014	Alexander, AR
Devon Dundee	2014	Greenwood, AR
Rachel Head	2014	Nashville, TN
Adrie Henry	2014	Little Rock, AR
Hannah Hill	2015	Norman, OK
Carson Hunter	2015	Fort Smith, AR
Allison Hudgens	2013	Hot Springs, AR
Anna Jolliff	2015	Newberg, OR
Harrison Lindley	2013	Denton, TX
Caroline Nester	2015	Hot Springs, AR
Saranya Prathibha	2014	Bentonville, AR
Emma Rivera	2015	Dallas, TX
Xi (Marcus) Zhu	2015	Harbin, China

H. The Department will collect indirect assessment data from graduating seniors during the Spring semester before graduation in the form of a Senior Survey. This information will be helpful in assessing whether students see themselves as having met the learning objectives laid out in this assessment plan.

I. The Department will collect information on the number of Experiential Learning projects that are completed during the year. Depending on the type of project, this information will be helpful in assessing a number of the learning objectives laid out in this assessment plan.

Maxwell:

Practicum:

Heather Allen
 Chase Campbell
 Samantha Hutchinson-Cloud
 Rebecca Cox
 Caroline Craig
 Lauren DeLano
 Kate Gillett
 Allison Hudgens
 Michael Karr
 Michaelene Miller

Penner:

Katherine Dennis (did not earn Odyssey credit, but was my lab manager and certainly completed some experiential learning. I also had around 8 students in my lab this year for my Nature study, but they did not earn UR credit, so I haven't listed them. Let me know if you want their names.

All these students earned UR credit through work with Peszka's and my Odyssey professorship unless otherwise noted:

- Izzy Anderson
- Rebecca Cox
- Lacey Cunningham
- Katie Defrance
- Jenn Guenther (worked just with me)
- Cole Johnston
- Nick Jordan
- Anna Lennartson
- Andre Leonard
- Amanda Spolec

Peszka:

Brad Martins, Undergraduate Research Project: Summer research at the University of Southern California brain imaging center (Summer 2012)

Amanda Spolec, Service to the World: CASA volunteer (Summer 2012)

Izzy Anderson, Service to the World: Racing Home: Exploring Healing through Horses (Summer 2012)

Courtney Bass, Service to the World: Racing Home: Exploring Healing through Horses (Summer 2012)

Rebecca Cox: Research Assistant for Human Mating Behavior (2012-2013)

Katie Defrance: Research Assistant for Human Mating Behavior (2012-2013)

Anna Lennartson: Research Assistant for Human Mating Behavior (2012-2013)

Taylor Brumelow: Psychology Research: The relationship between technology use and sleep quality and quantity in college students (2012-2013)

Paula Burr: Psychology Research: The relationship between technology use and sleep quality and quantity in college students (2012-2013)

Kate Gillette: Psychology Research: The relationship between technology use and sleep quality and quantity in college students (2012-2013)

Kurt DeLashmet: Psychology Research: The relationship between technology use and sleep quality and quantity in college students (2012-2013)

Zorwick:

1. "Helping Immigrant Families Navigate the Child Welfare System" - Gus Zeidman and Christina Langston

2. "Job Interviews and Southern Stereotype Threat" - research conducted with SPRING (Social Psychology Research Interest Group) Lab

Students: Heather Allen, Jenny Burgos, Chase Campbell, Rebecca Cox, Katie Defrance, Lauren DeLano, Gabe Gonzales, Jenn Guenther, Ieshea Goree, Autumn Hail, Celia Ketcham, Andre

Leonard, Katie Michaud, Lauren Nelson, Megan Powell, Sam Siegel, Bryan Vanco, Nick Jordan, Natalie Levine, Sowmya Sivakumar, Lila Coco, Courtney Bass, Cat Johns, Jennifer Moulton, Elizabeth Davis, Johnny English, Anna Joliff, Memory Waddle, Zach Saul

3. "Priming for Price: Subtle affluence cues and willingness to pay for consumer goods" - research conducted with SPRING Lab

Students: Heather Allen, Jenny Burgos, Chase Campbell, Rebecca Cox, Katie Defrance, Lauren DeLano, Gabe Gonzales, Jenn Guenther, Ieshea Goree, Autumn Hail, Celia Ketcham, Andre Leonard, Katie Michaud, Lauren Nelson, Megan Powell, Sam Siegel, Bryan Vanco, Nick Jordan, Natalie Levine, Sowmya Sivakumar, Lila Coco, Courtney bass, Cat Johns, Jennifer Moulton