

Program of Study Learning Outcomes Assessment Report
Version 05.09.22

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Assessment Cycle | 2021-2022 |
| Program of Study | Joint assessment of BA in Psychology and BA in Applied Psychology |
| Department | Counseling and Psychology |
| Date of Departmental Approval | 10/12/2022 |
| Name of Submitter | Eb de Oliveira |

PLO data from the current assessment cycle (and relevant data from one or more prior years) for the program of study were distributed to departmental faculty on the date(s) below:

Data Distribution Date(s): _____9/23/2022_____

Meeting Date(s): ___9/23, 10/12/2022_____

The department met on the above date to discuss the data and identify key strengths and challenges, and also to approve a new indirect measure of PLO #4. Because only at this time the department decided to combine the two programs temporarily, given that Applied Psychology is still incipient with a small number of majors, only PLO #2 data are included in this report. Two strengths and one challenge are specified from rubric elements. The approval of the report took place on 10/12. We apologize for the late submission of this report.

Participants in the meeting(s) were: ___Kara Kaelber, Lauren Seifert, Eb de Oliveira__

Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Psychology is to promote the development of students who understand a broad range of areas within psychology and make connections among Christian faith, learning and living.

Program Goals

1. Develop students' knowledge across a broad range of areas within psychology.
2. Teach Students to use ethical guidelines and procedures involved in psychological research.
3. Challenge students to contemplate the connections among Christian faith, learning, and living.
4. Prepare students to serve in their future educational, career, and personal endeavors.

Two Strengths in Program Learning Outcome #2 (PLO 2)

“Students will demonstrate familiarity with the ethical guidelines and procedures involved in developing, performing, and reporting psychological research.”

Rubric elements # 1 and 4: Clarity and Coherence, respectively.

Brief summary of the evidence and standard used to identify the PLO as a strength.

In the last two cycles measured (PSYC 272 Quizzes - fall 2019 and 2021, and PSYC 273 Final Exam - spring 2020 and 2022), 100% of the students met or exceeded departmental expectations for both of the rubric elements above.

Challenges in Program Learning Outcome #2 (PLO #2)

Students will demonstrate familiarity with the ethical guidelines and procedures involved in developing, performing, and reporting psychological research.

Technically, there is no identifiable challenge in PLO #2 - i.e., all rubric elements reached the target of 66% of students at or above expectations. However, one potential area for growth is in the rubric element #2, namely Ethical Considerations.

Brief summary of the evidence and standard used to identify the PLO as a challenge:
Although 100% of the students performed at or above departmental expectations for this rubric element in the quizzes administered in PSYC 272 in the fall of 2021, in the Final exam of PSYC 273, 77.78% met or exceeded expectations. This is not a low percentage; it is above the target. However, it is noted that this result marks a significant decline from the previous measure of 92.86% in the spring of 2020. We think that this result may reflect students' inability to transfer their knowledge to a novel ethical issue, which is a high-level cognitive skill that may take longer to master.

Action Steps to Respond to Key Challenges

Attention is being given to ethical considerations in research in PSYC 330 (Psychology of Learning), PSYC 440 (Neuroscience and Physiological Psychology), and 442 (Child Psychology). However, this has not had the desired impact on the students' performance in the Final Exam of PSYC 273 simply because many students are taking that exam *prior to* greater exposure to various research scenarios to apply their learned ethical principles in upper-level courses. Moving forward, the new course PSYC 274 will combine the content of 272 and 273. So, we intend to drop the quizzes on research methods, continue with the Final Exam measure in PSYC 274 and add another direct measure with 4 items in the General Knowledge of Psychology Test, which will be administered in PSYC 440 for comparison.