

Effective: 11/8/93**MAJOR FIELD ASSESSMENT PLAN**Degree Program: **B. A. PSYCHOLOGY**

Purpose/Mission Statement: *The Department of Psychology attempts to foster, among all students, a grasp and appreciation of the scientific method in the study of behavior, and to stimulate interest in the field of Psychology. An undergraduate major or minor in Psychology are offered as preparation for either graduate study or careers in which the science of behavior is applicable.*

Goal Statements:

- A. To provide students with a broad body of knowledge representative of the current state of knowledge in psychology.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Students completing the baccalaureate program in Psychology will compare favorably in their knowledge of general psychology with those students graduating from a national sample of psychology programs in institutions comparable to SLU.

Assessment Procedures:***(a) Assessment Criteria and Procedures:***

(1) Criterion: SLU graduating psychology majors will have an average total score on the ETS Major Field Achievement Test in Psychology which meets or exceeds the 50th percentile rank on a national sample of schools comparable to SLU. ETS provides not only a total scale score, but two subscores and several "assessment indicators" so that relative strengths and weaknesses of a program can be evaluated. It is expected that SLU graduating psychology majors will meet or exceed the 50th percentile in each of the following two subtests: Experimental psychology and Social psychology. In addition, it is expected that SLU graduating psychology majors will meet or exceed the 50th percentile on each of the following "assessment indicators": Learning, Cognition & Perception; Sensory & Physiological: Developmental; Clinical, Abnormal & Personality; Social; and Measurement and Methodology. The area of Ethology & Comparative Psychology is omitted because we do not currently offer a course in this area.

B. A. Psychology (Continued)

(a) **Procedure:** ETS will provide a list of all participating institutions. This list will be given to SLU's Institutional Research and Evaluation program which has agreed to select from this list all institutions which are comparable to SLU. ETS will then provide the same statistical data for this restricted list as they do for the statistics based upon the entire sample of participating institutions. All psychology majors graduating during the 1992-93 academic year will take the ETS Major Field Achievement Test in Psychology. Then their average total scale score will be compared against the national sample of comparable institutions.

The Department of Psychology requires all graduating Psychology majors to take the ETS Major Field Achievement Test in Psychology the semester they file for graduation. (Summer graduates are required to take the test in the immediately preceding spring semester).

(2) **Criterion:** Psychology 333/334 students administered the "Students' Attitudes Towards Psychology" questionnaire will have positive scores (i.e. an average score of above "3.0") on those items in which they rate their current opinion of the degree to which they have been exposed to a broad body of knowledge in Psychology, and will rate this goal as being more important now than when they first entered the program on those items allowing such a comparison. In addition, there is an open-ended question by which students can express any opinion relevant to this goal.

(a) **Procedure:** All Psychology 333 and 334 students are administered the "Students' Attitudes Towards Psychology". A computer-scored answer sheet has been developed for students to answer the questionnaire items, and the average score for relevant items will be examined.

(3) **Criterion:** Alumni respondents will have positive ratings (i.e. an average score of above "3.0") in terms of the Department's success in having achieved Working Goal A.

(a) **Procedure:** The SLU Office of Institutional Research is planning to periodically (probably every three years) survey a representative sample of SLU Alumni using a questionnaire which provides comprehensive coverage of student perceptions of their undergraduate experience. This questionnaire will be the same or very similar to the "Survey of 1989 & 1990 Graduates". Because of our small number of annual graduates, we will request that at least half of all Psychology alumni be surveyed each time.

Administration of Assessment Procedures:

Use of Results:

B. A. Psychology (Continued)

Summary:

Documentation can be found:

Purpose/Mission Statement: *The Department of Psychology attempts to foster, among all students, a grasp and appreciation of the scientific method in the study of behavior, and to stimulate interest in the field of Psychology. An undergraduate major or minor in Psychology are offered as preparation for either graduate study or careers in which the science of behavior is applicable.*

Goal Statements:

- B. To foster students' grasp and appreciation of the scientific method in psychology.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Students completing the baccalaureate program, if given some interesting psychological phenomenon worded in layman's terms, will be capable of reformulating the phenomenon into scientific research terms, generate a testable hypothesis, and devise a simple experimental study to test the hypothesis. The level of experimental sophistication will compare favorably with those students graduating from a national sample of psychology programs in institutions comparable to SLU.

Assessment Procedures:

(a) Assessment Criteria and Procedures for "GRASP" of the scientific method:

(1) Criterion: A student will not be allowed to graduate as a Psychology major without at least acceptable competence in those skills listed in Working Goal B Expected Outcomes.

(a) Procedure: All psychology majors are required to take Psychology 220 (Principles of Research Design), and either Psychology 333 (Experimental Research in Psychology) or Psychology 334 (Applied Research Design and Analysis) in which all of these skills are emphasized. Passing Psychology 333 or 334 requires the student to have written a manuscript from beginning to end in which the student must be able to conceptualize the targeted phenomenon into scientific research terms, and generate one or more testable hypotheses.

B. A. Psychology (Continued)

(2) Criterion: SLU graduating psychology majors will take the ETS Major Field Achievement Test in Psychology and meet or exceed the 50th percentile in the Experimental psychology subtest and on the Measurement and Methodology "assessment indicator".

(a) Procedure: See the procedure for Working Goal A regarding the ETS Major Field Achievement Test.

(3) Criterion: At least 80% of those students taking Psychology 333 or 334 will rate themselves as being able to demonstrate the following skills with only minimal supervision--collect data, do background research, formulate a set of hypotheses, write up an "Introduction" section, and write up a "Method" section regarding some psychological phenomenon.

(a) Procedure: See the procedure for Working Goal A regarding the "Students' Attitudes Towards Psychology" questionnaire.

(4) Criterion: Alumni respondents will have positive ratings (i.e an average score of above "3.0") on those items in which they rate their opinion of the importance of the scientific method in psychology.

(a) Procedure: See the procedure for Working Goal A regarding the development and administration of an alumni questionnaire.

Administration of Assessment Procedures:

Use of Results:

Summary:

Documentation can be found:

Purpose/Mission Statement: The Department of Psychology attempts to foster, among all students, a grasp and appreciation of the scientific method in the study of behavior, and to stimulate interest in the field of Psychology. An undergraduate major or minor in Psychology are offered as preparation for either graduate study or careers in which the science of behavior is applicable.

B. A. Psychology (Continued)**Goal Statements:**

C. To train students in practical research skills.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Students completing the baccalaureate program, if given some interesting psychological phenomenon, will be able to find relevant research articles, adequately summarize previous research, and formulate simple testable hypotheses. With some help, they should be able to devise appropriate experimental and control groups, perform simple inferential statistics, and write conclusions. The level of experimental sophistication will compare favorably with those students graduating from a national sample of psychology programs in institutions comparable to SLU.

Assessment Procedures:**(a) Assessment Criteria and Procedures:**

(1) **Criterion:** A student will not be allowed to graduate as a Psychology major without at least acceptable competence in those skills listed in Working Goal C Expected Outcomes.

(a) **Procedure:** All psychology majors are required to take Psychology 220 (Principles of Research Design), Psychology 221 (Psychological Statistics), Psychology 222 (Psychological Statistics Laboratory), and either Psychology 333 (Experimental Research in Psychology) or Psychology 334 (Applied Research Design and Analysis) in which these skills are emphasized. Beyond demonstrating an adequate "grasp" of the scientific method covered in Working Goal B above, psychology majors are required to be able to apply the entire scientific method to actual research questions. Thus, passing Psychology 333 or 334 requires the student to have written a manuscript from beginning to end in which the student, in addition to those skills enumerated in Working Goal B, must be able to: find relevant research articles, adequately summarize previous research, and formulate simple testable hypotheses. With some help, they should be able to devise appropriate experimental and control groups, perform simple inferential statistics, and write conclusions.

(2) **Criterion:** SLU graduating psychology majors will take the ETS Major Field Achievement Test in Psychology and meet or exceed the 50th percentile in the Experimental psychology subtest and on the Measurement and Methodology "assessment indicator".

(a) **Procedure:** See the procedure for Working Goal A regarding the ETS Major Field Achievement Test.

B. A. Psychology (Continued)

(3) Criterion: At least 80% of those students taking Psychology 333 or 334 will rate themselves as being able to demonstrate the following skills with only minimal supervision - graph data, use simple statistics (e.g., t-tests) to analyze data, write up a "Results" section, and write up a "Discussion" section regarding some psychological phenomenon.

The "Students' Attitudes Towards Psychology" questionnaire will have positive scores (i.e. an average score of above "3.0") on those items in which they rate their current opinion of how well-prepared they feel they are to evaluate and/or carry out psychological research, and will rate this goal as being more important now than when they first entered the program on those items allowing such a comparison. In addition, there is an open-ended question by which students can express any opinion relevant to this goal.

(a) Procedure: Same as for Working Goal A regarding the "Students Attitudes Towards Psychology" questionnaire.

(4) Criterion: Alumni respondents will have positive ratings (i.e. an average score of above "3.0") in terms of the Department's success in having achieved Working Goal C.

(a) Procedure: See the procedure for Working Goal A regarding the development and administration of an alumni questionnaire.

Administration of Assessment Procedures:

Use of Results:

Summary:

Documentation can be found:

Purpose/Mission Statement: *The Department of Psychology attempts to foster, among all students, a grasp and appreciation of the scientific method in the study of behavior, and to stimulate interest in the field of Psychology. An undergraduate major or minor in Psychology are offered as preparation for either graduate study or careers in which the science of behavior is applicable.*

B. A. Psychology (Continued)**Goal Statements:**

D. To develop students' skill in Critical Thinking.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Graduates will be able to critique a methodologically simple published experiment, be able to point out any obvious methodological errors, and offer reasonable suggestions for their correction in a follow-up experiment. The level of experimental sophistication will compare favorably with those students graduating from a national sample of psychology programs in institutions comparable to SLU.

Assessment Procedures:**(a) Assessment Criteria and Procedures:**

(1) Criterion: A student will not be allowed to graduate as a Psychology major without at least acceptable competence in those skills listed in Working Goal D Expected Outcomes.

(a) Procedure: All psychology majors are required to take Psychology 220 (Principles of Research Design), and either Psychology 333 (Experimental Research in Psychology) or Psychology 334 (Applied Research Design and Analysis) in which all of these skills are emphasized. Passing Psychology 333 or 334 requires the student to have written a manuscript from beginning to end in which the student to be able to: critique a methodologically simple published experiment, be able to point out any obvious methodological errors, and offer reasonable suggestions for their correction in a follow-up experiment.

(2) Criterion: SLU graduating psychology majors will take the ETS Major Field Achievement Test in Psychology and meet or exceed the 50th percentile in the Experimental psychology subtest and on the Measurement and Methodology "assessment indicator".

(a) Procedure: See the procedure for Working Goal A regarding the ETS Major Field Achievement Test.

(3) Criterion: At least 80% of those students taking Psychology 333 or 334 will rate themselves as being able to demonstrate the following skills with only minimal supervision - formulate a set of hypotheses, write up an "Introduction" section (which involves a critique of existing studies), write up a "Method" section regarding some psychological phenomenon, and a "Discussion" section requiring final integration and

B. A. Psychology (Continued)

appropriate conclusions based on project results.

(a) Procedure: See the procedure for Working Goal A regarding the "Students' Attitudes Towards Psychology" questionnaire.

(4) Criterion: Students administered the "Students' Attitudes Towards Psychology" questionnaire will have positive scores (i.e. an average score of above "3.0") on the one item in which they rate their current opinion of how successful the Department has been in developing their level of critical thinking, and will rate this goal as being more important now than when they first entered the program. In addition, there is an open-ended question by which students can express any opinion relevant to this goal.

(a) Procedure: Same as for Working Goal A regarding the "Students' Attitudes Towards Psychology" questionnaire.

(5) Criterion: Alumni respondents will have positive ratings (i.e. an average score of above "3.0") in terms of the Department's success in having achieved Working Goal D.

(a) Procedure: See the procedure for Working Goal A regarding the development and administration of an alumni questionnaire.

Administration of Assessment Procedures:

Use of Results:

Summary:

Documentation can be found:

Purpose/Mission Statement: *The Department of Psychology attempts to foster, among all students, a grasp and appreciation of the scientific method in the study of behavior, and to stimulate interest in the field of Psychology. An undergraduate major or minor in Psychology are offered as preparation for either graduate study or careers in which the science of behavior is applicable.*

B. A. Psychology (Continued)**Goal Statements:**

E. To prepare qualified students for graduate school in Behavioral Sciences.

Expected Outcomes:

1. The rate of admittance into graduate schools in the behavioral sciences will compare favorably with other students graduating from a national sample of psychology programs in institutions comparable to SLU, and who apply for graduate work in the field. Once in a graduate program, the level of academic performance will compare favorably with other students graduating from institutions comparable to SLU.

Assessment Procedures:**(a) Assessment Criteria and Procedures:**

(1) Criterion: SLU graduating psychology majors will have an average total scale score on the ETS Major Field Achievement Test in Psychology which meets or exceeds the 50th percentile rank on a national sample of schools comparable to SLU.

(a) Procedure: See the procedure for Working Goal A regarding the ETS Major Field Achievement Test.

(2) Criterion: Psychology 333/334 students administered the "Students' Attitudes Towards Psychology" questionnaire will have positive scores (i.e. an average score of above "3.0") on those items in which they rate their current opinion of their degree of preparedness, and will rate this goal as being more important now than it was when they first entered the program on those items allowing such a comparison. In addition, there is an open-ended question by which students can express any opinion relevant to this goal.

(a) Procedure: Same as for Working Goal A regarding the "Students' Attitudes Towards Psychology" questionnaire.

(3) Criterion: Alumni respondents will have positive ratings (i.e. an average score of above "3.0") in terms of the department's success in having achieved Working Goal E. In addition, at least 25% of respondents will indicate that they are currently pursuing an advanced degree in the Behavioral Sciences.

(a) Procedure: See the procedure for Working Goal A regarding the development and administration of an alumni questionnaire.

B. A. Psychology (Continued)

Administration of Assessment Procedures:

Use of Results:

Summary:

Documentation can be found:

Purpose/Mission Statement: The Department of Psychology attempts to foster, among all students, a grasp and appreciation of the scientific method in the study of behavior, and to stimulate interest in the field of Psychology. An undergraduate major or minor in Psychology are offered as preparation for either graduate study or careers in which the science of behavior is applicable.

Goal Statements:

F. To stimulate students' interest in the study of psychology.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Graduates in Psychology will compare favorably in their interest level and motivation to pursue an advanced degree in the behavioral sciences with students in other undergraduate programs from comparable institutions.

Assessment Procedures:

(a) Assessment Criteria and Procedures:

(1) Criterion: Psychology 333/334 students administered the "Students' Attitudes Towards Psychology" questionnaire will have positive scores (i.e. an average score of above "3.0") on those items in which they rate their current interest in psychology, and will rate this goal as being more important now than when they first entered the program on those items allowing such a comparison. In addition, there is an open-ended question by which students can express any opinion relevant to this goal.

(a) Procedure: Same as for Working Goal A regarding the "Students Attitudes Toward Psychology" questionnaire.

B. A. Psychology (Continued)

(2) Criterion: Alumni respondents will have positive ratings (i.e. an average score of above "3.0") in terms of the Department's success in having achieved Working Goal F.

(a) Procedure: See the procedure for Working Goal A Regarding the development and administration of an alumni questionnaire.

Administration of Assessment Procedures:

Use of Results:

Summary:

Documentation can be found: