PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement
The Psychology Department strives to provide quality undergraduate and graduate education in Psychology and its applications, and to contribute to the community, region and profession through research and service

Student Learning Outcomes: Graduate Program
Upon completion of the graduate program in Psychology, the successful student will be able to do the following:

Content
Summarize, compare, and evaluate at an advanced level, the concepts, research findings, and current theories and models in the following core content areas of Psychology:

- Research methods and statistics
- Biological influences on behavior
- Social influences on behavior
- Influences of learning and cognition on behavior
- Influences of individual differences on behavior
- Specialized content of the student’s chosen specialty focus (counseling, general, and industrial/organizational)

Critical Thinking
Demonstrate advanced critical thinking through the effective application of psychological theory and research methods by:

- Critically evaluating and integrating psychological literature in order to effectively apply psychological theory to practical problems.
- Describing available scientific methods and determining the most appropriate method to use to address a variety of psychological questions and problems.
- Selecting and using appropriate quantitative and qualitative methods to gather, analyze, and interpret data and to draw valid conclusions based on such data.
- Critically evaluating written and oral arguments for valid and reliable evidence based on logic and scientific rigor.
Communication
Demonstrate advanced professional communication by:

- Using clear and professional language in oral and written work.
- Correctly using the editorial style of the American Psychological Association.
- Using technology effectively to communicate with others.
- Contributing to the knowledge base of the discipline through professional-quality documents and presentations of scholarly and professional work.

Integrity/Values
Demonstrate advanced understanding and application of professional ethics by:

- Explaining and defending the rationale behind the current standards for professional ethics in psychology.
- Describing and adhering to ethical principles in the use of humans and non-human animals in research.
- Describing and adhering to ethical principles in the application of the student’s chosen specialty focus (counseling, general, and industrial/organizational).
- Describing and adhering to principles of academic integrity.

Application in the Specialty Area
Apply the advanced knowledge and skills of the student’s chosen specialty focus (counseling, general, and industrial/organizational) in completing an independent scholarly and/or professional project.

Evaluation of Student Learning Outcomes
Evaluation of student achievement of these learning outcomes will occur in each of the courses in the student’s curriculum. This will also be assessed by the completion of the capstone experience required in the student’s degree program (thesis or internship). Finally, this will be evaluated in an exit survey of each graduating student, upon completion of degree requirements.

Job Prospects for Psychology Masters Graduates

Find Out More About the Psychology Science Master's Degree at UWF: http://uwf.edu/psych/graduate/

Revised 2/2/07
The university Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) calls for student learning outcomes (SLO) to be formally assessed as part of the process of program evaluation. In keeping with this focus, the Psychology Department has begun to develop its assessment plan for the graduate program to assess the SLOs in the graduate program Academic Learning Plan (ALP). This initial plan was developed in the spring semester of 2006, in consultation with the department program review committee. The Psychology assessment plan for 2006-2007 is the first phase of developing the assessment plan and focuses on global assessment of the SLOs through an exit survey of graduates, and the integrative capstone experience of thesis or internship.

Assessment Components

Indirect Assessment of SLOs

The department will employ an exit survey of students upon completion of the requirements for the degree. The survey will employ a self-report assessment of achievement of all the components of the ALP for the Psychology Department. (Exit survey of graduates is attached.)

Direct Assessment of SLOs

The direct measure of the graduate program student learning outcomes will occur in conjunction with the oral defense of the graduate capstone experience, the thesis or internship portfolio. The requirements for completion of either thesis or internship involve demonstration of mastery of various components of the ALP. The written product of the capstone (thesis or internship portfolio) is evaluated by the faculty committee and the student is required to defend the written product in an oral examination. The committee will evaluate the student in context of the components of the ALP. (Rubric for thesis/internship is attached.)

Plan for use of assessment data

Exit survey data and capstone assessment data will be examined to understand the strengths and weaknesses of graduates of the program. The faculty of each graduate track will meet annually to review the assessment data and develop recommendations for curriculum change and/or revision of the assessment plan, to be presented to department faculty for discussion and decision. The report of this assessment will take the form of minutes of the graduate track meeting detailing the faculty members present, strength and weakness areas of students, and a recommendation for an action plan to be implemented to address student weakness areas and enhance student learning.

The graduate program curriculum map is attached and documents the multiple coverage of each of the components of the ALP across the full curriculum.