

SACS OUTCOME MAPPING FOR THE PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM (2008-2009)

The Psychology program has established measurable outcomes for self-evaluation based on the learning goals and outcomes recommended by the American Psychological Association (APA, 2006; see www.apa.org/ed/resources.html). Outcomes were selected from those offered by the APA based on their relative importance and measurability. See the detail on how our students performed on each of these four outcomes below.

OUTCOME 1	Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
COURSES THAT ASSESS OUTCOME	Psych 110 and 120, Psych 475, Psych 480
KEY ASSESSMENT TOOLS	Tests, Presentations
KEY EXPERIENCES THAT HELP STUDENTS MEET OUTCOMES	History paper, Senior Seminar presentations, Class debates
CULMINATING PROFICIENCY MEASUREMENT	Major Field Exam (Psych 480)
BENCHMARK	70% of students scoring above the 25th percentile
DATA	F2011: 12/13 (92.3%) – GOAL IS MET S2012: 22/24 (91.7%) – GOAL IS MET
PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT	Our program has been highly successful for this outcome; we plan on monitoring this benchmark for two more years to determine whether it ought to be raised.

OUTCOME 2	Students will understand and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.	
COURSES THAT ASSESS OUTCOME	Psych 315, Psych 318, Psych 320 or 470	
KEY ASSESSMENT TOOLS	SPSS assignments, Writing literature reviews, Quizzes over research content areas	
KEY EXPERIENCES THAT HELP STUDENTS MEET OUTCOMES	Group oral presentation, Professional presentations	
CULMINATING PROFICIENCY MEASUREMENT	Successful completion of Psychology 315	Successful completion of Psychology 318
BENCHMARK	70% of students receiving a 70% (C) in the course or above	70% of students receiving a 68% (C) in the course or above
DATA	F2008: 32/40 (80%) – GOAL IS MET S2009: 18/22 (81.8%) – GOAL IS MET	F2008: 6/12 (50%) – GOAL IS NOT MET S2009: 20/22 (90.9%) – GOAL IS MET
PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT	These benchmarks were met with mixed results. The program will continue to monitor these benchmarks during the following academic year to better determine whether changes need to occur in the curriculum to maintain consistent success in this area.	

OUTCOME 3	Students will be able to communicate effectively in a variety of formats.
COURSES THAT ASSESS OUTCOME	Psych 315, Psych 318, Psych 475, Psych 480
KEY ASSESSMENT TOOLS	Written assignments, In-class debate, Oral presentations
KEY EXPERIENCES THAT HELP STUDENTS MEET OUTCOMES	Job interviews, In-class debates, oral presentations
CULMINATING PROFICIENCY MEASUREMENT	Professional Portfolio Overall Grade (Psych 480)
BENCHMARK	70% of students receiving an average of 70% overall on the assignment or above
DATA	F2008: no data S2009: 17/17 (100%) – GOAL IS MET
PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT	Our program was for this outcome during spring semester. We plan to monitor this outcome for the next two years to determine the consistency of this success.

OUTCOME 4	Students will demonstrate information competence and the ability to use computers and other technology for many purposes.
COURSES THAT ASSESS OUTCOME	Psych 110 and 120, Psych 315, Psych 318, Psych 475, Psych 480
KEY ASSESSMENT TOOLS	Typed assignments/papers, SPSS assignments/quizzes
KEY EXPERIENCES THAT HELP STUDENTS MEET OUTCOMES	PowerPoint presentations, SPSS training/assignments, Computer simulations, Blackboard class integration
CULMINATING PROFICIENCY MEASUREMENT	SPSS-based Laboratory Exam (Psych 318)
BENCHMARK	50% of students receiving a grade of C (68%) on the SPSS lab exam or above
DATA	F2008: 7/13 (53.8%) – GOAL IS MET S2009: 13/25 (52%) – GOAL IS MET
PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT	These benchmarks are just being met. We will continue to monitor this outcome during the next academic year to get a better picture of student performance.