

### **SACS OUTCOME MAPPING FOR THE PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM (2009-2010)**

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](http://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.

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| <b>OUTCOME 1</b>  | <b>Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.</b>    |
| <b>COURSES THAT ASSESS OUTCOME</b>                      | Psych 110 and 120, Psych 475, Psych 480   |
| <b>KEY ASSESSMENT TOOLS</b>                             | Tests, Presentations  |
| <b>KEY EXPERIENCES THAT HELP STUDENTS MEET OUTCOMES</b> | History paper, Senior Seminar presentations, Class debates  |
| <b>CULMINATING PROFICIENCY MEASUREMENT</b>              | Major Field Exam<br>(Psych 480)   |
| <b>BENCHMARK</b>  | 70% of students scoring above the 25th percentile   |
| <b>DATA</b>   | F2009: 8/9 (88.9%) – GOAL IS MET<br>S2010: 28/29 (96.6%) – GOAL IS MET  |
| <b>PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT</b>                             | Our program has been highly successful for this outcome; we plan on monitoring this benchmark for one more year to determine whether it ought to be raised. |

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| <b>OUTCOME 2</b>  | <b>Students will understand and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.</b>  |  |
| <b>COURSES THAT ASSESS OUTCOME</b>                      | Psych 315, Psych 318, Psych 320 or 470   |  |
| <b>KEY ASSESSMENT TOOLS</b>                             | SPSS assignments, Writing literature reviews, Quizzes over research content areas  |  |
| <b>KEY EXPERIENCES THAT HELP STUDENTS MEET OUTCOMES</b> | Group oral presentation, Professional presentations  |  |
| <b>CULMINATING PROFICIENCY MEASUREMENT</b>              | Successful completion of Psychology 315  | Successful completion of Psychology 318                                |
| <b>BENCHMARK</b>  | 70% of students receiving a 70% (C) in the course or above   | 70% of students receiving a 68% (C) in the course or above             |
| <b>DATA</b>   | F2009: 41/44 (93.2%) – GOAL IS MET<br>S2010: 14/21 (66.7%) – GOAL IS <b>NOT</b> MET  | F2009: 18/24 (75%) – GOAL IS MET<br>S2010: 16/21 (76.2%) – GOAL IS MET |
| <b>PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT</b>                             | These benchmarks were met with mixed results. The program will continue to monitor these benchmarks for another semester while discussing changes that could bring more consistent success in this area. |  |

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| <b>OUTCOME 3</b>  | <b>Students will be able to communicate effectively in a variety of formats.</b>   |
| <b>COURSES THAT ASSESS OUTCOME</b>                      | Psych 315, Psych 318, Psych 475, Psych 480   |
| <b>KEY ASSESSMENT TOOLS</b>                             | Written assignments, In-class debate, Oral presentations   |
| <b>KEY EXPERIENCES THAT HELP STUDENTS MEET OUTCOMES</b> | Job interviews, In-class debates, oral presentations   |
| <b>CULMINATING PROFICIENCY MEASUREMENT</b>              | Professional Portfolio Overall Grade<br>(Psych 480)  |
| <b>BENCHMARK</b>  | 70% of students receiving an average of 70% overall on the assignment or above   |
| <b>DATA</b>   | F2009: 9/9 (100%) – GOAL IS MET<br>S2010: 28/30 (93.3%) – GOAL IS MET  |
| <b>PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT</b>                             | Our program has been successful for this outcome and will continue to monitor it through the next academic year, with the possibility of increasing our benchmark given continued success. |

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| <b>OUTCOME 4</b>  | <b>Students will demonstrate information competence and the ability to use computers and other technology for many purposes.</b>   |
| <b>COURSES THAT ASSESS OUTCOME</b>                      | Psych 110 and 120, Psych 315, Psych 318, Psych 475, Psych 480  |
| <b>KEY ASSESSMENT TOOLS</b>                             | Typed assignments/papers, SPSS assignments/quizzes   |
| <b>KEY EXPERIENCES THAT HELP STUDENTS MEET OUTCOMES</b> | PowerPoint presentations, SPSS training/assignments, Computer simulations, Blackboard class integration  |
| <b>CULMINATING PROFICIENCY MEASUREMENT</b>              | SPSS-based Laboratory Exam<br>(Psych 318)  |
| <b>BENCHMARK</b>  | 50% of students receiving a grade of C (68%) on the SPSS lab exam or above   |
| <b>DATA</b>   | F2009: 11/26 (42.3%) – GOAL IS <b>NOT</b> MET<br>S2010: 14/26 (53.8%) – GOAL IS MET  |
| <b>PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT</b>                             | These benchmarks are being met with mixed results. We will continue to monitor this outcome during the next academic year to determine whether changes need to be made to the curriculum to improve student performance. |