

Undergraduate Psychology
Action Recommendations Update

Fall 2009

Action items are placed in prioritized order:

1. Continue the refinement of the assessment process including the development of explicit instruments to measure learning outcomes for each of the Departmental Goals.

UPDATE: The Senior Psychology Exam continues to be the primary measure of student learning. Refinements in the implementation of the exam has modified and improved for Spring and Fall 2009 administrations. The Department continues to examine alternatives to this exam to meet our future assessment needs.

2. Continue the development of survey materials for the assessment of satisfaction with the various aspects of the Program by various target populations.

UPDATE: An Alumni Survey has been constructed and distributed to Departmental Faculty members for their feedback prior to distribution to a sample of the 350 program graduates from the last 10 years.

3. Have instructors explicit incorporate Departmental Goals into course syllabi.

UPDATE: Departmental Faculty have been instructed to incorporate Departmental Goals into their course syllabi. Follow-up reminders will be sent out and a review of course syllabi will be implemented to ensure compliance.

4. Increase the number of writing assignments in curriculum.

UPDATE: Faculty have been encouraged to review their curriculum to see whether this goal is feasible or appropriate for all Departmental offerings.

5. Increase the emphasis on career information and planning within the curriculum.

UPDATE: Career information and planning have been made the priority of the Departmental Honor Society. This goal also will be brought to the attention of the entire Departmental Faculty at a later date.

6. Develop the cognitive and bio-psychological lab component of the curriculum.

UPDATE: This remains a long-term goal and deserved greater attention by the entire Departmental Faculty.

7. Increase research opportunities as internship options.

UPDATE: This remains a long-term goal and requires the cooperation of the entire Department Faculty.

8. Implement an interview process of students prior to their internship

UPDATE: Internship instructors are aware of this goal and have made progress in seeing that students locate internship placements that match their interest and skill level.

9. Screen students for their readiness for the Senior Thesis course.

UPDATE: This remains a long-term goal that is often discussed among Senior Thesis instructors.

10. Consider the introduction of several new elective courses.

UPDATE: While this remains a long-term goal, several courses which had not been offered in some time (Substance Abuse, Positive Psychology, and Psychology of Women) have now been placed in course schedule as regular offerings.

11. Increase student participation in Program governance and decision making.

UPDATE: While this remains a long-term goal, the department has had the issue raised in recent Departmental meetings. Discussion about the way to achieve this goal will be discussed as a future agenda item during future Department meetings.

12. Create partnerships and develop cooperative pedagogical ventures across levels of training in the Psychology Programs (undergraduate, Masters, Psy.D.)

UPDATE: The Department has encouraged greater contact between graduate and undergraduate Psychology students through several initiatives. These include regular meetings of Psi Chi where students at all levels of training meet, Learning Enhancement Center tutoring programs, and graduate assistants assigned to work with students in research related-courses in the undergraduate program.