

Mission Statement

I. Preamble

We are a teaching and learning community dedicated to the actualization of human potential, an appreciation and respect for individual uniqueness, diversity and achievement, and the pursuit of knowledge within psychology as a scientific discipline and profession.

II. Whom We Serve

The primary recipients of the psychology department's services are students enrolled at California State University, San Bernardino. Students' needs are met by the faculty's active pursuit of teaching and scholarly excellence. The department will judiciously integrate various market demands and student interests to develop a realistic selection of courses/ programs for which we have the resources to maintain high quality instruction.

III. Department's Services

The goal of the psychology department is to shape and enhance student perspectives through knowledge of the basic processes and fields of psychology. The department will educate our students in a manner consistent with their personal interests and career objectives, and in a manner representing and upholding our professional responsibilities and guidelines. As a result, we expect to create a positive reputation and market demand for graduates of our programs.

IV. Description of the B.A. Degree in Psychology.

The general objectives of the Bachelor of Arts in psychology are to present the theoretical and methodological aspects of psychology to the undergraduate majoring in this field and to provide service courses as electives for students throughout the university. The primary purpose of the degree program is to provide the student with up-to-date, broad-based knowledge of the science of psychology. The degree program should: 1) prepare students for a variety of professional careers that benefit from undergraduate psychology preparation, 2) provide a strong general education that prepares students for careers emphasizing writing, critical thinking, quantitative analysis and interpersonal skills, 3) prepare students for paraprofessional careers in counseling or related fields where graduate training may not be necessary, and 4) provide an excellent base for those intending to enter graduate school.

Goals and Program Learning Outcomes for Psychology Majors

Goal 1. Psychology Knowledge Base

Students will acquire knowledge of the major concepts, empirical findings, theoretical perspectives, and historical trends in psychology.

Learning Outcome 1.1: Students will be able to describe psychology as a science whose primary objectives are to describe, understand, predict, and control behavior and mental processes.

Learning Outcome 1.2: Students will demonstrate an understanding of and knowledge of relevant theory and research in the general domains of (1) learning and cognition, (2) individual differences, psychometrics, personality, and social processes, including those related to sociocultural and international dimensions, (3) biological bases of behavior and mental processes, including physiology, sensation, perception, motivation, and emotion, and (4) and developmental changes in behavior and mental processes across the life span.

Learning Outcome 1.3: Students will be able to explain the major perspectives of psychology (e.g., behavioral, biological, cognitive, developmental, evolutionary, humanistic, psychodynamic, and sociocultural), to compare and contrast these perspectives, and to describe their advantages and limitations.

Learning Outcome 1.4: Students will demonstrate knowledge of the history of psychology, including the evolution of research methods in psychology, its theoretical conflicts, and its sociocultural contexts, and will understand the range of viewpoints informing the persistent questions and enduring conflicts in psychology, such as (1) the interaction of heredity and environment, (2) variability and continuity of behavior and mental processes within and across species, (3) subjective versus objective perspectives, (4) the interaction of mind and body, and (5) free will versus determinism.

Learning Outcome 1.5: Students will be able to use the concepts, language, and major theories of the discipline to account for psychological phenomena, as evidenced by the ability to describe behavior and mental processes empirically, including the use of operational definitions, to identify antecedents and consequences of behavior and mental processes, and to use theory to explain and predict behavior and mental processes.

Goal 2: Research Methods in Psychology

Students will understand and be able to apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, measurement, data analysis, and interpretation.

Learning Outcome 2.1: Students will understand and be able to explain the different research methods, will know how different research designs address different types of questions and

hypotheses, be able to distinguish research designs that permit causal inference, and be able to articulate the strengths and limitations of the different research designs used by psychologists.

Learning Outcome 2.2: Students will be able to evaluate the appropriate use of psychological tests and measurements, will understand the role that operational definitions of variables play in the science of psychology, and will understand the meaning of internal and external validity.

Learning Outcome 2.3: Students will be able to interpret and evaluate the appropriateness of basic statistical results, distinguish between statistical significance and practical significance, and be able to describe effect size and confidence intervals as reported in psychological research.

Learning Outcome 2.4: Students will understand how data are collected, analyzed, interpreted, and reported in psychological research.

Goal 3: Application of Psychological Principles

Students will be able to apply psychological principles in solving problems in different sub-disciplines within psychology, as well as applying these principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.

Learning Outcome 3.1: Students will be able to identify appropriate applications of psychology in solving problems associated with different sub-disciplines of psychology, including interventions in clinical, counseling, educational, industrial/organizational, community, and other settings.

Learning Outcome 3.2: Students will be able to articulate how psychological principles can be used to explain social issues and inform public policy.

Goal 4.: Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology

Students will respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when applicable, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.

Learning Outcome 4.1: Students will engage in critical thinking by identifying and evaluating the source, context, and credibility of information, differentiating empirical evidence from speculation, and recognizing and defending against common fallacies in thinking.

Learning Outcome 4.2: Students will demonstrate an attitude of critical thinking that includes persistence, open-mindedness, tolerance for ambiguity, and intellectual engagement.

Learning Outcome 4.3: Students will have the ability to recognize, develop, defend, and criticize arguments and other persuasive appeals, and will be able to explain their ideas clearly and objectively.

Learning Outcome 4.4: Students will have the ability to support conclusions with reasons and evidence, to weigh support for conclusions to determine how well reasons support those

conclusions, to identify weak, contradictory, and inappropriate assertions, and be able to make appropriate generalizations based on empirical findings.

Goal 5: Information and Technological Literacy

Students will learn how to use information and technology for research and professional activities including the identification and evaluation of scholarly material, data analyses, written reports, presentations, and communications.

Learning Outcome 5.1: Students will be able to locate and use online databases and sources to gather and evaluate scholarly material, and will understand the differences between primary versus secondary sources, empirical versus non-empirical sources, and peer-reviewed versus nonpeer-reviewed sources.

Learning Outcome 5.2: Students will be able to use the American Psychological Association guidelines to create and interpret written reports, statistical analyses, tables, and graphs.

Learning Outcome 5.3: Students will use information and technology ethically and responsibly, which includes having an understanding of and avoiding plagiarism, citing correctly from a variety of sources, avoiding the distortion of statistical results, and honoring copyright codes.

Learning Outcome 5.4: Students will know how to use technology for safe and effective communications and will be able to convey information clearly, appropriately, and in a variety of formats and contexts (e.g., essays, email correspondence, technical papers, formal and informal communications).

Goal 6: Values in Psychology

Students will understand and apply high ethical standards across academic and professional settings.

Learning Outcome 6.1: Students will behave in accordance with the professional and ethical standards of California State University, San Bernardino and the Department of Psychology.

Learning Outcome 6.2: Students will behave in accordance with APA standards covering all aspects of research activity including the ethical treatment of human and nonhuman subjects in study design, data collection, and the presentation of research findings.

Learning Outcome 6.3: Students will recognize that ethically complex situations can develop in the application of psychological principles.

Goal 7. Career Planning and Development

Students will emerge from the Psychology major with realistic ideas about how to implement their knowledge, skills, and values in occupational pursuits in a variety of settings.

Learning Outcome 7.1: Students will apply knowledge of psychology (e.g., decision strategies, life span processes, psychological assessment, types of careers) to formulate their career path, post-baccalaureate education, or both.

Learning Outcome 7.2: Students will identify preferred post-baccalaureate plans based on accurate self-assessment of abilities, achievement, motivation, and work habits, and will develop skills and experiences to help them achieve these goals.

Learning Outcome 7.3: Students will understand the importance of lifelong learning and personal flexibility to sustain personal and professional development as the nature of work evolves.

Goal 8. Interpersonal skills

Students will develop their interpersonal skills so that they can participate effectively in social interactions.

Learning Outcome 8.1: Students will work effectively and cooperatively in social settings (e.g., managing conflicts ethically, integrating diverse viewpoints).

Learning Outcome 8.2: Students will be able to identify their personal and professional values, demonstrate awareness of their feelings, emotions, motives, and attitudes based on psychological principles, and to evaluate their own thinking (i.e., metacognition).

Learning Outcome 8.3: Students will demonstrate effective interpersonal communication skills by using active listening, applying psychological concepts and theory to understand social interactions, adapting communication styles to accommodate diverse audiences, and providing constructive feedback to colleagues.

Goal 9. Diversity

Students will develop an appreciation and respect for individual uniqueness and diversity and individual differences in human behavior.

Learning Outcome 9.1: Students will demonstrate an understanding and sensitivity to individual differences, including an ability to interact effectively with people from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

Learning Outcome 9.2: Students will recognize how the diversity of individual differences shape research questions, research design, data collection, data analysis, data interpretation, and societal use of research.

Learning Outcome 9.3: Students will understand the nature and causes of prejudice and discrimination, including the societal impacts of privilege, power, and oppression on individual outcomes.

Learning Outcome 9.4: Students will demonstrate an understanding of applications of psychology to contemporary societal policy issues such as violence, mental illness, homelessness, or disabilities.

Goal 10. Commitment to learning

Students will be committed to life-long learning.

Learning Outcome 10.1: Students will demonstrate curiosity about behavior and develop skills for studying its causes.

Learning Outcome 10.2: Students will participate in activities that foster intellectual growth.

Learning Outcome 10.3: Students will recognize that psychological knowledge evolves and will have the desire to seek out empirically based information to apply to personal and professional contexts.