

**MAJOR FIELD ASSESSMENT PLAN  
B. A. PSYCHOLOGY**

The mission of Southeastern Louisiana University is to meet the education and cultural needs, primarily of Southeast Louisiana, to disseminate knowledge and to facilitate life-long learning through quality instruction, research and service in a safe, student-centered environment.

The Department of Psychology attempts to foster, among all students, a grasp and appreciation of the scientific method in the study of behavior, and to stimulate interest in the field of Psychology. An undergraduate major and minor in Psychology are offered as preparation for either graduate study or careers in which the science of behavior is applicable.

**Goal 1**

To provide students with a broad body of knowledge representative of the current state of knowledge in Psychology

A. Expected Outcome

Students completing the baccalaureate program in Psychology will compare favorably in their knowledge of general psychology with those students graduating from a national sample of psychology programs in institutions comparable to SLU.

Assessment

SLU graduating psychology majors will have an average total score on the ETS Major Field Achievement Test in Psychology which meets or exceeds the 50th percentile rank on a national sample of schools. ETS provides not only a total scale score, but two subscores and several "assessment indicators" so that relative strengths and weaknesses of a program can be evaluated. It is expected that SLU graduating psychology majors will meet or exceed the 50th percentile in each of the following two subtests: Experimental Psychology and Social Psychology. In addition, it is expected that SLU graduating psychology majors meet or exceed the 50th percentile on each of the following "assessment indicators": Learning, Cognition & Perception; Sensory & Physiological: Developmental; Clinical, Abnormal & Personality; Social; and Measurement & Methodology. The area of Ethology & Comparative Psychology is omitted because we do not currently offer a course in this area.

B. Expected Outcome

Students will have a positive opinion of the degree to which they have been exposed to a

broad body of knowledge in Psychology.

Assessment

All psychology majors are required to take either Psychology 333 or Psychology 334. During this time they will take the "Psych 333/334 Questionnaire" and will rate the Department positively (i.e. above "3.0") in terms of success in exposing them to a broad body of knowledge in Psychology and as this being more important now than when they took their first psychology course.

**Goal 2**

Foster students' grasp and appreciation of the scientific method in psychology.

A. Expected Outcome

Psychology majors will demonstrate the application of the scientific method to an actual research question.

Assessment

In a required upper level research class (Psyc 333 or 334), psychology majors will produce a written manuscript of publishable quality from beginning to end that requires the student to be able to conceptualize the targeted phenomenon into scientific research terms, and generate one or more testable hypotheses.

B. Expected Outcome

Students completing the baccalaureate program in Psychology will compare favorably in their knowledge of research methodology with those students graduating from a national sample of psychology programs in institutions comparable to SLU.

Assessment

SLU graduating psychology majors will take the ETS Major Field Achievement Test in Psychology and meet or exceed the 50th percentile on the Measurement and Methodology "assessment indicator".

### C. Expected Outcome

Psychology majors will feel confident in their abilities to conduct psychological research.

#### Assessment

Based on the "Psych 333/334 Questionnaire", at least 80% of those students taking Psychology 333 or 334 will rate themselves as being able to demonstrate the following skills with only minimal supervision--collect data, do background research, formulate a set of hypotheses, write up an Introduction section, write up a methods section, graph data, use statistics, write results section, and write discussion section.

### **Goal 3**

Students graduating with a bachelor's degree in psychology should desire to and be qualified for graduate study in behavioral sciences

### A. Expected Outcome

The rate of admittance into graduate schools in the behavioral sciences will compare favorably with other students graduating from a national sample of psychology programs in institutions comparable to SLU, and who apply for graduate work in the field. Once in a graduate program, the level of academic performance will compare favorably with other students graduating from institutions comparable to SLU.

#### Assessment

- a. In the Undergraduate Alumni survey, at least 25% of psychology majors will indicate that they are currently pursuing an advanced degree in the Behavioral Sciences.
- b. SLU graduating psychology majors will have an average Total score on the ETS Major Field Achievement Test in Psychology which meets or exceeds the 50th percentile rank on a national sample of schools
- c. On the SLU Exit Survey, at least 25% of graduating Psychology majors will indicate they are accepted in graduate school, or intend to go to graduate school

### B. Expected Outcome

Psychology majors will feel that they are prepared to attend graduate school.

## Assessment

- a. Students taking the “Psyc 333/334 Questionnaire” will have positive scores (i.e. an average score of above 3.0) on those items in which they rate their current opinion of their degree preparedness, and will rate this goal as being more important now than when they first entered the program.
- b. On the Undergraduate Alumni survey, 80% of psychology majors who are attending graduate school will be satisfied with the instruction they received at SLU.