

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

The purpose of offering graduate study in the Department of Psychology is to provide students with a M.A. level of knowledge and skills that will prepare them for entry either into a Ph.D. program or a subprofessional position.

**Goal 1**

To train graduate students in practical research skills and critical thinking skills.

Expected Outcome

Students completing the M.A. program should demonstrate: i) a thorough knowledge of some area of research, ii) the ability to design, justify, and carry out a research project which has the potential for furthering the knowledge of this area, iii) the ability to report this research in a clear, professional manner.

Assessment

- a. Students will produce a high quality research project for their thesis. A faculty committee will certify that all theses demonstrate research skills and knowledge.
- b. Students will demonstrate research knowledge through their comprehensive exams. These exams will be evaluated by a faculty committee.
- c. On the Graduate Alumni survey, 80% of the psychology graduates will indicate satisfaction with their opportunity to conduct research with faculty.

**Goal 2**

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

Expected Outcome

Students completing the M.A. program in Psychology will receive the core training in Psychology that would enable them to successfully enter a Ph.D. program as a third year graduate student.

### Assessment

- a. Students will demonstrate broad knowledge of Psychology through their comprehensive exams which are evaluated by a faculty committee.
- b. Alumni respondents who enter Ph.D. programs will have positive ratings on questions relating to how well their M.A. training prepared them for further graduate work.

### **Goal 3**

To permit pursuit of a Ph.D. degree in Psychology in the “Louisiana Consortium of Graduate Training in Psychology.”

### Expected Outcome

SLU will be an active member of the consortium program.

### Assessment

- a. Each year at least one student will enter an LSU Ph.D. program through the consortium program. (Note: LSU limits the number of consortium students that they allow each year to 1 or 2).
- b. SLU will have at least two faculty qualifying as LSU Affiliate Graduate Faculty Members.

### **Goal 4**

To provide students who do not immediately wish to pursue a Ph.D. with a variety of courses that will help prepare them for subprofessional positions.

### Expected Outcome

SLU will provide students with courses/experiences that will enable them to pursue careers in the field of psychology.

### Assessment

- a. Seventy-five percent of the M.A. alumni who attempt to get jobs in Psychology will be successful.
- b. Alumni respondents who obtain jobs will have positive ratings on questions relating to how well their M.A. training prepared them for those jobs.
- c. Students who plan to obtain subprofessional positions will include applied courses in their program. Students are allowed to take up to seven hours of practicum work. Students are placed in a setting such as the Comprehensive Counseling Center on

campus or the private practice of Baton Rouge Psychological Associates and allowed to engage in assessment and counseling under the guidance of a licensed Psychologist. This is a chance for students to operate in a manner more relevant to their future professional life than would be the case in the typical classroom setting. It also allows students to make professional contracts that may lead to degree relevant employment.