



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
WHITEWATER

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

PSYCHOLOGY- SCIENTIST PRACTITIONER GRADUATE SCHOOL PREPARATION

MISSION STATEMENT

In accord with the University and College of Letters and Sciences missions, the department of Psychology has the following mission:

- The department offers a broad range of courses in psychology with an emphasis on scientific inquiry and critical thinking. These courses prepare majors and minors for further graduate training or to seek employment.
- The department offers a graduate program in School Psychology, leading to the Educational Specialist degree.
- The department encourages scholarly activity by both faculty and students and supports faculty and student research.
- The department encourages faculty involvement in departmental, college, and university service, as well as student and faculty linkages with community agencies.

The Scientist Practitioner Graduate School Preparation emphasis is especially designed for students anticipating graduate study in practice-related fields such as clinical psychology, counseling psychology, and school psychology.

- The emphasis allows students to design a curriculum that is geared towards their graduate school goals in consultation with a faculty advisor.
- The emphasis seeks to prepare students for graduate study by providing a sound theoretical and applied background in the scientist practitioner disciplines.
- The curriculum integrates core areas of psychology and requires students to gain depth of knowledge applicable to the scientist practitioner fields.
- The program requires a capstone project in which students independently integrate psychological research and theory.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Student learning outcomes (SLOs) are statements of what a student will know or be able to do when they have completed a program. They represent the knowledge and skills a program has determined are most important for students to gain from that program. The most useful SLOs are specific and measurable so the program can accurately assess the degree to which students have achieved each outcome, and they align with college and institution mission and values. Data on achievement of SLOs is used to make improvements in the program and increase student success.

Scientist Practitioner Graduate School Preparation Emphasis students are expected to achieve each of the student learning outcomes of the psychology department as a whole. They also have additional student learning outcomes specific to the emphasis as outlined below.

Subject Matter

Graduates from the department of Psychology will be able to demonstrate:

- Basic factual knowledge of psychology, including fundamental properties of the nervous and perceptual system, and the principles of learning, cognition and memory, human development, psychological disorders, personality, and social processes.
- Knowledge of historical and contemporary theoretical perspectives presented by physiological, cognitive, behavioral, social, psychodynamic, and humanistic approaches.
- Knowledge of different research techniques, including observation, case study, experimentation, and correlation.
- Knowledge of ethical issues related to the field of psychology.
- Knowledge of sociocultural contexts that influence individual differences, and which affect theory and research in psychology.

In addition, graduates from the Scientist Practitioner Graduate School Preparation emphasis will also be able to demonstrate:

- Knowledge of career options and training requirements in the scientist practitioner disciplines.
- Knowledge of current and historical theoretical models of psychological intervention
- Knowledge of how different theoretical perspectives are informed by one another and used

Cognitive Development

Graduates from the department of Psychology will be able to:

- Distinguish between correlation and causation.
- Detect a valid from an invalid conclusion based on given empirical evidence.
- Draw a valid conclusion based on application of statistical analysis of evidence.
- Recognize the need for control/baseline conditions to apprise an effect.
- Design a simple, sound plan to answer a research question.
- Apply knowledge of psychological principles to everyday life situations.
- Explain the meaning and importance of clinically significant findings.

In addition, graduates from the Scientist Practitioner Graduate School Preparation emphasis will also be able to:

- Identify and evaluate relevant literature to an applied problem in the scientist practitioner fields
- Synthesize data and theory to reach a novel conclusion

Skills

Graduates from the department of Psychology will be able to:

- Demonstrate competence in basic computer skills, including the ability to use word processing and statistical analysis software.
- Search for printed and electronic information on a specifically defined and/or general area of psychology (e.g., library's on-line system, CD-ROM, and the Internet).
- Gather systematic information about human experience or behavior.
- Conduct and interpret simple data analyses.
- Write a research report according to APA format.
- Communicate research findings.

In addition, graduates from the Scientist Practitioner Graduate School Preparation emphasis will also be able to:

- Use relevant literature to inform best practices for an applied problem in the scientist practitioner fields
- Apply ethical principles to guide professional behavior
- Practice foundational listening and interviewing skills.
- Begin a process of professional behavior and identity development appropriate to applied disciplines.