

Assessment Plan – Academic Programs

(Form AAP)

Psychology

(Name of Academic Degree Program)

M.S.

(Degree Level)

Danielle S. McNamara

(Completed by:)

Director

(Title)

2000-2001

(Academic Year)

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose: *In this section, please provide a statement that demonstrates how your program relates to your college's or division's statement of institutional purpose and, through the college or division, to Old Dominion University's mission and goals.*

Institutional Mission Reference: The Psychology M.S. Program offers graduate students a high quality degree program in general psychology that meets national standards of excellence. The program faculty is committed to quality teaching and the discovery of new knowledge. The Psychology Program supports Old Dominion University's mission of providing advanced graduate education for the Hampton Roads area and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Institutional Goal(s) Supported: The Psychology Program supports the University goals of (a) quality graduate academic programs, (b) quality teaching, and (c) discovery of new knowledge. (See pages 3-4 of the University Catalog or pages 8-9 of the Strategic Plan.) The Psychology Program also supports Strategic Initiative 2 (Excellent Graduate Programs as described in the University Strategic Plan).

Please provide Intended (Student) Outcomes for your program, Methods for Assessment, and Criteria for Success for each Intended Outcome in appropriate boxes below. *(There should be a minimum of 3 Intended Outcomes and maximum of 10, with 3 to 5 outcomes being typical.)*

Intended Outcome 1: Students who graduate from the Psychology MS Program will have knowledge of the basic foundations of psychology. This will include understanding of experimental methods, quantitative methods, and the ability to assimilate new psychological knowledge.

Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success: Students are required to complete 15 hours of core courses including: research methods, quantitative methods, learning and cognition or perception, and developmental or social psychology. Additional courses are selected from a breadth of topics within the discipline to complete 36 hours of graduate study.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success (NOTE: Alternate methods are optional): 100% of the students will achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher in graduate course work.

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Intended Outcome 2: Students are expected to gain research and statistical skills that enable them to think critically and independently about research, analyze research data, and communicate results and conclusions through the use of statistics.

Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success: 100% of the graduate students will complete a research project during their first year of study under the supervision of a faculty. This research project will include designing and conducting a psychological experiment, analyzing the data, and communicating the results in a written report.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success (NOTE: Alternate methods are optional): 70% of graduate students will successfully propose and defend their master's thesis by the end of their second calendar year.

Intended Outcome 3: Students are expected to gain oral and written communication skills that allow them to effectively communicate scientific ideas and findings.

Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success: 100% of the students will acquire effective oral and written communication skills through participation in seminars. Each seminar will include a component that evaluates these skills and provides developmental feedback.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success (NOTE: Alternate methods are optional): 80% of graduate students will attend and make presentations at a regional or national conference. 30% of the students are expected to co-author a submitted publication with a faculty mentor.