

Clinical Psychology Psy.D.

Expanded Statement of Institutional Purpose

Institutional Mission Reference

The Department of Psychology participates in the Virginia Consortium Program in Clinical Psychology, awarding the Psy.D. degree. This program offers graduate students a nationally recognized clinical psychology degree that meets national standards of excellence. Program faculty are committed to quality teaching and the discovery of new knowledge. The Psy.D. program supports the University's mission of providing advanced graduate education for the Hampton Roads Community and Commonwealth of Virginia.

Institutional Goal(s) Supported

The PsyD Program supports the University goals of (a) quality graduate academic programs, (b) quality teaching, and (c) discovery of new knowledge, and (d) community service. (see pages 3-4 of the University Catalog or pages 8-9 of the Strategic Plan). The PsyD program also supports Strategic Initiative 2 (Excellent Graduate Programs as described in the University Strategic Plan).

Intended Educational (Student) Outcomes, Methods for Assessment, Criteria for Success, Assessment Results, and Use of Results

Intended Outcome 1

Students in the Psy.D. program will demonstrate knowledge in the basic subjects of psychology and the methods of psychological science.

Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success: 80% of the students will obtain a passing score (70%) on the Comprehensive Examination on their first attempt.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 1: In AY 2002-2003, 80% of the students passed the section on the comprehensive exam that focuses on basic subjects and methods of psychology.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 1 and Criterion for Success: 80% of the students will pass the History and Systems questions of the comprehensive exam.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 1: In AY 2002-2003 70% of the students passed the History and System questions on the comprehensive exam.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 1 to Improve Academic Program: Based on the comprehensive exam results, students appear to be mastering the information in the basic subjects and methods of psychology. However, only 70% of the students passed the questions on History and Systems. The Comprehensive Exam committee will review these questions and provide information on student responses to the faculty members who authored these questions. Individual faculty members will be asked to ensure that the questions accurately reflect material covered in their courses.

Intended Outcome 2

Students will demonstrate proficiency in the delivery and evaluation of psychological services in public and private sectors.

Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success: 80% of students will receive a grade of "A" in community based practicum placements (targets public sector delivery of service).

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 2: For AY 2002-2003, 90% of the students earned an "A" in Practica 1 and 2; 80% earned an "A" in practica 4 and 5.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success: Grades assigned by practicum supervisors will be A's or B's for all students.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 2: For AY 2002-2003, grades assigned by practicum supervisors were A's and B's for all students.

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 2 and Criterion for Success: Students complete a comprehensive exam that includes clinical content in multiple-choice and essay formats; also oral exam of students' assessment and intervention work samples. 80% of the students will pass the clinical sections of the comprehensive exam.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 2: In AY 2002-2003, 90% of the students passed the clinical content multiple choice questions. 80% of the students passed the clinical essay. 90% of the students passed the oral exam of assessment and intervention work samples.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 2 to Improve Academic Program: Using a number of assessment methods, it appears that students are proficient in the delivery and evaluation of psychological services in public and private sectors. The Practicum Training Committee (PTC) continues to meet regularly to assess and improve the quality of practicum experiences for our students. The chair of PTC, with release time, has been better able to coordinate the many aspects involved in our practicum training.

Intended Outcome 3

Students demonstrate competency in ethical, legal, and quality assurance principles.

Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success: 80% of the students will pass the ethics section scenarios on the Comprehensive Exam.

Summary of Assessment Data Collected for Outcome 3: In AY 2002-2003, 90% of the students passed the ethics section of the Comprehensive Exam

Alternate Method for Assessing Outcome 3 and Criterion for Success: Students will receive an "A" or a "B" in the Professional/Ethics course (PSYC 970).

Summary of Assessment Data Collected, Alternate Method for Outcome 3: In summer, 2002, all students received an "A" or "B" in the Professional/Ethics course.

Use of Assessment Results from Intended Outcome 3 to Improve Academic Program: Based on a variety of assessment methods, our students demonstrate competency in ethical, legal, and quality assurance principles. For each of the past two years, we have been fortunate to have an expert in legal and ethical issues present a day long workshop to students, faculty, and practicum supervisors. This has supplemented course work on ethical and professional issues as well as the weekly seminars that offer at least four (4) hours of training in ethics each semester.