

# Psychology Major Learning Outcomes

## Learning Outcome 1: Content: To understand psychology as a discipline

We expect our majors to master the basic content of at least five core areas of the discipline. The core areas of the discipline include social, developmental, psychopathology, personality, behavioral neuroscience, learning, cognition, and perception. Note, the core areas of the discipline are included within the Group B *Foundational Domains* portion of the major curriculum.

### Objective 1a: Broad Knowledge

Students will demonstrate their knowledge of at least five core areas of psychology. The core areas of the discipline include social, developmental, psychopathology, personality, behavioral neuroscience, learning, cognition, and perception.

## Learning Outcome 2: Method: To understand and apply the methods of the discipline

We expect our majors to understand and be able to apply empirical, quantitative, and technological methods in the investigation of psychological research questions.

### Objective 2a: Knowledge of Statistics and Research Methods

Students will demonstrate their knowledge of statistics and experimental methodology.

### Objective 2b: Competency in Research Skills

Students will demonstrate basic competency in the following research skills:

1. Retrieve empirical information from library sources including online databases.
2. Formulate hypotheses.
3. Design and conduct an experimental or quasi-experimental study.
4. Collect, record, organize, analyze, or interpret empirical data.
5. Enter data into a statistical software program (e.g., Excel, SPSS).
6. Conduct basic descriptive statistical analyses (e.g., calculating means and standard deviations) using a statistical software program.
7. Conduct basic inferential statistical analyses (e.g., t-test, ANOVA) using a statistical software program.
8. Recognize assumptions and make logical inferences when reading social science research.
9. Create understandable figures and tables.
10. Make and record behavior observations.
11. Design and conduct a survey.

### **Learning Outcome 3: Process: To become proficient in fundamental intellectual and social skills**

We expect majors to gain basic skills that are (a) essential for a career in psychology, (b) required for achievement in the world of work, and (c) integral to life-long learning. These skills include: the ability to communicate effectively in APA style; the ability to understand and produce logical and empirical arguments and think critically about psychological content; the ability to gain self-knowledge and an understanding of interpersonal relations; greater openness to constructive personal and social change; greater sensitivity to and tolerance of individual and group differences as reflected in the APA ethical guidelines.

#### **Objective 3a: Writing Competence in APA Style**

Students will write an acceptable paper according to the guidelines of the APA.

#### **Objective 3b: Competence in Critical Thinking**

Students will produce competent logical and empirical arguments and think critically as demonstrated by writing an acceptable psychology research paper.

#### **Objective 3c: Develop Greater Intrapersonal and Interpersonal Understanding**

Students will indicate self-knowledge, and interpersonal understanding, as a result of their experience as a psychology major.

#### **Objective 3d: Develop Greater Openness to Change**

Students will indicate openness to constructive personal and social change, as a result of their experience as a psychology major.

#### **Objective 3e: Develop Greater Tolerance for Differences**

Students will demonstrate sensitivity to and tolerance of individual and group differences, as a result of their experience as a Psychology major.

### **Learning Outcome 4: Values: To develop an appreciation for ethical action**

We expect our majors to understand the ethical standards of psychologists. Specifically, we expect our majors to demonstrate ethical treatment of subjects in research and conform to the ethical guidelines of the American Psychological Association, when participating in human service activities.

#### **Objective 4a: Conduct Ethical Research**

Students will abide by the APA ethical guidelines for handling subjects in research.

#### **Objective 4b: Ethical Professional Conduct in Applied Settings**

Students who participate in practicum activities sponsored by the Department of Psychological Science will demonstrate basic competency of ethical

considerations by writing satisfactory descriptions of dilemmas, how the situations ought to be appropriately and ethically handled, and what ethical principles apply to the situations described.

**Objective 4c: Ethical Treatment of Human Service Recipients**

Students who participate in human service activities sponsored by the Department of Psychological Science demonstrate basic competency of ethical considerations at their placements.