

# Goals

- **Knowledge Base:** Demonstrate knowledge of core areas of psychological science as well as the ability to interpret and apply knowledge of psychological science
- **Scientific Literacy and Critical Thinking:** Demonstrate the ability to reason scientifically, understand scientific research, understand basic statistics relevant to behavioral sciences and think critically.
- **Ethical and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World:** Demonstrate a basic understanding of ethical principles as they apply to psychological research and practice.
- **Communication:** Demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively in written and oral presentations.
- **Professional Development:** Demonstrate the ability to apply skills learned to enhance teamwork, career preparation, and manage projects in a work or educational environment.

# Methodology

- Graduating Senior Psychology Majors completed survey (N=75)
- For each goal, provided a set of statements
  - 5 point scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree
  - Half of all items for each student were negatively framed and half positively framed, counterbalanced across students
    - My classes and experiences as a psychology major prepared me to describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology
    - My classes and experiences as a psychology major failed to prepare me to describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology
  - Negatively framed items reverse coded; for ease of exposition, positively framed version of each item shown in the following results
  - For each item, we calculated percent agreeing with the positive frame -- or disagreeing with negative frame
  - We also calculated mean on a 5 point scale

**Goal 1. Knowledge Base:** Demonstrate knowledge of core areas of psychological science as well as the ability to interpret and apply knowledge of psychological science

**Table 1. Exit Interview Questions Concerning Goal 1.**

| <b>Item</b>  | <b>Percent of Students<br/>Providing Rating of 4 or 5</b> | <b>Mean (SD)</b> |
|--|---|------------------|
| - ... prepared me to describe key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology | 93.65   | 4.46(0.76)       |
| - ... provided me with a working knowledge of psychology's key content domains               | 87.3  | 4.35(1.08)       |
| - ... provided me with an understanding of applications of psychology                        | 95.24   | 4.48(0.76)       |

**Goal 2. Scientific Literacy and Critical Thinking:** Demonstrate the ability to reason scientifically, understand scientific research, understand basic statistics relevant to behavioral sciences and think critically.

**Table 2. Exit Interview Questions Concerning Goal 2.**

| Item   | Percent of Students<br>Providing Rating of 4 or 5 | Mean (SD)  |
|--|---|------------|
| - ... gave me the ability to use scientific reasoning to interpret psychological phenomena     | 96.83   | 4.48(0.8)  |
| - ... increased my psychology information literacy   | 100   | 4.76(0.43) |
| - ... gave me the ability to engage in innovative and integrative thinking and problem solving | 93.65   | 4.51(0.62) |
| - ... gave me the ability to interpret, design, and conduct basic psychological research       | 92.06   | 4.59(0.64) |
| - ... gave me the ability to incorporate sociocultural factors in scientific inquiry           | 92.06   | 4.43(0.8)  |

**Goal 3. Ethical and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World:** Demonstrate a basic understanding of ethical principles as they apply to psychological research and practice.

**Table 3. Exit Interview Questions Concerning Goal 3.**

| <b>Item</b>  | <b>Percent of Students<br/>Providing Rating of 4 or 5</b> | <b>Mean (SD)</b> |
|--|---|------------------|
| - ... provided me with the ability to apply ethical standards to evaluate psychological science and practice | 95.24   | 4.56(0.64)       |
| - ... helped me learn how to build and enhance interpersonal relationships                                   | 85.71   | 4.27(0.88)       |
| - ... helped me to adopt values that build communities at local, <u>national</u> and global levels           | 80.95   | 4.27(0.88)       |
| - ...helped me to respect the values of others who are different from me                                     | 92.06   | 4.51(0.86)       |

**Goal 4. Communication:** Demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively in written and oral presentations.

**Table 4. Exit Interview Questions Concerning Goal 4.**

| <b>Item</b>   | <b>Percent of Students<br/>Providing Rating of 4 or 5</b> | <b>Mean (SD)</b> |
|---|---|------------------|
| - ... helped me to improve my writing skills                              | 88.89   | 4.37(0.9)        |
| - ... helped me to improve my oral presentation skills                    | 71.43   | 3.84(1.07)       |
| - ... helped me to improve my ability to interact effectively with others | 90.48   | 4.35(0.65)       |

**Goal 5. Professional Development:** Demonstrate the ability to apply skills learned to enhance teamwork, career preparation, and manage projects in a work or educational environment.

**Table 5. Exit Interview Questions Concerning Goal 5.**

| <b>Item</b>  | <b>Percent of Students<br/>Providing Rating of 4 or 5</b> | <b>Mean (SD)</b> |
|--|---|------------------|
| - ... helped me to apply my new knowledge and skills to my career goals                | 82.54   | 4.11(0.97)       |
| - .. helped me to improve my self-efficacy and self-regulation skills                  | 87.3  | 4.27(0.87)       |
| - ... helped me to improve my project management skills                                | 82.54   | 4.14(0.95)       |
| - ... helped me to improve my teamwork   | 82.54   | 4.14(0.95)       |
| - ... helped me to develop meaningful professional direction for life after graduation | 71.43   | 4.06(1.03)       |

Additional questions

# Additional Questions

- During exit interview, students were also asked additional questions
- Responded on a 5 point scale ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree

| <b>Classes</b>  | Mean | SD   |
|---|------|------|
| I was happy with the variety of courses offered by the department   | 3.83 | 1.24 |
| Sometimes I had difficulty in enrolling in a class that I needed for graduation                           | 3.43 | 1.43 |
| There were enough sections of courses offered, so that everyone could sign up for the courses they needed | 2.25 | 1.3  |
| The class sizes were too large  | 2.25 | 1.05 |
| The class sizes were too small  | 1.65 | 0.73 |
| The class sizes were just right   | 3.83 | 1.12 |
| I was able to enroll in the classes of interest, but I sometimes had to wait a semester.                  | 3.63 | 1.18 |

| <b>Faculty and Staff</b>                            | Mean | SD   |
|---|------|------|
| Faculty were accessible if I needed to talk to them | 4.37 | 0.76 |
| The faculty cared about my progress                 | 3.97 | 0.97 |
| Teaching assistants were helpful                    | 3.88 | 0.98 |
| I felt supported by the faculty and staff           | 4.12 | 0.92 |

| <b>Advising</b>   | Mean | SD   |
|---|------|------|
| I spoke with my advisor in the Fulbright Advising Center regularly  | 2.28 | 1.25 |
| When I talked my advisor in the Fulbright Advising Center, I felt like I was given good direction           | 2.87 | 1.24 |
| I spoke with my advisor in the Department of Psychological Science regularly                                | 2.17 | 1.32 |
| When I talked my advisor in the Department of Psychological Science, I felt like I was given good direction | 3.18 | 1.13 |

## Involvement

Mean SD

|   |      |      |
|---|------|------|
| I was made aware of opportunities to get involved in research                                     | 3.67 | 1.31 |
| I attended faculty office hours, beyond what was required   | 2.83 | 1.21 |
| I feel connected to the department and the people in it (graduate students, faculty, staff)       | 3.33 | 1.22 |
| I went to psychology club or PSI CHI meetings   | 1.73 | 1.09 |
| I engaged in volunteer activities related to psychology   | 2.85 | 1.39 |
| If formal internship opportunities were available through Psychology I would have applied for one | 4.12 | 1.06 |

| <b>Resources</b>   | Mean | SD   |
|--|------|------|
| I had adequate access to computer technology                                       | 4.53 | 0.65 |
| There was adequate funding to support undergraduate research and conference travel | 3.27 | 1.09 |

| <b>Professional Development</b>   | Mean | SD   |
|---|------|------|
| I feel prepared to enter the job market, graduate, or professional school | 3.78 | 1.17 |