

Behavioral Neuroscience, BA



Assessment Overview & Results Summary

College/School:	College of Arts and Sciences
Measures Used:	To assess both the Psychology and Behavioral Neuroscience Majors, the Psychology department draws evidence of student achievement from research papers and final research oral presentations in capstone courses.
Process for Interpretation of Evidence:	<p>Faculty write outcomes, create rubrics, and determine benchmarks for student achievement. At the beginning of each academic year, the department chair will assure that there are at least three full-time faculty members on the Department of Psychological Sciences Assessment Committee. All members will be appointed to serve two-year terms (with the possibility of reappointment), with overlapping committee membership. At least two members of the Committee will be tenured faculty members, and the Chair of the Committee, who will coordinate assessment activities, will be a tenured faculty member.</p> <p>The Committee will be responsible for collecting evidence, assessing evidence, writing, and submitting a final report, and submitting all papers/exams/surveys to the Arts and Sciences Assessment Officer for storage. After reading the final report, the Chair of the Department (in conjunction with the Department Assessment Committee) is responsible for taking any action: for instance, organizing a faculty meeting to reflect on assessment results, making curricular changes, or modifying assessment procedures for the following year.</p>
How Findings are Used:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Changes to curriculum/pedagogy✓ Changes to assessment methods
Results Summary and Continuous Improvement Actions for AY 2020-2021:	<p>During academic year 2020-2021, we assessed the first three learning outcomes within Skills in the Discipline (Goal B), shared by both majors. During the prior academic year, we recorded student research presentations from Behavioral Neuroscience and Psychology capstones (6 total sections; 3 BN and 3 PSY) at the end of Fall 2019, just prior to the Covid 19 pandemic. During academic year 2020-21, department faculty ultimately reviewed over 30 presentations from over 50 graduating senior presenters (each presentation was assessed twice, by two independent faculty raters). We found that graduating seniors performed reasonably well on all three learning outcomes. Faculty rater averages for all aspects of Learning Outcomes 4 (Literature Analysis)</p>

and 5 (Research Design and Statistics) calculated above “Satisfactory” and close to “Accomplished” levels. Student performance on Learning Outcome 6 (Written and Oral Communication) exceeded our expectations of competence, with faculty rater averages for two components and the overall composite at levels indicating “Accomplished.”