



ASSESSMENT REPORT

College	Science
Department	Psychology
Program	Psychology BA/BS
Reporting for Academic Year	2016–2017
Last 5-Year Review	2010–2011
Next 5-Year Review	2018–2019
Department Chair	David Fencsik
Date Submitted	October 22, 2017

I. **SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT** *(suggested length of 1-2 pages)*

A. **Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)**

List all your PLO in this box. Indicate for each PLO its alignment with one or more institutional learning outcomes (ILO). For example: “PLO 1. Apply advanced computer science theory to computation problems (ILO 2 & 6).”

The department is transitioning from our current PLOs to a new set under semesters. The current PLOs are as follows (both begin with “Students graduating with a BA or BS in Psychology will be able to:”):

1. think scientifically and employ sound scientific methodology;
2. speak and write clearly about the content and theory of the field of psychology;
3. apply psychological principles and prepare for careers.

The department is finalizing its PLOs under semesters, but the current proposed draft consists of the following:

1. Identify key concepts, principles, and applications of psychology’s content domains.
2. Apply scientific reasoning to interpret psychological phenomena and to design and conduct basic psychological research.
3. Evaluate the ethics of individual studies at each stage of the scientific process.
4. Demonstrate effective written communication skills.
5. Understand career options within psychology.

## **B. Program Learning Outcome(S) Assessed**

*List the PLO(s) assessed. Provide a brief background on your program's history of assessing the PLO(s) (e.g., annually, first time, part of other assessments, etc.)*

Previously, the department used a department-designed short written test to evaluate the 1st and 2nd PLOs, and an instructor self-study to evaluate all three PLOs (old versions). We are developing new assessment instruments for our new PLOs. This year we assessed our new 4th PLO (and to some extent the old 2nd PLO).

## **C. Summary of Assessment Process**

*Summarize your assessment process briefly using the following sub-headings.*

**Instrument(s):** *(include if new or old instrument, how developed, description of content)*

We used the CSUEB ILO Written Communication Rubric.

**Sampling Procedure:**

We asked two instructors of two different advanced lab sections to complete the rubric for each student's final paper.

**Sample Characteristics:**

The sample included all 27 students across the two sections. These students are typically seniors nearing graduation. All students must have taken general psychology, a research methods lecture course, two statistics courses, PSYC 3100: Experimental Psychology, and one other prerequisite prior to taking the lab (the other prerequisite depends on the specific lab section).

**Data Collection:** *(include when, who, and how collected)*

The final papers were submitted at the end of Spring 2017. They were evaluated by the instructors separately from grading the papers.

**Data Analysis:**

Averages from each of the 6 rubric criteria were calculated. One of the instructors used an online version of the survey that was created by the chair in Qualtrics. The online survey was accidentally missing the "Language usage, sentence structure" criterion from the rubric, so that category was not rated.

## **D. Summary of Assessment Results**

*Summarize your assessment results briefly using the following sub-headings.*

**Main Findings:**

The department will discuss these results at a future meeting. Preliminary analysis suggests that the students did best with the bigger-picture aspects of writing, such as presenting clear

thesis and audience awareness, and had difficulty with supporting evidence and basic mechanics.

**Recommendations for Program Improvement:** *(changes in course content, course sequence, student advising)*

The faculty will discuss potential changes at a future faculty meeting.

**Next Step(s) for Closing the Loop:** *(recommendations to address findings, how & when)*

Waiting for faculty discussion.

**Other Reflections:**

None.

#### **E. Assessment Plans for Next Year**

*Summarize your assessment plans for the next year, including the PLO(s) you plan to assess, any revisions to the program assessment plan presented in your last five-year plan self-study, and any other relevant information.*

The current plan is to assess PLO 1 (Identify key concepts, principles, and applications of psychology's content domains) in the 2017–18 academic year. We also will have to develop a new assessment tool.