

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

DATE: September 7, 2011

TO: Carolyn Cutrona
Chair, Department of Psychology

FROM: Alison Morris
Chair, Outcomes Assessment Committee, Department of Psychology
Committee members: Kathy Hanisch, Warren Phillips

RE: Report on Graduate Program Outcomes Assessment, Department of Psychology

This graduate program outcomes assessment report was prepared by the Outcomes Assessment Committee in the Department of Psychology. The outcomes measures were selected by the Outcomes Assessment Committee with assistance from the Graduate Program Committee.

The Outcomes Assessment Process

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of graduate programs and to develop methods for improving student learning outcomes, evidence must be collected about the degree to which the desired outcomes of each program have been attained. The assessment results are then used to guide program change.

Outcomes Assessment in the Department of Psychology

The Ph.D. program in psychology at Iowa State University directs the education of students to meet general requirements and to develop competency and expertise to meet their goals. Accordingly, outcomes data are collected on teaching experience, research productivity, and internship placement as well as post-graduate employment.

Sources of Data for Graduate Outcomes Assessment

Data for this outcomes assessment report are drawn from graduate application and admissions data, the Annual Graduate Student Review, and graduate student employment outcome reports.

This report addresses outcomes for the Ph.D. programs in Cognitive Psychology, Counseling Psychology, and Social Psychology. Because a small number of graduate students are admitted each year, admissions data are pooled across the three Ph.D. programs. Outcomes data are reported separately for each program.

Applicant and Acceptance Data 2011

A total of 127 applicants applied to the PhD. programs. Of these, 16 offers were made, and 10 were accepted. GRE scores and GPA of all applicants, applicants receiving offers for admission, and applicants who accepted offers are shown below:

	Applicants	Offers	Accepted
GRE Verbal Mean Score/Percentile	524/66	590/80	564/76
GRE Quantitative Mean Score/Percentile	629/57	705/72	680/66
GRE Writing Mean Score/Percentile	4.24/55	4.86/76	4.58/67
Mean Undergraduate GPA	3.54	3.71	3.77

GRE scores and GPAs for accepted applicants in the years 2007-2011 are shown below:

Applicant and Acceptance Data 2007-2011

<u>Applicant Data</u>	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Number of Applicants	120	96	84	88	127
Number Accepted for Admission	16	11	14	9	16
Actual Size of Incoming Class	11	9	9	7	10
<u>Of Those Accepting Offers for Admission:</u>					
<i>GRE Verbal</i>					
Mean Score/Percentile	553/72	554/72	595/82	542/69	564/76
Median Score/Percentile	560/74	580/79	590/82	500/62	570/80
<i>GRE Quantitative</i>					
Mean Score/Percentile	666/62	705/73	724/77	731/79	680/66
Median Score/Percentile	730/78	700/72	705/72	740/80	690/68
<i>GRE Writing</i>					
Mean Score/Percentile	4.70/59	4.81/64	4.92/69	4.25/48	4.58/67
Median Score/Percentile	4.75/62	5.00/73	5.00/77	4.50/57	4.50/67
Mean Undergraduate GPA	3.78	3.37	3.60	3.83	3.77

Desired Outcomes for All Ph.D. Programs

1. Students will complete the graduate program in a timely manner
Measure: Number of years to completion
2. Students will demonstrate effective teaching skills
Measure: Percentage of students serving as primary instructor for a course
3. Students will demonstrate research skills by designing, implementing, and analyzing studies and presenting the findings at professional meetings or in peer-reviewed publications
Measure: Numbers of professional presentations and peer-reviewed publications
4. Students will gain knowledge and skills supporting employment in a position relating to psychology
Measure: Internship data; employment data

The reported statistics for goal #1 are based on graduating students, whereas statistics for goals #2 - 4 are based on students in their 4th year and beyond.

Outcomes Data – Cognitive Program

Two students completed the program in 2009 and two in 2010 (mean length of time in program = 5.5 years). All obtained faculty positions (Frostburg State University; Missouri Western State University; Temasek Polytechnic University; University of Wisconsin-Parkside).

Research and teaching data from students in 4th year and beyond (N = 3 for 2007-2008; N = 4 for 2008-2009; N = 3 for 2009-2010; N = 4 for 2010-2011).

<u>Graduate Outcomes</u>	<i>2007-2008</i>	<i>2008-2009</i>	<i>2009-2010</i>	<i>2010-2011</i>
Percentage of Students Presenting Papers/Posters	100	100	100	100
Average Number of Paper/Poster Presentations	5.67	7.00	6.00	6.50
Percentage Publishing in Peer-Reviewed Journals	67	50	67	75
Average Number of Papers Accepted for Publication	2.33	2.50	2.67	3.25
Percentage of Students with First-Authored Publications	33	25	67	25
Percentage of Students Serving as a Course Instructor	0	75	100	100
Average Number of Courses Taught per Student	0	1.00	2.33	2.12

Outcomes Data – Counseling Program

In 2009, three students completed the program (mean length of time in program = 6.33 years). All obtained staff positions at medical or counseling centers. In 2010, seven students completed the program (mean length of time in program = 6.5 years). Three of these obtained staff positions at medical or counseling centers, two entered private practice, one obtained a postdoctoral fellowship, and one obtained a faculty position (Augsburg College).

Research and teaching data from students in 4th year and beyond (N = 16 for 2007-2008; N = 15 for 2008-2009; N = 16 for 2009-2010; N = 16 for 2010-2011).

<u>Graduate Outcomes</u>	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Percentage of Students Presenting Papers/Posters	62	60	69	69
Average Number of Paper/Poster Presentations	2.56	3.13	2.69	2.88
Percentage Publishing in Peer-Reviewed Journals	56	53	69	69
Average Number of Papers Accepted for Publication	1.62	1.80	1.88	2.19
Percentage of Students with First-Authored Publications	19	27	44	50
Percentage of Students Serving as a Course Instructor	75	80	81	81
Average Number of Courses Taught per Student	1.75	1.67	1.75	1.59

Outcomes Data – Social Program

In 2009, one student completed the program (mean length of time in program = 4 years) and obtained a faculty position (Simpson College); one student withdrew; and one student was dismissed from the Ph.D. program. In 2010, two students completed the program (mean length of time in program = 6.5 years) and obtained positions as a Project Manager/Research Analyst and an Assistant Scientist.

Research and teaching data from students in 4th year and beyond (N = 13 for 2007-2008; N = 10 for 2008-2009, N = 13 for 2009-2010; N = 10 for 2010-2011).

<u>Graduate Outcomes</u>	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Percentage of Students Presenting Papers/Posters	92	90	100	100
Average Number of Paper/Poster Presentations	5.62	5.70	8.38	10.80
Percentage Publishing in Peer-Reviewed Journals	92	90	77	90
Average Number of Papers Accepted for Publication	3.69	2.70	3.92	5.20
Percentage of Students with First-Authored Publications	62	50	54	70
Percentage of Students Serving as a Course Instructor	77	90	85	100
Average Number of Courses Taught per Student	1.77	2.45	1.62	2.35