



University of Maryland University College

**Baccalaureate Degree Program in Psychology  
Department of Social, Behavioral, Natural, and Mathematical  
Sciences**

**PROGRAM ASSESSMENT PLAN  
Program Outcomes and Learning Assessment Criteria**

Summer 2007

**Baccalaureate Degree Program in Psychology**

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## **Baccalaureate Degree Program in Psychology**

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Psychology major is designed for students who desire to learn the science and application of psychology in preparation for careers in academia, research, or in the mental health professions. The program is aligned with the American Psychological Association's national guidelines and provides a curriculum that applies psychological concepts and principles to individual cognitive and emotional functioning, the workplace, and interpersonal relationships. In addition to the core foundation, the program focuses on social, natural, and clinical sciences. The Psychology major provides graduates a knowledge base of theory and research in the psychological sciences; provides students the ability to use the principles of psychology; and prepares students for graduate study or for careers in professions that psychological training is crucial.

**Baccalaureate Degree Program in Psychology**

**PROGRAM OF STUDY**

The program of study for the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Psychology is as follows:

**GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

Communications	12 credit hours
Arts and Humanities	6 credit hours
Behavioral and Social Sciences	6 credit hours
Biological and Physical Sciences	7 credit hours
Mathematics	3 credit hours
Interdisciplinary or Emerging Issues	7 credit hours

**CROSS-CURRICULAR PERSPECTIVE REQUIREMENTS**

Historical Perspective	3 credit hours
International Perspective	3 credit hours
Civic Responsibility Perspective	3 credit hours

**REQUIRED COURSES**

PSYC 100	Introduction to Psychology	3 credit hours
STAT 225	Introduction to Statistical Methods in Psychology	3 credit hours
PSYC 305	Experimental Methods in Psychology	3 credit hours
MATH 107	College Algebra (Required Related Course)	3 credit hours
	Social Science Psychology Requirements PSYC 321, PSYC 345, PSYC 351, PSYC 355, PSYC 357, PSYC 361, or PSYC 424	6 credit hours
	Natural Sciences Psychology courses BIOL 362, PSYC 301, PSYC 310, PSYC 315, PSYC 341, or PSYC 39	6 credit hours

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**PROGRAM OF STUDY (continued)**

Clinical Sciences Psychology requirements 6 credit hours  
PSYC 353, PSYC 432, PSYC 435, or PSYC 436

Supplemental Major Courses 6 credit hours  
Can choose any course listed above or PSYC 332,  
PSYC 334, PSYC 337, PSYC 338, PSYC 339  
PSYC 354, PSYC 356, PSYC 370, PSYC 386,  
PSYC 405, PSYC 415, PSYC 441, PSYC 451, or PSYC 466

Can include three 1-credit courses

**MINOR AND ELECTIVE COURSES**

40 credit hours

Minor and/or elective courses are to be taken in the last 60 hours along with required major courses. Refer to the current UMUC School of Undergraduate Studies Catalog for the minor and/or elective course requirements.

**Baccalaureate Degree Program in Psychology**

**DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

The table below identifies the curricular influences that support the program outcomes specific to the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Psychology.

<b>SOURCES/RESOURCES PROVIDING CURRICULAR FOUNDATION FOR PROGRAM OUTCOMES</b> <b>Baccalaureate Degree Program in Psychology</b>		
<b>SOURCE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>WEB ADDRESS OR DOCUMENT NAME</b> <b>(if applicable)</b>
Core Learning Areas of the UMUC School of Undergraduate Studies	<p>All UMUC degree programs are required to imbed identified Core Learning Areas into the program of study. The Core Learning Areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written Communication (COMM)</li> <li>• Technology Fluency (TECH)</li> <li>• Information Literacy (INFO)</li> <li>• Quantitative Literacy (QUAN)</li> <li>• Critical Thinking (THIN)</li> <li>• Scientific Literacy (SCIE)</li> </ul> <p>The expanded definition for each Core Learning Area was considered in creating the respective program outcome.</p>	UMUC <a href="#"><u>Institutional Plan for the Assessment of Student Learning</u></a>
Undergraduate Psychology Major Learning Goals and Outcomes: A Report	<p>“The <i>Undergraduate Psychology Learning Goals and Outcomes</i> capture a set of optimal expectations for student performance at the completion of the baccalaureate degree” (American Psychological Association, 2002, p. 3).</p>	<a href="#"><u>Undergraduate Psychology Major Learning Goals and Outcomes: A Report</u></a>

## Baccalaureate Degree Program in Psychology

### PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The program outcomes specific to the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Psychology are delineated below. The program outcomes describe the expectations for all graduates of the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Psychology.

CORE LEARNING AREA	PROGRAM OUTCOMES Baccalaureate Degree Program in Psychology
	Upon completion of a Baccalaureate Degree Program in Psychology, graduates will be able to:
COMM	Create written communication appropriate for the purpose and which meets standards of style and grammatical correctness.+
	Demonstrate effective writing skills in various formats (e.g., essays, correspondence, technical papers, note taking) and for various purposes (e.g., informing, defending, explaining, persuading, arguing, teaching).*
TECH	Evaluate technological concepts related to computers and components of information systems.+
	Use appropriate software to produce understandable reports of the psychological literature, methods, and statistical and qualitative analysis in APA or other appropriate style, including graphic representations of data.*
INFO	Address recognized research needs by retrieving, evaluating, and using information appropriately.+
	Demonstrate the ability to formulate a researchable topic using relevant and suitable scientific psychological sources from appropriate media.*
QUAN	Apply mathematical and numerical reasoning skills.+
	Apply mathematical concepts using relevant probability and statistical analysis to articulate clear and rational choices in support of measurement strategies.*
THIN	Use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.*
SCIE	Identify key concepts and principles of natural sciences.+
	Describe the nature of psychology as a discipline and the basic characteristics of the science of psychology.*

+ Denotes a program outcome specific to core skills, knowledge, and values gained from completion of the general education requirements. This program outcome is common across all UMUC baccalaureate degree programs.

\* Denotes a program outcome specific to core skills, knowledge, and values gained from completion of requirements in the baccalaureate degree program. This program outcome is unique to each UMUC baccalaureate degree program.

**Baccalaureate Degree Program in Psychology**

**ALIGNMENT OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES WITH LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND ASSESSMENT METHODS**

The following grid aligns the program outcomes of the Baccalaureate Degree Program in Psychology with: 1) learning objectives from the designated program coursework and 2) specific methods used to assess student learning within the degree program. .

<b>CURRICULAR ALIGNMENT</b>			
<b>Baccalaureate Degree Program in Psychology</b>			
<b>CORE LEARNING AREA</b>	<b>PROGRAM OUTCOMES</b>	<b>LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) AND CORRELATING COURSEWORK</b>	<b>METHOD(S) OF ASSESSMENT</b>
COMM	Create written communication appropriate for the purpose and which meets standards of style and grammatical correctness.+	Plan and write a research-based essay that makes effective use of resources found in databases available from UMUC’s Office of Information and Library Services as well as resources located through Web search engines. (WRTG 101)	Research Paper
		Research, compile, and document relevant, credible information and use it to support ideas presented in your writing. (WRTG 393)	Research Paper
		Collect, select, analyze, interpret, and organize data, and use it appropriately in business communications, including a long formal report. (WRTG 394)	Research Paper
		Conduct a systematic audience analysis and apply it to a report, essay, or research paper. (WRTG 391)	Research Paper
	Demonstrate effective writing skills in various formats (e.g., essays, correspondence, technical papers, note taking) and for various purposes (e.g., informing, defending, explaining, persuading, arguing, teaching).*	Apply APA style correctly to written reports. (PSYC 305)	Research Paper

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<b>CURRICULAR ALIGNMENT</b>			
<b>Baccalaureate Degree Program in Psychology</b>			
<b>CORE LEARNING AREA</b>	<b>PROGRAM OUTCOMES</b>	<b>LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) AND CORRELATING COURSEWORK</b>	<b>METHOD(S) OF ASSESSMENT</b>
TECH	Evaluate technological concepts related to computers and components of information systems.+	Analyze issues faced by information system professionals, including security, ethical, and privacy problems. (IFSM 201)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Use appropriate software to produce understandable reports of the psychological literature, methods, and statistical and qualitative analysis in APA or other appropriate style, including graphic representations of data.*	Present research findings clearly and effectively in a poster presentation. (PSYC 305)	Presentation
INFO	Address recognized research needs by retrieving, evaluating, and using information appropriately.+	Select relevant print and electronic sources to answer research questions. (LIBS 150)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Demonstrate the ability to formulate a researchable topic using relevant and suitable scientific psychological sources from appropriate media.*	Demonstrate a proficiency to locate recent research studies to illustrate an understanding of a specific area in brain-behavior relationships. (PSYC 301)	Written Assignment
QUAN	Apply mathematical and numerical reasoning skills.+	Solve linear, quadratic, higher-order polynomial, fractional, radical, exponential, logarithmic, and absolute value equations and inequalities. (MATH 107)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
		Develop problem solving skills. (MATH 105 or MATH 106)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Apply mathematical concepts using relevant probability and statistical analysis to articulate clear and rational choices in support of measurement strategies.*	Identify and perform inferential statistical procedures. (STAT 225)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
THIN	Use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.*	Collect and use scientific evidence in drawing conclusions and in practice. (PSYC 305)	Research Paper

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<b>CURRICULAR ALIGNMENT</b>			
<b>Baccalaureate Degree Program in Psychology</b>			
<b>CORE LEARNING AREA</b>	<b>PROGRAM OUTCOMES</b>	<b>LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) AND CORRELATING COURSEWORK</b>	<b>METHOD(S) OF ASSESSMENT</b>
SCIE	Identify key concepts and principles of natural sciences.+	Recognize the differences and the interrelationships among physics, chemistry, the earth sciences, and astronomy. (NSCI 100)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
		Explain the significance of DNA in determining the composition, characteristics, reproduction, and behavior of an organism. (BIOL 101)	Exam (Course/Chapter)
	Describe the nature of psychology as a discipline and the basic characteristics of the science of psychology.*	Identify the major concepts, principles and research findings in the science of psychology. (PSYC 100)	Exam (Course/Chapter)

+ Denotes a program outcome specific to core skills, knowledge, and values gained from completion of the general education requirements. This program outcome is common across all UMUC baccalaureate degree programs.

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