

## **Psychology Senior Exit Interview Spring, 2015**

As a graduating senior who has now completed requirements for the psychology major at Wells, we value your input on our academic program. Please look over the psychology assessment goals, objectives, and outcomes below. After you've read through that material, we would like you to respond to the Exit Interview Questions listed below. We ask that you send your answers electronically to Deb Witter-Gamba ([dwitter-gamba@wells.edu](mailto:dwitter-gamba@wells.edu)). Your responses are anonymous and a required component of the senior comprehensive exam. Ms. Witter-Gamba will check your name off her list of psychology seniors and will provide your responses to us without any identifying information attached.

In addition to the exit interview file, we ask that you indicate in your e-mail message what your post-Wells plans are whether that be graduate school, employment, student teaching, or some other opportunity. Please be as specific as possible (e.g., if attending graduate school, indicate program, degree, institution; if job, the specific position and organization; if Teach for America, Peace Corps, etc., where the placement is, etc.) This information will be forwarded to us independently of your Exit Interview and will *not* be anonymous.

Your answers to the questions are due to Ms. Witter-Gamba no later than **4:30 on Friday, May 1**. As soon as Ms. Witter-Gamba receives your Exit Interview and post-Wells plans, she will send your Senior Comprehensive Exam letter to you *via campus mail* (if you want it sent to another address, please let Ms. Witter-Gamba know this in your email). This letter from the major will indicate your comps grade (Pass, Pass with Distinction, Not Pass) and will include your score on the ETS Exam. *Please be sure to respond by the due date, as recommendation for graduation will not be released to the Registrar until this component of the Comprehensive Exam is completed.*

Finally: Thank You – we appreciate and value your input!

### **Exit Interview Questions:**

1. Do you feel that we are adequately addressing all ten of the listed goals? Provide some context for your answer.
  
2. Do you have any suggestions for how we might do a better job of addressing the goals?

3. In your view, are some goals stressed too heavily, while others are not dealt with enough? If so, please provide some detail as to which goals are over-stressed and which ones need more attention.

4. Are the ten goals for the major in line with what you hoped or expected to get out of the major or would you delete, add, or modify any?

5. Please provide any further comments you have about the psychology major at Wells.

## **Wells College Psychology Major Assessment Plan**

### **Mission Statement**

The mission of the Wells College psychology major is to provide a solid foundation in the study of behavior and mind and to help students apply their knowledge of the field toward achieving a sustainable and just world. The major aims to develop critical analysis, sound reasoning, effective oral and written communication, a humane and ethical manner, and methodological skills in its students. The overarching goal of the major is to help prepare students for global citizenship and contribution through appreciation of the diversity of human experience, participation in service and/or experiential learning opportunities, and cultivation of a sense of responsibility for making a positive impact on the world through their understanding of self and others.

### **Learning Goals and Outcomes**

The American Psychological Association provides parameters for the development of learning goals and outcomes (<http://www.apa.org/ed/pcue/taskforcereport2.pdf>) for undergraduate psychology programs. We have adapted these parameters as a template for our assessment plan, modifying them where appropriate to address the mission statement and institutional goals of Wells College.

### **Knowledge, Skills, and Values Consistent with the Study and Application of Psychology:**

#### **Goal 1. Knowledge Base of Psychology**

**Objective 1:** Students will be knowledgeable about the major concepts and constructs in the field of psychology, be able to connect theory and empirical research, and understand the impact of historical, societal, and cultural trends on the development of the field.

**Outcome 1:** Students will take courses in all major areas of the field.

**Objective 2:** Students will demonstrate an understanding of theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical, societal, and cultural trends in psychology.

**Outcome 2:** Students will demonstrate satisfactory knowledge of concepts, constructs, theory, empirical research, and trends through objective and subjective evaluation.

## **Goal 2. Research Methods in Psychology**

**Objective 3:** Students will understand and apply basic qualitative and quantitative research methods in psychology.

**Outcome 3:** Students will develop the skills necessary to apply inductive and deductive reasoning skills to explore empirical questions about behavior and mind.

**Objective 4:** Students will understand research design, data analysis, interpretation, validity, and critique.

**Outcome 4:** Students will demonstrate an understanding of the value, appropriate application, and critique of qualitative and quantitative research methods.

**Objective 5:** Students will appreciate the ethical issues involved in conducting behavioral research – both on humans and animals.

**Outcome 5:** Students will know how to conduct ethically sound research and how to evaluate the research of others for its ethical soundness.

## **Goal 3. Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology**

**Objective 6:** Students will use and respect critical thinking, skeptical inquiry, and the scientific approach to understanding behavior and mind.

**Outcome 6:** Students will develop the skills necessary to critically and reasonably evaluate psychological research and theory.

**Objective 7:** Students will apply critical analysis to the field, consider its strengths and shortcomings, and be able to articulate constructive improvements to the discipline as a whole and its practice, research, and pedagogy.

**Outcome 7:** Students will demonstrate their ability to apply their critical analysis skills

## **Goal 4. Application of Psychology**

**Objective 8:** Students will understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues, with the goal of improving the world in terms of sustainability, justice, and the human experience.

**Outcome 8:** Students will demonstrate their ability to apply their knowledge of the field to real-world issues and problems.

## **Goal 5. Values in Psychology and Wells College**

**Objective 9:** Students will be able to weigh evidence; appreciate complexity and tolerate ambiguity; act ethically, humanely, and rationally; respect others' opinions and perspectives; make interdisciplinary connections; and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a social science and Wells College as a liberal arts institution.

**Outcome 9:** Students will possess the character, skills, and values to make a positive difference at Wells and in the wider world.

## **Knowledge, Skills, and Values Consistent with Liberal Arts Education that are Further Developed in Psychology:**

### **Goal 6. Information and Technological Literacy**

**Objective 10:** Students will demonstrate information competencies and the ability to use computers and other technology for many purposes, including data analysis and scholarly communication.

**Outcome 10:** Students will develop the skills necessary to use technology as a tool for communication and analysis.

**Objective 11:** Students will learn to evaluate sources of information for credibility, authenticity, and appropriateness.

**Outcome 11:** Students will develop the skills necessary to assess the usefulness of information.

## **Goal 7. Communication Skills**

**Objective 12:** Students will be able to communicate original work effectively and creatively in a variety of formats.

**Outcome 12:** Students will develop the skills to write effective papers and reports.

**Outcome 13:** Students will develop the skills to make effective oral presentations, poster presentations, and/or portfolio presentations.

**Outcome 14:** Students will learn to communicate empirical results and be facile in the application of APA format in written scholarly communication.

## **Goal 8. Sociocultural and International Awareness**

**Objective 13:** Students will recognize, understand, accept, and respect the complexity of sociocultural and international diversity.

**Outcome 15:** Students will develop an awareness and understanding of inclusivity and diversity in the context of the field of psychology and in their own lives.

**Outcome 16:** Students will expand their own experiences through exposure to other ways of thinking, values, and worldviews.

**Outcome 17:** Students will understand the limitations of the current state of the field in a multicultural context and consider ways of improving the status quo.

## **Goal 9. Personal Development**

**Objective 14:** Students will develop awareness and insight into their own and others' behavior and mental processes and apply effective strategies for self-management, self-understanding, and self-improvement.

**Outcome 18:** Students will be encouraged to develop the capacity to be self-reflective, compassionate, and empathetic.

**Outcome 19:** Students will learn to value and pursue lifelong learning as a means of self-development in the cultivation of a meaningful life.

**Outcome 20:** Students will grow in their own ethical and moral judgments and actions.

**Outcome 21:** Students will apply course material to better understand, appreciate, and possibly improve their own and others' behaviors.

## **Goal 10. Career Planning and Development**

**Objective 15:** Students will emerge from the major with realistic ideas about how to implement their psychological knowledge, skills, and values in occupational pursuits in a variety of settings.

**Outcome 22:** Students will explore ways in which they might incorporate their knowledge of psychology into their future careers and personal lives.