

Psychology Senior Exit Interview Spring, 20XX

We value your input as to how well we are meeting the goals for the psychology major at Wells. Given your experience as a graduating senior, 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 questions listed below. We ask that you send your answers electronically to **XXX (XXX)**. Your responses are anonymous and a required component of the senior comprehensive exam: **XXX** will check your name off the list of psychology seniors and will forward your responses to us with no identifying information.

Your answers to the questions are due to **XXX** no later than **4:30 on Friday, May X**. Please be sure to answer by the due date, as we will ask Rhonda to identify anyone who has not responded. Again, we value your opinions.

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.