

## Program Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

**1. Knowledge:** Students will understand psychology as a scientific discipline. Essential to this, students will understand a core set of statistical and methodological knowledge regarding how psychologists critically evaluate, creatively test, and scientifically defend psychological claims. They will also understand a core set of content knowledge addressing the biological, cognitive/behavioral, social/personality, and developmental aspects of behavior and their integration.

1.1. Characterize the nature of the science of psychology and grasp the foundations of the science for consuming and producing psychological claims.

*Students will be able to generally characterize psychology as a science, distinguishing its assumptions and methods with those of other disciplines, and specifically describe the strengths and limits of different research methods and the validity of conclusions derived from the research when consuming or producing psychological claims.*

1.2. Demonstrate knowledge, understanding, and synthesis of the breadth and depth of psychological science.

*Students will be able to demonstrate theory and research representing different content areas (biological, developmental, abnormal, experimental, and individual differences) and approaches (e.g., behavioral, biological, cognitive, evolutionary, humanistic, psychodynamic, and socio-cultural) of the discipline and appreciate the interactions at the different levels of analysis synthesizing them into a comprehensive and multifaceted bio-psycho-social explanations human nature.*

**2. Application:** Students will be able to critically apply psychological principles and research to explain social issues, inform public policy, solve problems, understand themselves, and achieve career goals.

2.1. Students will be able to transfer their knowledge of psychological science to understanding and improving society.

*Student will be able to describe the ways that psychological science has applications to social issues, processes, and domains (mental health, law, military, business, and education) and demonstrate ways that disciplinary knowledge can be used to inform social policy, solve social problems and improve human functioning.*

2.2. Students will be able to transfer their knowledge of psychological science to understanding and improving themselves and planning their future.

*Students will be able to use knowledge of psychology science to promote their personal development and career planning by gaining insight into their behavior, mental processes, interests, and talents to develop self-management, self-improvement, and self-assessment strategies necessary to reach their personal and professional goals.*

**3. Values/Ethics:** Students will share key values adopted by psychologists, which include (but are not limited to) skepticism and intellectual curiosity, tolerance of ambiguity, respect for human diversity, appreciation of their civic, social, and global responsibilities, and humility regarding the limits of their psychological knowledge and skills. Students will also grasp the spirit of the APA Code of Ethics, follow its guidelines, and recognize the necessity of ethical behavior in all aspects of the science and practice of psychology.

3.1. Students will understand and adopt key attitudes beliefs, values, and responsibilities consistent with being a student of psychological science

*Students will make strides in adopting key assumptions (e.g., monism), beliefs (e.g., determinism), attitudes (skepticism and intellectual curiosity, tolerance of ambiguity) values (humility regarding their knowledge and skills), and responsibilities (e.g., interpersonal, civic, social, and global responsibilities) of being a student of psychological science.*

3.2. Students will understand and uphold the ethical standards which guides their interpersonal, professional and scientific behavior

*Students will learn and behave in a manner consistent with the APA ethical code regarding their research, professional, and interpersonal activities.*

**4. Interpersonal Relations and Communication:** Students will exhibit skills to professionally communicate their understanding of terms, concepts, research, and theories of the discipline to others via written and oral formats. Students will also have interpersonal and collaborative skills necessary to effectively work in groups with others who hold diverse opinions, beliefs, and attitudes.

4.1. Students will acquire skills to communicate professionally to others in various formats following disciplinary practices and conventions (e.g., APA style)

*Students' written, oral, and visual communication in formal and informal contexts will demonstrate an adequate level technical competence (grammar, structure, and style) and use of professional conventions (e.g., APA style and other professional conventions) to express, defend, or critique psychological claims ideas in disciplinary appropriate manner.*

4.2. Students' will demonstrate competence to work effectively in groups (projects, research, etc.)

*Student will learn to effectively work with others in group settings, which includes demonstrating skills to listen, communicate, and collaborate in unbiased non-prejudicial ways.*