

Undergraduate Psychology Program Learning Objectives

The psychology undergraduate training objectives are based on the recommendations of the Task Force on Undergraduate Psychology Major Competencies, formed by the American Psychological Association (APA). The full report can be found at <http://www.apa.org/ed/pcue/taskforcereport2.pdf> The ten goals are grouped into two categories.

Knowledge, Skills, and Values Consistent with the Science and Application of Psychology

1. Knowledge Base of Psychology

Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.

2. Research Methods in Psychology

Students will understand and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.

3. Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology

Students will respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.

4. Application of Psychology

Students will understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.

5. Values in Psychology

Students will be able to weigh evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a discipline,

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

6. Information and Technological Literacy

Students will demonstrate information competence and the ability to use computers and other technology for many purposes.

7. Communication Skills

Students will be able to communicate effectively in a variety of formats.

8. Sociocultural and International Awareness

Students will recognize, understand, and respect the complexity of sociocultural and international diversity.

9. Personal Development

Students will develop insight into their own and other's behavior and mental processes and apply effective strategies for self-management and self-improvement.

10. Career planning and Development

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.