

Preparing Assessment Reports in the UWC

Date of Report: December 23, 2009

Semesters or Academic Years the Assessment Report Covers: Fall, 2008

Division: Social Sciences

Department: Psychology

Faculty: MJ Hannush (Chairperson); Steve Alessandri; Sara Davis

Chair or Person Preparing the Report

Profile

Number of Majors: To be retrieved from Registrar's Office

Number of Faculty: Three full-time faculty

Courses Offered in the Assessment Period: Basic Concepts in Psychology (two sections); Psychology of Inquiry and Writing; Developmental Psychopathology; Educational Psychology; Descriptive Statistics; Psychology of Women; Cognition and Perception; Developmental Psychology; Psychology of Personality; Personal Adjustment and Growth: A Humanistic Approach; Social Psychology.

Departmental Factors that Affect Assessment:

The psychology discipline is strong and continuing to grow.

Learning Outcomes for Majors

For this academic year, 2009-2010 we assessed Goal II, Objective, I, Outcome I for the previous Fall, 2008.

Goal II

Students will demonstrate their ability to apply the techniques and methodologies of the psychology discipline's statistical methods and techniques to understand and analyze data.

Objective I

Students will demonstrate mastery of how to conduct a psychological literature search and how to write a paper using APA style.

Outcome I

Students will write a professional literature review using information from at least eight empirical articles in APA style. They must receive at least 21 out of 30 points on a **scoring rubric** that is designed to measure competency in using **APA style**. Students will also demonstrate mastery of APA writing style and literature review skills as measured by two examinations and four writing/research activities. For successfully passing the examination, students must receive a minimum of 70 out of 100 points. For successfully completing the activities, students must receive 3 out of 5 points for each of the activities.

Assessment of Majors

Professor Alessandri's students, ten in number, wrote a professional literature review, completed four writing and research activities and took two examinations. Indicate how many received the minimal necessary percentage required for successfully completing the writing project. Example: Out of the ten students who wrote the review, 8 achieved the minimum 21/30 points. On the two examination all received 70% or higher. For Activity One, all received 3/5 point or higher. For Activity Two, 6 received 3/5 points. For Activity Three, 8 received 3/5 points. For Activity Four 9 received 3/5 points or higher.

Changes Based on Assessment

Option A: This was a good result. The information was shared with the Department Chair.

Recommendations for Improving the Assessment Process

Outcomes were more operationally defined.

A change in scoring from 12 out of 16 to 21 out of 30 was now utilized for better assessment of the writing project. A more complete and thorough inclusion of other measuring strategies were incorporated.