DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY
Bachelor of Science in Psychology

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Department of Psychology is consistent with the University Mission. Specifically, the Department's mission is to offer a challenging and intellectually stimulating program taught by quality faculty members. Our faculty believe in actively fostering the academic growth of our undergraduate students through superior advisement and in creating a cohesive environment through both formal and informal interactions with students. As part of our mission of offering a high quality program that serves our students and the university we seek to: 1) Introduce students to the breadth of the field of Psychology, including cognitive and experimental topics, social and personality topics, and developmental, clinical and counseling area topics, 2) teach students about the science of psychology, 3) help students develop good communication skills, and 4) foster critical thinking about behavior and mental processes. In addition, we recognize that our students may seek a wide variety of jobs in disciplines both related and unrelated to Psychology, thus the department encourages and helps to provide experiences that will prepare students for employment and/or graduate school. These experiences include opportunities to actively participate in scholarly activities (supervising participants in research studies, entering research data, analyzing data and writing research reports) and service.

GOALS

GOAL 1: Knowledge Base of Psychology
We seek to have students demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.

GOAL 2: Research Methods in Psychology
Students should understand basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation. Students should be knowledgeable consumers of research, including a basic understanding of research designs and a variety of descriptive and inferential statistics and be able to apply these concepts.

GOAL 3. Information and Technological Literacy
Demonstrate information competence and the ability to use computers and other technology for many purposes.

GOAL 4. Communication Skills
Communicate effectively in a variety of formats. Students should be experienced in using APA style and in clearly communicating ideas with supporting arguments.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1.1 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding representing appropriate breadth and depth in selected content areas of psychology:
   a. theory and research representing each of the following three general domains:
      (1) experimental and cognitive;
      (2) social and personality psychology; and
      (3) developmental, clinical, and counseling psychology
   b. the history of psychology, including the evolution of methods of psychology, its theoretical conflicts, and its sociocultural contexts
   c. relevant ethical issues, including a general understanding of the APA ethical guidelines

1.2 Explain major perspectives of psychology (e.g., behavioral, biological, cognitive, evolutionary, humanistic, psychodynamic, and sociocultural).

2.1 Explain different research methods used by psychologists.
   a. Describe how various research designs address different types of questions and hypotheses
   b. Articulate strengths and limitations of various research designs
   c. Distinguish the nature of designs that permit causal inferences from those that do not
   d.
2.2 Evaluate the appropriateness of conclusions derived from psychological research
   a. Interpret basic statistical results
   b. Distinguish between statistical significance and practical significance
   c. Describe effect size and confidence intervals
   d. Evaluate the validity of conclusions presented in research reports

3.1 Demonstrate information competence at each stage in the development of a research topic and writing of a literature review.
   a. Locate and select sources after evaluating their suitability
   b. Read and accurately summarize the general scientific literature of psychology

3.2 Use information and technology ethically and responsibly.
   a. Quote, paraphrase, and cite correctly from a variety of media sources
   b. Define and avoid plagiarism
   c. Avoid distorting statistical results
   c. Honor commercial and intellectual copyrights

4.1 Demonstrate effective writing skills, to include demonstration of professional writing conventions (e.g., grammar, audience awareness, formality) and the use of APA style effectively.