Annual Academic Assessment Report

Program Information

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<tr>
<th>Program Assessed</th>
<th>Experimental Psychology Ph.D. Program</th>
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<td>Department</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<td>College</td>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
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<td>Department Chair</td>
<td>Christopher Kearney</td>
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<td>Jennifer Rennels</td>
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<td>Date Submitted</td>
<td>2/12/15</td>
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Contact Person for this Report

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A. Student Learning Outcomes
   1. Students will demonstrate in-depth knowledge of theories and empirical research in a particular domain of psychological science.
   2. Students will have knowledge of research methods and data analysis and apply this knowledge by designing research studies and analyzing and interpreting data.
   3. Students will present their knowledge to relevant parties through clear written and verbal communication.
   4. Students will advance psychological science through scholarly publication.
   5. Students will demonstrate teaching skills and pedagogical expertise.
   6. Students will demonstrate the skills and knowledge necessary to enter applied and academic research positions.

B. Learning Outcomes that will be Assessed
   Outcomes 1-6 will be assessed via information that the Program Coordinator collects from each graduate student’s annual evaluation. Some students progress at different rates, however, so graduate student faculty mentors will also provide information if outcomes are accomplished after the annual evaluation data are collected.

C. Method of Assessment
   1. Completion of the qualifying paper activity will be used to assess outcome 1.
   2. Completion of the thesis and dissertation will be used to assess outcomes 2, 3, and 4.
   3. Student publications at time of graduation will be used to assess outcomes 2, 3, 4, and 6.
   4. Student teaching evaluations will be used to assess outcomes 3 and 5. Most students will teach at least one class in psychology before graduation.
   5. Student professional presentations will be used to assess outcomes 2, 3, and 6.

D. Information Learned from the Assessment
   1. Assessment method 1 will provide the percentage of students completing their qualifying paper within the program deadlines. Completion demonstrates the qualifying paper committee determined that the student reviewed, evaluated, applied, and/or integrated the
relevant theoretical and empirical literature in their area of psychological science (outcome 1).

2. Assessment method 2 will provide the percentage of students completing their Master’s thesis or dissertation within the program deadlines. Completion demonstrates the thesis or dissertation committee determined:
   i) the research methods and data analyses used were appropriate (outcome 2)
   ii) the paper was clearly written or required only minor revisions (outcome 3)
   iii) there is potential for the student to publish the material or other scholarly work (outcome 4)

3. Assessment method 3 will provide the average rate of student publications at graduation and what percentage of students met the minimum criterion of publishing two papers. Publications demonstrate:
   i) the research methods and data analyses used were appropriate (outcome 2)
   ii) the paper was clearly written or required revisions that were not of major concern for the paper to be rejected (outcome 3)
   iii) students are contributing to the advancement of psychological science through their dissemination of scholarly work (outcome 4)
   iv) increased likelihood of students obtaining a Ph.D. level position following graduation (outcome 6)

4. Assessment method 4 will provide the average teaching evaluation our graduate students receive and what percentage met the minimum criterion of achieving ratings above the midpoint of the scale used. Such information will indicate:
   i) students’ ability to convey their knowledge verbally and potentially in written format if the course is a hybrid or DE course (outcome 3)
   ii) students’ teaching skills and pedagogical expertise as perceived by undergraduate students (outcome 5)

5. Assessment method 5 will provide the average rate of student presentations and what percentage of students met the minimum criterion of presenting three papers. Such information demonstrates:
   i) the research methods and data analyses used were appropriate (outcome 2)
   ii) the presentation abstract was clearly written and of interest to conference attendees (outcome 3)
   iii) increased likelihood of students obtaining a Ph.D. level position following graduation (outcome 6)

E. Program Responses to What was Learned

The program coordinator will gather the above data from graduate students and faculty throughout the year as milestones are accomplished (e.g., thesis defense). Each year, the faculty will meet to evaluate these data and discuss the annual progress of graduate students in the program. The faculty will determine whether the criteria we established for the graduate students to assess their learning outcomes is too high, too low, or appropriate for most students. The faculty will attempt to identify any obstacles that might hinder students’ progress and propose solutions to help students in achieving the learning outcomes. The program coordinator will also share the information with current graduate students and involve them in similar discussions.