

University of Victoria Department of Psychology Learning Goals

May 14, 2012

Categories of Learning Goals

I. Discipline-Specific Goals

This category represents activities that provide hallmarks of psychology education. Responsibility for development in and assessment of these areas rests primarily with the psychology faculty in coursework or psychology advising.

II. General Academic Skills

This category includes activities that are usually part of a general education program or liberal education. Responsibility for student development in these areas and assessment of students' achievements tend to be shared across a broader range of disciplines than just psychology; however, psychology coursework can contribute to and expand upon these general education goals in significant ways. In turn, well-developed liberal education skills can contribute to student achievement within the psychology major.

Learning Goals

I. Discipline-Specific Goals

Goal 1: Knowledge Base of Psychology

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

Goal 2: Scientific Reasoning in Psychology

Students will understand and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation, that are necessary for scientific reasoning and appreciation of psychology as a science.

Goal 3: Critical and Creative 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.

Goal 4: Application of Psychology and Interdisciplinarity

Students will understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues, as well as make cross-disciplinary links, through (but not only) co-op, internship and other experiential learning opportunities.

Goal 5: Knowledge Mobilization in Psychology

Students will be able to translate acquired scientific knowledge to support local communities' and general public's understanding and actions towards social and global issues.

Goal 6: Social Responsibilities and Ethics

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

II. General Academic Skills

Goal 7: Information and Technological Literacy

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

Goal 8: Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Students will be able to work in collaboration with other persons and communicate effectively in a variety of formats, including written and oral communications, for a variety of audiences, from scientific community to public.

Goal 9: Sociocultural and International Awareness

Students will recognize, understand, and respect the complexity of sociocultural and international diversity through traditional and experiential learning such as significant engagement with diverse communities, locally, nationally and globally.

Goal 10: Personal Development

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

Goal 11: 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.

Sources

APA “*Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major*” (2006)

“*A Vision for the Future – Building on Excellence: A Strategic Plan for the University of Victoria*” (2012)

Approved at the May 15th 2012 departmental meeting.