LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THE PSYCHOLOGY MINOR

Goal 1. Knowledge Base of Psychology
Demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.

Learning Outcomes

1.1 Characterize the nature of psychology as a discipline.

a. Identify and explain the primary objectives of psychology: describing, understanding, predicting, and controlling behavior and mental processes.

b. Compare and contrast the assumptions and methods of psychology with those of other disciplines.

1.2 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding representing appropriate breadth and depth in selected content areas of psychology:

a. theory and research representing each of the following general domains:
   (1) learning, cognition, and developmental changes across the life span
   (2) social processes
   (3) biological bases of behavior and mental processes, including physiology, sensation, perception, comparative, motivation, and emotion

b. relevant levels of analysis: cellular, individual, group/systems, and culture

c. relevant ethical issues, including a general understanding of the APA Code of Ethics

1.3 Use the concepts, language, and major theories of the discipline to account for psychological phenomena.

a. Describe behavior and mental processes empirically, including operational definitions

b. Identify antecedents and consequences of behavior and mental processes

c. Use theories to explain and predict behavior and mental processes

d. Integrate theoretical perspectives to produce comprehensive and multi-faceted explanations
Goal 2. Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology
Respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.

Learning Outcomes

2.1 Use critical thinking effectively.
   a. Evaluate the quality of information in terms of its source, context, and potential bias
   b. Differentiate empirical evidence from speculation
   c. Recognize and defend against common fallacies in thinking
   d. Avoid being swayed by appeals to emotion or authority
   e. Demonstrate an attitude of critical thinking that includes persistence, open-mindedness, tolerance for ambiguity and intellectual engagement
   f. Make connections between diverse facts, theories, and observations

2.2 Use reasoning to recognize, develop, defend, and criticize arguments and other persuasive appeals.
   a. Identify components of arguments (e.g., conclusions, premises/assumptions, gaps, counterarguments)
   b. Distinguish among assumptions, emotional appeals, speculations, and defensible evidence
   c. Weigh support for conclusions to determine how well reasons support conclusions
   d. Develop sound arguments based on reasoning and evidence
Knowledge, Skills, and Values Consistent with Liberal Arts Education that are Further Developed in Psychology

Goal 3. Communication Skills
Communicate effectively in a variety of formats.

Learning Outcomes

3.1 Demonstrate effective writing skills in various formats (e.g., essays, correspondence, technical papers, note taking) and for various purposes (e.g., informing, defending, explaining, persuading, arguing, teaching).

   a. Demonstrate professional writing conventions (e.g., grammar, audience awareness, formality) appropriate to purpose and context

   b. Use APA style effectively in empirically-based reports, literature reviews, and theoretical papers