Outcomes Assessment Plan/Report

University of South Florida
Outcomes Assessment Plan/Report for Academic Programs

Assessment is the systematic collection, review, and use of information about educational programs undertaken for the purpose of improving student learning and development.

An outcomes assessment plan is completed by faculty members for each program, at each degree level, each academic year. Completed outcomes assessment plans are e-mailed to: Oaplans@acad.usf.edu

At the end of the assessment period, summary items are completed. Completed assessment reports are e-mailed to this address: OAReports@acad.usf.edu.

Information about outcomes assessment activities is located here: http://www.acad.usf.edu/programs/outcomesassessment.html

Information about this Plan/Report

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### Mission/Goals:

#### Mission:
Enter all or part of the USF mission statement that relates to this academic program. The mission is located here: [http://usfweb.usf.edu/president/vis_val.html](http://usfweb.usf.edu/president/vis_val.html)

As an institution dedicated to excellent teaching, the University's fundamental objective is to evoke in its students a lifelong commitment to learning that enables them to become thoughtful, active, productive and compassionate citizens. Advanced studies at the graduate and professional level enable students to work with faculty at the forefront of their disciplines, to increase their depth of knowledge and personal achievement and to contribute to the advancement of their professions and the larger society. The University has high expectations of…its faculty and students as exemplary scholars.

#### College Mission or Goal(s):
Enter all or part of the College's mission statement and/or goals that relate to this academic program.

- **3.2.1** To graduate and support superior and visionary educators and human and support service professional who can perform the professional roles required in a changing educational environment

- **3.2.4** To expand professional knowledge through interdisciplinary research related to teaching, learning, and teacher education, thereby providing useful information for the design and evaluation of educational systems and the preparation of personnel for those systems.
Student Learning Outcome #1
What will students know or be able to do or believe by the end of the assessment period? Be specific.

Students completing the doctoral program in School Psychology will demonstrate knowledge in the core areas subject matter in the field of School Psychology.

It is recommended that two means of assessment be prepared for each student learning outcome.

**Action items:** Students will demonstrate their core knowledge through the completion of benchmark tasks throughout the sequence of course work and practica. In addition, students will identify and matriculate through an “area of emphasis” within their doctoral program of study.

**Means of Assessment:** Describe the procedures, strategies, or means that will be used to collect information on student learning.
1. All students will complete a comprehensive portfolio at the end of their first and second year in the program.
2. All portfolios will be reviewed both by a peer review team and a faculty review team.
3. All portfolios will be presented and “defended” before a faculty review committee.

**Criteria for Success:** Describe the criteria for success related to this means of assessment.
1. All students will include documentation of all benchmark tasks in their portfolios.
2. All students will receive both a peer and faculty review overall evaluation of at least “above average” with no component area of less than “average.”

**Summary items:** These items are completed after assessment activities, at the end of the assessment period. Completed assessment reports are e-mailed to: oareports@acad.usf.edu

**Findings:** What findings resulted from assessment activities?
Twenty-three (23) first- and second-year students completed portfolios. 52% of the students submitted and defended the portfolios successfully without modification. 48% of the students were required to address more fully one of more sections of the portfolio. All of these students subsequently defended their portfolio successfully.

**Use of Results:** What changes, if any, were made in response to the findings?
The faculty reviewed all of the portfolios to determine changes that needed to be made in the areas of course work, practicum, and supervision of first- and second-year students. The school psychology program has volunteered to participate in a pilot program through the College of Education for the 2004-2005 academic year of an e-portfolio system. As a result, the portfolio process will be revised for the purposes of an electronic system, and the faculty will reconsider the documentation required as well as the scoring rubrics for the portfolio.
**Action items:** Students will demonstrate their core knowledge through the completion of benchmark tasks throughout the sequence of course work and practica. In addition, students will identify and matriculate through an “area of emphasis” within their doctoral program of study.

**Means of Assessment:** Describe the procedures, strategies, or means that will be used to collect information on student learning.
1. All doctoral students will complete the National School Psychology Certification examination administered by Educational Testing Service.
2. All doctoral students will complete the School Psychology state examinations conducted by the Florida Department of Education.

**Criteria for Success:** Describe the criteria for success related to this means of assessment.
1. 100% of doctoral students will achieve a “passing” score on both the national and state examinations in school psychology.

**Summary items:** These items are completed after assessment activities, at the end of the assessment period. Completed assessment reports are e-mailed to: oareports@acad.usf.edu

**Findings:** What findings resulted from assessment activities?
All students who took the national and state examinations passed on their first attempt. All eligible students completed the NCSP exam as well as the three state-level examinations.

**Use of Results:** What changes, if any, were made in response to the findings?
Although all eligible students completed the examination, all students are now told that they must take and pass the exams in the spring of their internship year. In addition, the program will require students to submit subtest (area) scores in addition to the total score. In this way the program can evaluate student performance against particular content areas (e.g., ethics, interventions, assessment.)
Student Learning Outcome #2

What will students know or be able to do or believe by the end of the assessment period?  Be specific.

Students completing the Doctoral program in School Psychology will be capable of conducting substantive research studies in their field.

It is recommended that two means of assessment be prepared for each student learning outcome.

**Action items:**
1. Completion of a Thesis
2. Completion of a Dissertation

**Means of Assessment:** Describe the procedures, strategies, or means that will be used to collect information on student learning.

- All doctoral students will participate as a member of a research team or group.
- All doctoral students will design and implement two research studies on a substantive issue in their field.
- All doctoral students will present the proposal of those studies to a faculty committee in a public, oral defense of the written proposal.
- All doctoral students will present the final results of those studies to a faculty committee in a public, oral defense of the written proposal.

**Criteria for Success:** Describe the criteria for success related to this means of assessment.

- 100% of the students will complete the two research projects successfully.
- 80% of the students will present the results of their research at a state- or national-level conference.

**Summary items:** These items are completed after assessment activities, at the end of the assessment period. Completed assessment reports are e-mailed to: oareports@acad.usf.edu

**Findings:** What findings resulted from assessment activities?

100% of the students completing the Ph.D. program completed both a thesis and a dissertation. This learning outcome is applied to students completing the program, as completion of the thesis/dissertation and publication/presentation on an annual basis for each student does not make sense. Therefore, the outcome will be applied to graduates.

50% of the students who were awarded the Ph.D. degree during the 2003-2004 year presented at least one time at a state- or national professional conference.

**Use of Results:** What changes, if any, were made in response to the findings?

The School Psychology program continues to hold this outcome in high priority. The program has implemented research groups, has increased mentoring in this area, and has raised the expectation for student and faculty performance in this area. The program faculty are developing a list of research competencies/behaviors that students must demonstrate by the end of the second year in the program. These competencies include such behaviors as assisting with the data collection of a peer's research project, ongoing participation in a research group, presenting a paper at a state or national conference, etc. Weekly research meetings that students will be required to attend will be initiated for the 2004-2005 academic year as well.
**Action items:** Publication in a Refereed Journal or Book

**Means of Assessment:** Describe the procedures, strategies, or means that will be used to collect information on student learning.

1. All doctoral students will have a faculty mentor who will work collaboratively with the student on the development of skills necessary for writing for publication.
2. All doctoral students will complete the preparation of a manuscript in a format appropriate for submission for publication in a refereed journal or book chapter.
3. All doctoral students will submit a minimum of one (1) article or chapter for publication in a refereed venue.

**Criteria for Success:** Describe the criteria for success related to this means of assessment.

1. 100% of doctoral students will complete a written manuscript.
2. 80% of doctoral students will publish an article or chapter either as a single author or as a co-author with a faculty member.

**Summary items:** These items are completed after assessment activities, at the end of the assessment period. Completed assessment reports are e-mailed to: oareports@acad.usf.edu

**Findings:** What findings resulted from assessment activities?

100% of the graduates in 2003-2004 completed a written manuscript. 50% have or are submitting the manuscript for publication.

**Use of Results:** What changes, if any, were made in response to the findings?

This outcome remains a very high priority for the program. We have not attained our goal in this area, but continue to implement structures (research groups, mentoring) to achieve this outcome. We have made significant improvement but are not yet satisfied with the results.
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Student Learning Outcome #3
What will students know or be able to do or believe by the end of the assessment period? Be specific.

Students completing the Doctoral program in School Psychology will apply skills/acquired in the program in the solution of problems pertinent to their field.

It is recommended that two means of assessment be prepared for each student learning outcome.

**Action items:** All doctoral students will complete five semesters of practicum and three semesters of internship. The practica and internship experiences will provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate skills in the problem-solving process (problem identification, problem analysis, intervention/treatment, program evaluation).

**Means of Assessment:** Describe the procedures, strategies, or means that will be used to collect information on student learning.

1. All doctoral students will present a minimum of one case study during each practicum and internship semester that demonstrates skills in the problem-solving process.
2. Each case study will be reviewed critically by peers and the faculty supervisor assigned to that practicum or internship supervision group.
3. Each doctoral student will complete a self-evaluation of the practicum and internship experience.

**Criteria for Success:** Describe the criteria for success related to this means of assessment.

1. All doctoral students will achieve an overall final rating on the case study of at least “above average” with no rating less than “average” on any component of the problem-solving process.

**Summary items:** These items are completed after assessment activities, at the end of the assessment period. Completed assessment reports are e-mailed to: oareports@acad.usf.edu

**Findings:** What findings resulted from assessment activities?
All doctoral students have achieved this outcome.

**Use of Results:** What changes, if any, were made in response to the findings?
In order to ensure adequate opportunity to achieve this outcome, a 1-hour supervision session (Grand Rounds) is required of all students in second-year practicum. This is a one-hour session specifically for case presentation and problem-solving. For the 2004-2005 academic year, students will be required to formally present cases during Grand Rounds, and a scoring rubric will be developed to insure student competency in the problem-solving process.
**Action items:** All doctoral students will complete five semesters of practicum and three semesters of internship. The practica and internship experiences will provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate skills in the problem-solving process (problem identification, problem analysis, intervention/treatment, program evaluation).

**Means of Assessment:** Describe the procedures, strategies, or means that will be used to collect information on student learning.

1. All doctoral students will be evaluated using the School Psychology Program Practicum and Internship evaluation system.
2. The evaluation system will include the following: self-evaluation, evaluation by the university supervisor, evaluation by the field supervisor

**Criteria for Success:** Describe the criteria for success related to this means of assessment.

1. All doctoral students will achieve an overall rating of at least “above average” (demonstrates pre-internship competency) with no individual component rating of less than “average” (demonstrates emerging competency).

**Summary items:** These items are completed after assessment activities, at the end of the assessment period. Completed assessment reports are e-mailed to: oareports@acad.usf.edu

**Findings:** What findings resulted from assessment activities?
All doctoral students achieved this outcome.

**Use of Results:** What changes, if any, were made in response to the findings?
The new practicum tool that was initiated last year appears to adequately assess the practical skills and the dispositions necessary for success in this area.

Duplicate this sheet to assess additional student learning outcomes.