

Departmental/Unit Self Assessment and Action Plan

Department or Unit Name: Psychology

Individual Completing Form: Albert F. Smith

Program Name: MA - Experimental Psychology

Date:

November 4, 2004

NCA Level 2 Assessment Criteria	Meets Level 2 Criteria? Y or N	Action Steps to Get to Level 2	Timetable for Action Steps (see base NCA time chart)	Steps Taken as Scheduled? (Yes/No)		Assistance Requested? (Yes/No)	
1. Goals * The Program has specific student learning or student service goals. These goals reflect the discipline or service area professional standards.	Yes			NA		No	
2. Outcomes * Outcomes that are directly measurable are defined for each goal.	Yes			NA		No	
3. Research Completed * Research is systematically conducted to evaluate success or failure in achieving student learning or service outcomes.	Partially, for some goals	Comparisons between students taking coursework need to be made with students who have not completed coursework.	End of Fall, 2004	No--behind schedule		No	
4. Findings * Research results are analyzed and interpreted; findings are determined.	Partially, for some goals	Portfolio evaluation procedures need to be developed.	End of Fall, 2004	No--behind schedule		No	
5. Review Process * Findings are discussed and reviewed by appropriate groups and individuals; recommendations are made for action.	Partially, for some goals	ERP has made several recommendations for actions needed	End of Spring, 2004	Yes		No	
6. Actions							

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations are acted upon. 	Partially	Some actions have been taken, but review process needs to be completed before further actions taken	End of Spring, 2004	Yes	No
<p>7. Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions result in documented improvements in student learning or services. 	No	Surveys to graduates need to be redone. Data from pre- and post-test comparisons need to be collected and analyzed. Student portfolios need to be evaluated by ERP committee.	End of Spring, 2005	Not yet.	No

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Goal # 1 Students will demonstrate the ability to carry out and interpret statistical analyses of psychological (and other) data, describe studied samples, make inferences, and make statements about limitations on inference.

Outcome Measures	Research Completed	Findings	Review	Actions	Improvements
#_1_ Students must complete courses in Univariate Statistics and Experimental Methodology and Advanced Data Analysis and Computer Applications (PSY 511, 611) with "B" average	Program requirements were compared with comparable MA programs at other universities	Requirements were found to be comparable to those of other universities	ERP committee has discussed findings	Requirement presently maintained	NA
#_2_ Students must complete an empirically-based thesis, which is evaluated by 3 faculty experts on the basis of standard thesis requirements*	Program requirements were compared with comparable MA programs at other universities	Requirements were found to be comparable to those of other universities	ERP committee has discussed findings	Requirement presently maintained	NA
#_3_ Students will be required to pass a data analysis exercise. Proficiency will be determined by 2 faculty with expertise in methodology and statistics	Program requirements were compared with comparable MA programs at other universities	No comparable programs require	ERP committee has discussed findings	Exercise is being developed & will be administered to students upon completion of PSY 511 & 611 in Spring, 2005	NA

* Development of testable hypotheses, review of relevant literature, development of appropriate methodology, collection and analysis of data, and drawing appropriate conclusions.

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Goal 2: Students will demonstrate advanced knowledge in at least three domains of the field of experimental psychology and/or cognate areas.

Outcome Measures	Research Completed	Findings	Review	Actions	Improvements
#_1_ Completion of a minimum of 5 psychology content-based graduate level courses with at least a "B" average	Program requirements were compared with comparable MA programs at other universities	Requirements were found to be comparable to those of other universities	ERP committee has discussed findings	Requirement presently maintained	NA
#_2_ Students completing graduate course will display significantly more knowledge/skills (Cohen's $d > .8$) in area than students starting the course	Program requirements were compared with comparable MA programs at other universities	No comparable programs require	ERP committee has discussed findings	Instructors are conducting beginning of course vs. end of course evaluations of students in some courses	NA
#_3_ Students completing graduate course will display significantly more knowledge/skills (Cohen's $d > .8$) in area than students who have not taken the course	Program requirements were compared with comparable MA programs at other universities	No comparable programs require	ERP committee has discussed findings	Comparison of scores on a course-relevant test are being made between students in some courses and students not taking those courses.	NA

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Goal # 3 Students will acquire specialized knowledge in at least one area of experimental psychology.

Outcome Measures	Research Completed	Findings	Review	Actions	Improvements
#_1_ Satisfactory completion of thesis prospectus. 3 faculty experts serve on thesis committee.	Program requirements were compared with comparable MA programs at other universities	Requirements were found to be comparable to those of other universities	ERP committee has discussed findings	Requirement presently maintained	NA
#_2_ Satisfactory completion of thesis. Evaluated by 3 faculty experts on the basis of standard thesis requirements.	Program requirements were compared with comparable MA programs at other universities	Requirements were found to be comparable to those of other universities	ERP committee has discussed findings	Requirement presently maintained	NA

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Goal 4: Students will be able to design and carry out a research project on a problem in experimental psychology that has the potential to augment psychological knowledge.

Outcome Measures	Research Completed	Findings	Review	Actions	Improvements
#_1_ Satisfactory defense of thesis prospectus. 3 faculty experts serve on thesis committee.	Program requirements were compared with comparable MA programs at other universities	Requirements were found to be comparable to those of other universities	ERP committee has discussed findings	Requirement presently maintained	NA
#_2_ Satisfactory defense of thesis. 3 faculty experts evaluate thesis using standard criteria.	Program requirements were compared with comparable MA programs at other universities	Requirements were found to be comparable to those of other universities	ERP committee has discussed findings	Requirement presently maintained	NA

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Goal 5: Students will demonstrate the ability to present psychological research to others, orally and in writing

Outcome Measures	Research Completed	Findings	Review	Actions	Improvements
#_1_ Satisfactory defense of thesis prospectus to thesis committee	Program requirements were compared with comparable MA programs	Requirements were found to be comparable to those of other programs	ERP committee has discussed findings	Requirement maintained	NA
#_2_ Satisfactory defense of thesis to thesis committee	Program requirements were compared with comparable MA programs	Requirements were found to be comparable to those of other programs	ERP committee has discussed findings	Requirement maintained	NA
#_3_ Student presentations of their thesis prospectus or their findings from their thesis research to faculty and students during ERP Grand Rounds	ERP faculty have been asked about opportunities for thesis students to present their research to others.	Students have not had the opportunity to present research to their peers and faculty other than their thesis committee members	ERP committee has discussed how to involve students in presenting research	Thesis students are being advised to present their thesis prospectus or findings during Grand Rounds.	During the 2003-2004 academic year, at least five ERP Grand Rounds presentations were by students.
#_4_ Students will maintain a portfolio that includes presentations they make in courses that require presentations	Program requirements were compared with comparable MA programs	No comparable requirement at other universities	ERP committee has discussed findings	ERP comm. is tracking the opportunities that students have to make presentations in classes & determine the frequency of making presentations	NA
#_5_ Student presentations of research, oral or poster format, at psychological conferences. These will be included in students' portfolios.	Program requirements were compared with comparable MA programs	No comparable requirement at other universities	ERP committee has discussed findings	ERP comm. is tracking the frequency with which students make presentations at conferences	NA
#_6_ Publications with ERP students as authors. These will be included in students' portfolios.	Program requirements were compared with comparable MA programs	No comparable requirement at other universities	ERP committee has discussed findings	ERP comm. is tracking the frequency with which students are authors of papers	NA

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Goal 6: Graduates will develop skills and knowledge that allow them to be successful in getting into post-MA training programs and/or getting jobs related to their training or to better fulfill the responsibilities of their current employment.

Outcome Measures	Research Completed	Findings	Review	Actions	Improvements
#_1_ Graduates will obtain employment related to the field of experimental psychology or will be accepted into post-MA graduate training programs	Surveys have been sent to recent MA graduates to determine their employment status and/or success in getting into post-MA graduate training programs	The majority of grads responding to survey indicate that they have research related jobs or have been accepted into post-MA graduate training programs	ERP faculty have discussed these findings	ERP curriculum has been modified to allow more flexibility in coursework that suit the individual needs of the students	
#_2_ The students' curriculum will be consistent with their long-term goals.	Surveys have been sent to recent MA graduates to determine if coursework they have completed was relevant to their long-term educational goals	Some graduates have suggested that more flexibility in their coursework would have enhanced their obtaining desired goals	ERP faculty have discussed these findings	Students are developing individualized plans of study that are relevant to their long-term objectives. ERP faculty are determining the appropriateness of the students' plans relative to the students' long term goals and will provide regular feedback about their progress in the program.	

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Goal # 7 Graduates will be satisfied that their training was successful in meeting their educational needs.

Outcome Measures	Research Completed	Findings	Review	Actions	Improvements
#_1_ At least 90% of graduates will express satisfaction with their educational experience after graduating from the program.	Surveys have been sent to recent MA graduates to determine their views on their educational experience, e.g., challenge of the coursework, satisfaction with their experience, faculty meeting their educational needs, preparation for employment or further graduate work, etc.	Most grads report that coursework was moderately challenging, that their experience was satisfactory, that the faculty fulfilled their needs, that their training prepared them appropriately for employment or further graduate training.	ERP faculty have discussed these findings	ERP curriculum has been modified to allow more flexibility in coursework that suit the individual needs of the students	