**Graduate Program Assessment Plan <Psychological Science>**

5-15-2017

**Program Learning Outcomes**

All Students

1. Author and co-author research presentations at national, international, and regional conferences

2. Author and co-author publications in refereed journals

3. Be able to conduct scholarly or professional activities in an ethical manner

Beginning – Masters

4. Conduct research or produce some other form of empirical work

5. Demonstrate mastery of subject content knowledge and research/critical inquiry methodology

6. Demonstrate effective written communication of substantive content

7. Demonstrate effective oral communication of substantive content

Post-Masters

8. Demonstrate expertise in content area, including written and oral communication thereof

9. Demonstrate independence in content area, including written and oral communication thereof

**Assessment of Learning Outcomes**

***Outcome 1***: Students are expected to author and co-author presentations regularly. The graduate coordinator will track the number of presentations for each student annually.

***Success Threshold***: 60% of students will author or co-author 1 or more conference presentations each year.

***Outcome 2***: Students are expected to author and co-author several publications while in the program. The graduate coordinator will track the number of publications for each student annually.

***Success Threshold***: 50% of students will author or co-author 1 or more publications each year.

***Outcome 3***: The rubric for outcome 3 is completion of ethics training. The currently required training module is the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI).

***Success Threshold***: 100 % of students will successfully complete the ethics training.

***Outcome 4*** is assessed based on satisfactory completion of a thesis project. Our department will track theses defenses and calculate success rates.

***Success Threshold***: 80% of students will successfully defend their Maters Thesis before the beginning of their 5th semester.

***Outcomes 5-7*** will be assessed using the Rubrics attached in the appendix. Rubrics for outcomes 5-7 will be completed at the thesis defense. These rubrics will not be used to assess or evaluate individual students. The data will be aggregated for all students in the program over a two-year period in order to assess the program’s success in meeting its learning outcomes at the mater’s level.

***Success Threshold***: For the Master’s thesis, at least 80% of students within the assessment period will be ranked at a 4 or 5 level in subject content knowledge, written communication, and oral communication.

***Outcome 8*** is assessed by successful (and timely) completion of the written and oral comprehensive examinations. The graduate coordinator will track this data.

***Success Threshold***: 80% of students will successfully defend the written and oral comprehensive examinations before the end of their 6th semester.

***Outcome 9*** is assessed by successful (and timely) completion of the written and oral dissertation defenses. The graduate coordinator will track this data.

***Success Threshold***: 80% of students will successfully defend the written and oral dissertation within 6 years of beginning the program.

**Other Assessment Measures**

1) Percentage of graduates receiving post-doctoral appointments of full-time employment related to their specific expertise after graduation

2) Percentage of students receiving outside fellowships

3) Percentage of students with financial support, including tuition remission, during the academic year.

**Assessment Schedule**

Assessment reports will-be-submitted in summer during odd-numbered years.

**Process for Assessing the Data**

Data are collected from students during spring-semester annual evaluations, and from committee members (e.g., the scores from the rubrics and the data on thesis defenses completion, pass/fail status of defenses for thesis, comprehensive exams, and dissertations). The coordinator will write up a brief summary of the assessment results and this will be presented to the faculty members that serve on the graduate students committee or have instructional interactions with the student. The outcome of these deliberations will be used in the following manner:

If an acceptable performance threshold (as outlined in the plan) has **NOT** been met, the faculty will meet to discuss strategies for improving the currently unsatisfactory performance and a plan will be implemented for the following year. This plan may include any of the following.

o Gather additional data next year to verify or refute the result.

o Alter the curriculum or program to try to improve performance.

o Change the acceptable performance threshold (must provide reasoning behind such a strategy).

If acceptable performance has **been met** in all areas, faculty members will have the option of the following.

o Faculty members may still identify new strategies for meeting the learning outcomes.

o If faculty members are satisfied, based on the assessment, that the program is achieving its goals, they may decide that changes to the program are not needed.

A summary of assessment activities and faculty decisions will be reported to the CLS Deans office and to the Provost’s office in our Department’s Graduate Program Assessment Activities Report.