

Department of Psychology

Assessment Plan for the Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

The Assessment Plan for the five PLOs in the Department of Psychology are as follows:

Learn 1.a. Identify basic Tenets of Psychology. The signature test for this PLO is the Area Concentration Achievement Test (ACAT) test in Psychology. Each semester all students in PSY4020 (Pursuing Goodness: The Science of Moral Change Senior Capstone) take the test. Our criteria for success is that 60% of our students will score in the 50th percentile or higher on the ACAT Psychology Subject Nationally-Normed Examination.

Learn 1.b. Summarize and apply facets of “The Good Life” as conceptualized in contemporary positive-moral psychology course. Each semester in PSY4020 (Pursuing Goodness) students will write a signature assignment paper summarizing and applying one facet of “The Good Life.” 20 of these assignments will be randomly assessed.

Grow 2.a. Display an increase in personal growth and development (for the purpose of serving others). Faculty will assess 20 randomly chosen graduating seniors on this PLO using the rubric found in the Appendix below. Our criterion for success is that 80% of our students will score an average score of 3 or higher. In addition during our Senior Survey, students assess the degree of their own progress on this PLO. The criterion for success is that 80% of our students will report that they have experienced some or significant improvement as a result of the PLNU Psychology program.

Serve 3.a. Demonstrate Care for Others. Faculty will assess 20 graduating seniors on this PLO. Our criterion for success is that 80% of our students will score an average score of 3 or higher. The criterion for success is that 80% of our students will report that they have experienced some or significant improvement as a result of the PLNU Psychology program.

Serve 3.b. Understand Careers in Psychology. In PSY4020 (Pursuing Goodness) all students complete the signature assignment, referred to as the “Vital Engagement Vocation Paper.” We expect 80% of our students will score a 3 or higher on this rubric.

Updated rubrics for each PLO are included in the annual assessment report.