

Comprehensive Exam

Students take PSY 400 (History and Contemporary Issues in Psychology). Among other objectives, this course prepares upperclassmen for taking the GRE Subject Test in Psychology. The PLNU Psychology Department Comprehensive Examination consists of questions from the GRE Psychology booklet. Faculty members select questions that are related to the Psychology content courses that all Psychology majors take. The hard copies of the examinations are located in the filing cabinet below this card.

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PLNU Psychology Department Comprehensive Examination

Group	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
General Psychology Students ^a	29.5%	6.3%
Upper Division Psychology Majors ^b	60.0%	11.9%

^aWe administered the comprehensive examination to general psychology students the the first week of the course. Most of these students completed PSY 101 (Psychology of Personal Development), and less than 50% of general psychology students are freshmen. ^bPsychology majors are encouraged to take the comprehensive examination during the 2nd semester of their junior year.

Comprehensive Examination Scores Correlated with GPA

Semester	<i>M Comprehensive Exam Score</i>	<i>M GPA</i>	<i>Correlation GPA - Comprehensive Exam Score</i>	<i>Percent meeting 60% Criterion</i>
Fall 2011	72%	3.21	0.72	90%
Spring 2010	58%	3.18	0.37	32%
Spring 2009	58%	3.23	0.68	24%

Note. From the Fall of 2007 to the Fall of 2011, 49.4% of Psychology Majors met the 60% criterion.

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Measurement Tools	Criteria for Success	Time Period Data Collected	Findings from Data Collection	Resulting Program Changes
<p>1. LEARN- Identify basic tenets of psychology.</p>	<p>Department Constructed Comprehensive Examination</p>	<p>90% of students score above 60%</p>	<p>Bi-annually (beginning 2007)</p>	<p>2007 Fall: 18% scored above 70% (Avg: 61% ± 14%) 2008 Spring: 27% scored above 70% (Avg: 63% ± 12%) 2008 Fall: 25% scored above 70% (Avg: 61% ± 14%) 2009 Spring: 24% scored above 70% (Avg: 58% ± 13%) 2009 Fall: 63% scored above 60% (Avg 61% ± 13%) 2010 Spring: 32% scored above 60% (Avg: 58% ± 9%) 2010 Fall: 50% scored above 60% (Avg: 60% ± 14%) 2011 Spring: 16% scored above 60% (Avg: 55% ± 7%) 2012 Fall: 90% scored above 60% (Avg: 72% ± 10%)</p>	<p>2009 Spring: The department determined that a cut-off score of 60% would be more appropriate than 70% given the difficulty of the exam (average score = 60%). Since freshmen psychology majors average a score of 29 ± 6% on the test, the department believes that significant learning has occurred in the psychology major.</p>