Psychology Department Learning Goals

Learning Objective I. Develop a conceptual map of the field
   A. Understand the use of correlational and experimental evidence and the scientific method
   B. Become familiar with major historical and contemporary figures and classical studies
   C. Become familiar with important perspectives, concepts, controversies, questions, and methods

Learning Objective II. Enhance ability to be critical in evaluating theory and evidence as it is presented in the literature
   A. Learn to read and interpret tables and figures (e.g., seeing patterns that exist in the data)
   B. Apply a general understanding of the logic of statistical inference, of major statistical techniques, of the concepts involved in interpreting the outcome of statistical analysis, and of the limitations of statistical analysis to evaluate evidence
   C. Learn to generate alternative interpretations of the same data set

Learning Objective III. Learn to marshal evidence and argument in both written and oral form
   A. Learn how to search the literature for relevant material (e.g., to use PsychInfo)
   B. Learn to write a well-organized literature review that tells a persuasive story (including starting from an outline and making proper use of advanced organizers, transitions, summaries, and a conclusion)
   C. Learn how to present an argument and supporting evidence question, method and procedure, and results of research orally

Learning Objective IV. Engage in progressively more complex activities involving the collection, analysis, and interpretation of data
   A. Learn how to narrow down a broad question to one that is researchable and be able to design research (e.g., choose a sample, develop procedures, choose measures) in ways appropriate to the questions being asked
   B. Learn how to apply basic principles of exploratory data analysis, to develop the ability to know what statistical analyses are relevant to the questions at hand, and to use SPSS to carry out relevant statistical analyses and interpret the statistical analyses that have been carried out (e.g., knowing the difference between a main effect and an interaction)
   C. Develop the ability to describe and display data (i.e., to construct appropriate tables and figures) and the results of statistical analyses and learn to summarize results and discuss their implications

Learning Objective V. Practice relating psychological theory and research to individual, group, organizational and public problems
   A. Apply theory and research to an understanding of individual, group, and mass behaviors encountered in everyday life and in the broader world
   B. Utilize psychology skills and knowledge to critically evaluate media representations of social issues and conditions
   C. Employ psychology skills and knowledge to identify and evaluate efforts to facilitate well-being or remediate social challenges