



Human Development | 2017-2018 Assessment Report

1. Please give a brief overview of the assessment data you collected this year.

In the 2017-2018 school year, the Human Development unit examined the extent to which the courses offered achieve the following learning outcome:

- Appreciate and evaluate relevant issues using an interdisciplinary perspective as indicated by their application and utilization of extant literature from diverse fields within various assignments

To examine this, instructors teaching upper-level Human Development courses provided copies of the readings required in their courses, as well as the assignments students must complete. These documents were provided at the end of the fall 2017 semester and again at the end of the spring 2018 semester. In total, 11 courses representing five instructors were included in the analyses.

Results indicated that in all 11 courses, students were required to read materials using an interdisciplinary perspective. These reading requirements were not part of textbooks, but were journal articles from various fields. For example, students read articles from human biology, women and gender's studies, relationship studies, psychology, demography, education, social work, and nursing fields. In multiple courses (7 of the 11 courses), parts of the assignments asked students to reflect on what disciplines the articles covered. In addition, the Developmental Research Methods course, which is required for all Human Development majors, required students to create a citation and reference list that represented at least three distinct disciplines. All instructors who provided materials for the analysis were requiring interdisciplinary readings.

2. How will you use what you've learned from the data that was collected?

Results will be utilized to continue to understand the unique ways Human Development is interdisciplinary. The Human Development major will be eliminated beginning in the 2019-2020 school year and a Human Development emphasis will be created within the Psychology major. As such, it is important to keep the strong interdisciplinary approach, central to Human Development, within the Human Development courses that will transition to Psychology. In future years, it will be interesting to do a similar analysis on Psychology courses and the combined Psychology and Human Development curriculum.