



Psychology | 2014-2015 Assessment Report

1. Please give a brief overview of the data you collected. This can be in any form you feel is appropriate, such as a table, a short narrative of results, statistical analysis, highlighting findings that were of particular interest, etc. In short, it doesn't matter how you submit your findings.

In Spring of 2015, the Psychology Department assessed the following learning outcome: Develop meaningful professional direction for life after graduation.

To assess the outcome, we utilized four sources of data:

- Exam results from Dr. Vespia's course, Counseling and Psychotherapy, where elements of the course focus on career development
- A survey we sent our May, 2015 graduates that asks questions about professional direction
- The results of a 2015 research project, conducted by Dr. Vespia, on career development
- The results of a 2015 Psychology and Human Development Club research project, sponsored by Dr. Holstead, on engagement in the Psychology and Human Development majors (we removed the data from non-psychology majors for this assessment).

Regarding source one, exam results, Dr. Vespia asked six questions related to careers in psychology on one of her exams (e.g., "The Occupational Outlook Handbook provides information about all of the following except:"). The average score for those six questions was 82% (range from 66% to 98%).

Regarding source two, we sent an 8-item survey to all May, 2015 psychology graduates. Three of the questions we asked on that survey were relevant to career development. We received response from 48% of those graduates. The results of that survey are as follows:

Item	True	False
I am aware of the jobs that are available to someone with a psychology degree.	83%	17%
I feel satisfied with my post college career plans.	74%	26%
I believe what I have learned in the psychology major will help me in my future career.	100%	0%

Regarding the third source, Dr. Vespia completed a research project during the 2014-15 academic year in her Counseling and Psychotherapy course where she has several assignments related to professional development. Findings from this project, which were presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference, were that 70% of students had made progress on career readiness over the course of the semester and, per an anonymous online survey, 80% of participants felt they had gained some level of knowledge about careers and 100% said they knew more about what they needed to do to prepare themselves for careers or graduate school.

Finally, the fourth source of data was the results from a 2015 study of engagement in the Psychology and Human Development majors run by the Psychology and Human Development Club and sponsored

by Dr. Holstead. This study was also presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference. While the study looked at a variety of factors not relevant to this assessment, there were a series of questions included in the survey on career planning and professional development. The responses to those questions are as follows:

Item	Percent Indicating Agree or Strongly Agree
I have a clear plan for my eventual career	62%
I feel confident I will achieve my career goals	70%
My career plan is related to my major	83%

2. How will you use what you've learned from the data that was collected? Some examples are: a change in assessment plan for the following year because you want to drill down deeper to find more or better information, faculty will discuss the data to decide what to do with it, curricular changes, faculty development, etc.

I'll be sharing this data with the rest of the department with the hopes of exploring where we might be able to include more of a focus on professional development in our curriculum. There is not one particular class where career planning and professional development should be addressed and much of it has been occurring through advising or our student organizations. I plan on working with the department to better integrate it into particular courses.