

Academic Year 2007/08 Assessment Report
Psychology Department
Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Psychology Department Assessment Narrative:

All outcome measures exceeded the decision point thus meeting departmental standards. The psychology faculty feels that their undergraduate educational objectives are being met satisfactorily. Also, the faculty is perceived by students as performing well in classroom teaching. SPTE data indicate that our faculty members are meeting university standards for teaching excellence.

The faculty is currently assessing our undergraduate major to determine whether it should be redesigned. Issues under consideration are: What courses should constitute the core that is required of all majors? How prescriptive should the psychology major be? Are there ways in which we can increase the contact undergraduate majors have with department faculty in addition to GTA taught courses? As we do so, the faculty in no wise disparages the excellent teaching quality of our advanced graduate students. Their evaluations of teaching effectiveness as measured by the normed instrument, SPTE, are routinely examined by faculty supervisors and have been found to be equal to that of the WSU faculty as a whole. A recently received email from an undergraduate student illustrates the point:

I just wanted to write a quick note regarding one of my teachers, a psychology grad student teaching PSY 111 named Miss Hannah Wolcott. This is my first semester here at WSU as I am a sophomore transfer. I wanted to let you know that Miss Wolcott is an amazing teacher--she is very enthusiastic, knowledgeable, professional, etc. She is a natural in the classroom and is obviously very comfortable teaching. If you get the chance, please commend her for her great work. Thank you.