



Psychology Program Review 2022-23

Closing MOU

Date: Aug 8, 2023

Overview

Degree/Certificate Programs Reviewed:

- Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
- Bachelor of Science in Psychology (Psychological Science)
- Bachelor of Science in Psychology (Behavior in Science)
- Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience (Interdisciplinary)
- Master of Science in Psychology (Behavior Analysis)
- Master of Science in Psychology *Online (Behavior Analysis)
- Master of Science in Psychology (Psychology Science)
- Master of Science in Neuroscience (Interdisciplinary)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology (Behavior Analysis)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology (Clinical)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology (Cognitive and Brain Sciences)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Social Psychology (Interdisciplinary)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Neuroscience (Interdisciplinary)

Department Chair & Dean: Dr. Michael Crognale Department Chair & Dr. Louisa Hope-Weeks

External Reviewers & Affiliation:

- Dr. Carol Pilgrim, Professor of Psychology, University of North Carolina Wilmington
- Dr. Per Sederberg, Professor of Psychology, Director of Cognitive Science, University of Virginia
- Dr. Jason Washburn, Chief of Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Northwestern

Date of External Visit: March 8 – 9

Review Process Summary

The Psychology program was scheduled for regular program review as mandated by the Board of Regents and University policy. A self-study document for the department and its programs was developed by the department faculty and completed in the Fall of 2022 for Psychology programs. These respective reports were provided to the reviewers before they conducted a visit on March 8-9, 2023. The external reviewers reviewed the program and met with relevant faculty, staff, students and administrators to determine the department's accomplishments, examine strengths and weaknesses, and identify opportunities as it plans for the future. A final report was issued by the review team shortly after the review visit. In accordance with institution practice, responses to the review were solicited from the department and the dean. A final meeting took place on 8/30/23. This document represents the final MOU of recommendations and findings from the review.

Signatures

Executive Vice President & Provost:



Date: 9/26/2023

Jeffrey S. Thompson

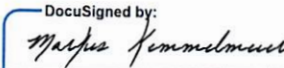
Vice Provost, Undergraduate Education:



Date: 9/18/23

David Shintani

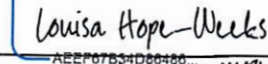
Vice Provost, Graduate Education & Dean, Graduate School

DocuSigned by:


Date: 15-Sep-2023 | 3:34 PM PDT

471BABF78-1D000000
DocuSigned by:
Markus Kimmelmeyer

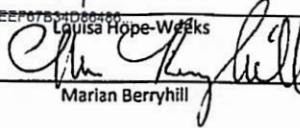
Dean, College of Science:

DocuSigned by:


Date: 15-Sep-2023 | 12:14 PM PDT

AEE6783-1D000000
Louisa Hope-Weeks

Associate Chair, Psychology Department



Date: 9/15/23

Marian Berryhill

Major Findings and Conclusions

The psychology department is part of the College of Science, the largest academic unit on campus, and is housed in the Mack Social Science building. The psychology major offers broad range of courses in the core areas of the discipline, and we offer numerous opportunities for undergraduate students to get involved in faculty research projects and apply their education to real-world psychology questions.

The field of psychology includes myriad research and teaching topics, which contribute to a diverse identity. Defining psychology at the University of Nevada is no exception and results in several identities determined by faculty and student association with our three main graduate programs (Clinical, Behavior Analysis, and Cognitive and Brain Sciences) and our two interdisciplinary graduate programs (Neuroscience and Social Psychology). The inherent problem is illustrated by the fact that considerable discussion was focused on the appropriate placement of Psychology when the College of Arts and Sciences was split into separate Colleges of Liberal Arts (CLA) and the College of Sciences in 2003/04. Psychology was placed in CLA (where it had received strong support), despite the fact that a majority of the faculty had stated that our identity was more closely linked to the natural sciences. While Psychology was well treated in the CLA, we have revisited the logic of this decision and subsequently negotiated a successful transfer to the College of Science in 2019. The Satellite Programs in Behavior Analysis were founded in 1995 to meet the demand for behavior analytically trained providers and has been in continuous operation since that time. The Satellite Programs include the full Master of Arts degree, as well as course sequences and practical training regimes pursuant to professional credentialing by the Behavior Analysis Certification Board. The Satellite Program is currently under the umbrella of the Global Institute for Behavior Analysis (GIBA) here at UNR along with online degree and training programs in Behavior Analysis and is under the direct supervision of the Department.

The reviewers stated that as indicated by its healthy and growing number of majors, steady 4- and 6-year graduation rates, and stable credit-hour data, Psychology is obviously an attractive major at UNR. There were many comments and issues the reviewers identified. The reviewers broke out the issues by department.

Next Steps for this Program/Department (topics will vary)

Recommendations for the Department include the following:

- The Department should plan for opportunities for faculty and student interchange across programs, to aid in building a stronger and more cohesive department climate. Examples might include department-wide colloquia, perhaps three a year spearheaded by each of the three areas with the entire department encouraged to attend; lab shares, research presentations, or departmental poster sessions; department-wide social events.
- The Department website should be updated routinely so that it reflects current degrees (BS degrees vs BA), current program outcome data, and perhaps to reflect student research opportunities more effectively.
- The Department may wish to consider requiring a course in Behavioral Analysis and in Cognitive Psychology as part of their undergraduate degrees, to help in ensuring students' informed selection of degree specializations.
- The BS degrees would benefit from better coordination of students in need of lab experiences and labs with openings for students.

Recommendations for the Behavior Analysis program include the following:

- At minimum, a third hire in Behavior Analysis will be needed to fill the recently vacated position.

Recommendations for the Clinical Psychology program include the following:

- There have been long standing divisions within the clinical psychology program that need to be addressed.
- Review the policy on how students are compensated for required clinical work and the impact it has on international students.
- The Clinical Psychology program needs a functioning student handbook. The Council of University Directors of Clinical Psychology (CUDCP) has numerous examples of comprehensive and well-developed handbooks that can be used as models for the Clinical Psychology handbook.
- The Clinical Psychology program could benefit from engaging in promotional efforts to increase the number of applications received. Outside of addressing cultural and climate concerns, the Clinical Psychology program should work to identify other factors that may result in a lower number of applicants, and work to address those concerns.

Recommendations for the Cognitive and Brain Sciences (CBS) program include the following:

- The CBS graduate program needs to assess the costs and benefits of merging with the Integrative Neuroscience graduate program. While this would certainly reduce confusion and provide a single-entry point for neuroscience graduate students across the university, CBS stands to lose some of the autonomy they currently enjoy. This can likely only be resolved by engaging both the Neuroscience Institute and the Graduate School administrators to explore what the merge would entail.

Next Steps for this Program/Department (topics will vary)

Department

- Efforts will be made to increase cohesiveness in the department (e.g. collective department colloquia and social events).
- The department will prepare a shared preamble to existing graduate program handbooks to clarify policies and procedures. We are awaiting approval of a grievance policy from the Graduate School.
- Will assign website update duties in order to keep information current and accurate.
- Will have our curriculum committee examine the effects of adding requirements.
- An onboarding procedure will be added for any future teaching faculty hires.
- Clarification and expansion of the role of the Associate Chair will be addressed in formal written fashion.

Behavior Analysis

- Will submit a request for replacing this lost faculty member.

Clinical

- Hired a new director of the clinic and the program to create a new strategic vision.
- Investigate allegations of graduate student work without appropriate compensation and communicate policies and requirements to all faculty members.

CBS

- Over the next year, we look forward to clarifying the individuated missions of CBS, INP, and the Neuroscience Institute. There is general support for a merger between the CBS and INP graduate programs that creates a distinct track in Cognitive Neuroscience and retains full curricular and admissions autonomy within the Department of Psychology. As all CBS faculty are affiliated with INP, we are prepared to be constructive partners with all relevant entities. We are eager to be a part of the decision-making process in charting the course of the Neuroscience Institute as it charts a long-term, sustainable course.

Vital Statistics on NSHE Reports

Number of students with declared major in the program area:

2022-2023 BA Psychology	775	
2022-2023 BS Psychology Psychological Science	332	
2022-2023 BS Psychology Behavioral Science	117	
2022-2023 MA Psychology	1	
2022-2023 MS Psychology Behavioral Analysis	9	
2022-2023 MS Psychology Behavioral Analysis (Online)	5	
2022-2023 MS Psychology Cognitive and Brain Sciences		3
2022-2023 Psychology PhD Behavioral Analysis	25	
2022-2023 Psychology PhD Cognitive and Brain Science		11
2022-2023 Psychology PhD Clinical	26	

Number of graduates from the program for the following years:

2020-2021	BA Psychology	210
	BS Psychology Psychological Science	1
	BS Psychology Behavioral Science	0
	MA Psychology	11
	MS Psychology Behavioral Analysis	7
	MS Psychology Behavioral Analysis (Online)	n/a
	MS Psychology Cognitive and Brain Sciences	1
	Psychology PhD Behavioral Analysis	7
	Psychology PhD Cognitive and Brain Science	10
Psychology PhD Clinical	0	
2021-2022	BA Psychology	223
	BS Psychology Psychological Science	20
	BS Psychology Behavioral Science	2
	MA Psychology	0
	MS Psychology Behavioral Analysis	14
	MS Psychology Behavioral Analysis (Online)	n/a
	MS Psychology Cognitive and Brain Sciences	3
	Psychology PhD Behavioral Analysis	3
	Psychology PhD Cognitive and Brain Science	3
Psychology PhD Clinical	2	

2022-2023	BA Psychology	25
	BS Psychology Psychological Science	28
	BS Psychology Behavioral Science	3
	MA Psychology	1
	MS Psychology Behavioral Analysis	3
	MS Psychology Behavioral Analysis (Online)	n/a
	MS Psychology Cognitive and Brain Sciences	2
	Psychology PhD Behavioral Analysis	7
	Psychology PhD Cognitive and Brain Science	2
	Psychology PhD Clinical	9

**Program-level graduation rate using first-time, full-time,
degree-seeking cohort at 150 percent completion time:**

2020-2021	BA Psychology	36% n = 159
	BS Psychology Psychological Science	n/a
	BS Psychology Behavioral Science	n/a
	MA Psychology	75% n = 4
	MS Psychology Behavioral Analysis	n/a
	MS Psychology Behavioral Analysis (Online)	n/a
	MS Psychology Cognitive and Brain Sciences	n/a
	Psychology PhD Behavioral Analysis	25% n = 4
	Psychology PhD Cognitive and Brain Science	67% n = 3
	Psychology PhD Clinical	n/a
2021-2022	BA Psychology	48% n = 160
	BS Psychology Psychological Science	n/a
	BS Psychology Behavioral Science	n/a
	MA Psychology	0% n = 2
	MS Psychology Behavioral Analysis	n/a
	MS Psychology Behavioral Analysis (Online)	n/a
	MS Psychology Cognitive and Brain Sciences	n/a
	Psychology PhD Behavioral Analysis	100% n = 1
	Psychology PhD Cognitive and Brain Science	57% n = 7
	Psychology PhD Clinical	71% n = 7
2022-2023	BA Psychology	40% n = 200
	BS Psychology Psychological Science	n/a
	BS Psychology Behavioral Science	n/a
	MA Psychology	0% n = 2
	MS Psychology Behavioral Analysis	n/a
	MS Psychology Behavioral Analysis (Online)	n/a
	MS Psychology Cognitive and Brain Sciences	n/a
	Psychology PhD Behavioral Analysis	60% n = 5
	Psychology PhD Cognitive and Brain Science	67 % n = 3
	Psychology PhD Clinical	50% n = 6

Headcount of students enrolled in any course related to the program (duplicated):

2022-2023	BA Psychology	6560
	BS Psychology Psychological Science	6560
	BS Psychology Behavioral Science	6560
	MA Psychology	431
	MS Psychology Behavioral Analysis	431
	MS Psychology Behavioral Analysis (Online)	n/a
	MS Psychology Cognitive and Brain Sciences	431
	Psychology PhD Behavioral Analysis	431
	Psychology PhD Cognitive and Brain Science	431
	Psychology PhD Clinical	431