

Evaluation Report for Program Review Face to Face Meeting

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: Psychology (BA, BS, BSE)

Majors and Minors, 2022-2023

Date: 2/17/2023

Invited: Interim Provost Robin Fox; Dean Frank Goza (L&S); Department Chair/Program Coordinator Elizabeth Olson; faculty and staff in the Psychology program Elizabeth Olson, Barbara Beaver, Kimberly Knesting-Lund, Meg Waraczynski, Dan Stadler; Audit & Review Team Chair Pascal Letourneau, Audit & Review team members Leda Kanellakou; Assessment Representative Katy Casey

Overview of review team evaluation, program comments:

The psychology program asked to clarify that the last A&R was in 2012, and not 2017. The program questioned the team's second recommended action related to assessment and made a strong case supporting the program's current plan. They were encouraged to focus and organize the plan according to student learning outcomes.

Discussion of Review Team's evaluation:

1 – Discuss staffing in the program and any thoughts you have related to attracting and retaining faculty.

- i. The program has made an offer and is hopeful to have a tenure position filled starting fall 2023.
- ii. Current faculty turnover was tied to personal and family/life reasons and not necessarily due to elements in control of the program. It is possible some of the realities of the institution, such as teaching load and salaries, impact the number of applicants.
- iii. The program also described conditions in the field that may be impacting student recruitment.

2 – What is the rationale for choosing not to seek guidance from an advisory board?

- i) There was recognition of difficulty identifying who would serve on an advisory board since the field is so diverse. Past make up of advisory board was not necessarily helpful for program purposes. At this point, the program feels they need more time to determine topics from advisory stakeholders.
- ii) Discussion ensued regarding other ways the program could engage stakeholder using methods they may not see as a “traditional” advisory board.
- iii) Considering student focused advisory meetings

Dean interjected his thoughts on how his advisory board supported the work of Letters and Sciences.

The program led a good discussion regarding reflection on DFW rates. The program described numerous strategies they implement to support students and have made significant gains with student who seek out faculty support.

Recommended Actions:

Recommended Action #1

Investigate and provide new ideas to reduce the issues related to high DFW rates, especially in Psych 215, which may impact student retention and success in the program.

Recommended Action #2

Clearly describe the assessment process and how it supports the program's understanding of students learning as opposed to program goals: 1) select a reasonable set of SLOs (5-8), consistent with the language on your program website, and that are evaluated on a regular basis; 2) clearly and consistently report on student learning outcomes; and 3) separate out the student learning and program assessment.

Recommended Action #3

There seemed to be little evidence on placement information. The data provided by Career and Leadership Development is limited, and does not fully describe the success of the students who complete your program. Create at least one initiative related to tracking graduate success before the next self-study.

Recommended Result:

Continuation with minor concerns

Next Self-Study and/or Progress Report Due Dates:

1 - Next FULL self-study will be due to the Dean on May 1, 2029 and to the Assessment Office on August 1, 2029

For a copy of the full evaluation report and detailed comments, please reach out to the assessment office: assessment@uww.edu.