TO: Lindsay Couzens

FROM: Jennifer Rennels, Ph.D., Coordinator of the Experimental Psychology Ph.D. Program

DATE: December 19, 2018

RE: Academic Assessment Plan Revisions and Report

The Experimental Psychology Ph.D. Program faculty met on September 19, 2018 to discuss the graduate student learning outcomes we assess and how we assess those. There was a general consensus to keep the learning outcomes as is. We made only minor revisions to how we assess those outcomes. Please see the attached document outlining our assessment plan. Information in red text indicates what minor revisions were made. Otherwise, our approach will stay the same.

Also attached to this email is our annual assessment report for this year that provides assessment information for learning outcomes 1 and 2.

If anything requires clarification, please feel free to contact me.
3-Year Academic Assessment Plan Cover Sheet

Assessment plans are due December 20, 2018
Email to: assessment@unlv.edu

Program Information:

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<tr>
<th>Program Assessed</th>
<th>Experimental Psychology Ph.D. Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<td>College</td>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
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<td>Department Chair</td>
<td>Chris Kearney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment Coordinator</td>
<td>Jennifer Rennels</td>
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Contact Person for This Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Jennifer Rennels</th>
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<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>702-895-0648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Jennifer.rennels@unlv.edu">Jennifer.rennels@unlv.edu</a></td>
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Please address the following items:

- What are the student learning outcomes? Please provide a numbered list.
  1. Students will demonstrate in-depth knowledge of theories and empirical research in a particular domain of psychological science.
  2. Students will have knowledge of research methods and data analysis and apply this knowledge by designing research studies and analyzing and interpreting data.
  3. Students will present their knowledge to relevant parties through clear written and verbal communication.
  4. Students will advance psychological science through scholarly publication.
  5. Students will demonstrate teaching skills and pedagogical expertise.
  6. Students will demonstrate the skills and knowledge necessary to enter applied and academic research positions.

- Plans must include a curriculum map showing which courses will address which learning outcomes. Examples can be found here: [http://provost.unlv.edu/Assessment/map.html](http://provost.unlv.edu/Assessment/map.html)

  Our Ph.D. program utilizes student milestones (thesis, qualifying activity, and dissertation), publications, professional presentations, teaching evaluations, and alumni data (when available) rather than courses to address learning outcomes.

- Which learning outcomes will be assessed in each cycle year (i.e., assessment timeline)?
We will assess learning outcomes 1 and 2 during the first year, outcomes 3 and 4 during the second year, and outcomes 5 and 6 during the third year.

• How will the learning outcomes be assessed? (Programs must use at least one direct assessment of student learning.)

We will use averages of the data from graduate students’ annual evaluations for items 1-5 and department/Graduate College alumni data for item 6. These averages will include data from individuals within the three most relevant recent cohorts for each of the below assessments.

1. The percentage of students completing their qualifying activity within program deadlines is used to assess outcome 1.

2. Completion of the thesis and dissertation by program deadlines is used to assess outcomes 2, 3, and 4.

3. Student publications are used to assess outcomes 2, 3, 4, and 6. Students should publish at least two papers in a professional journal before graduation.

4. Student teaching evaluations are used to assess outcomes 3 and 5. Most students teach at least one class in psychology before graduation. The expectation is that student instructors should receive teaching evaluation scores above the mid-point of the scale used.

5. Student professional presentations are used to assess outcomes 2, 3, and 6. Students should present at least three papers at professional conferences before graduation. Students should also present 1st & 2nd year talks in the Proseminar in Experimental Psychology course, department research fair, and other campus events.

6. The percentage of individuals entering applied or academic positions within their field of study will be used to evaluate learning outcome 6.

• Graduate programs should assess at least one outcome related to one of the following graduate level requirements each year:
  o student engagement in research, scholarship, creative expression and/or appropriate high-level professional practice.
  o activities requiring originality, critical analysis and expertise.
  o the development of extensive knowledge in the field under study.

Our plan to assess learning outcomes 1 and 2 during the first year, outcomes 3 and 4 during the second year, and outcomes 5 and 6 during the third year should cover this requirement.

• What is your plan for sharing the assessment results and acting on them (i.e., closing the loop)?
Following submission of the report, the graduate program faculty will meet to discuss the outcomes and assess any need for program changes. A graduate student representative attends our meetings and can share the data with students in the program and provide any feedback they have regarding the outcomes and any potential program changes.