GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A degree in psychology is not associated with specific career paths. A significant percentage of psychology graduates will pursue post-bachelors education in the behavioral sciences, medicine, or the law. However, most students will not attain a graduate degree, and students holding only a B.S. in Psychology will pursue diverse career paths. Many of these career paths will have little or no connection to the science of psychology. Furthermore, specific content knowledge areas expected of all psychology majors is limited. Currently, there are only three courses that all psychology majors must take (PSYC 2004 - INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY, PSYC 2044 - PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING, and PSYC 2094 – RESEARCH METHODS). The remainder of the psychology course requirements is fulfilled through a menu system, where students are free to personalize curricula to fit their individual learning goals.

As such, it is a difficult task to specify a list of communication competencies that all graduates in psychology must possess. Learning goals cannot be guided by the needs of potential employers, nor can communication learning goals be yoked to specific curriculum requirements. The only option for the psychology department is that learning goals are guided by the internal standards of the psychology department faculty.

The psychology faculty is united in the position that the primary communication competency for psychology majors is critical / analytical thinking expressed in written form. As such, the psychology department’s curriculum goals for ViEWS will continue much as they have under the current writing intensive program. There are two forms of writing currently used to fulfill the writing intensive requirements: 1) Formal scientific writing, and 2) Other writing assignments that allow students to demonstrate critical / analytical thinking skills.

The formal scientific writing includes problem identification (with review of scientific literature), generation of hypotheses, study design, data collection, data analysis, interpretation of results in relation to the hypotheses, and integration of the findings into the broader literature. Not all phases of the scientific writing are typically accomplished in each class / assignment. For example, one course / assignment may focus problem identification and generation of hypotheses, whereas another class / assignment may focus on study design, and yet another class / assignment may deal with data analysis and interpretation.

Visual skills are subsumed under the formal scientific writing requirements. In particular, the presentation of concepts or data is often done through the use of tables and figures.

The psychology department does not have a formal goal for spoken communication. Nonetheless, the department encourages faculty to provide students with the opportunity for oral presentations.
PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ViEWS IN PSYCHOLOGY

Learning Goals

1. All psychology majors will be able to write scientifically. The ability to write scientifically requires the successful completion of the following tasks:
   a. Review a body of scientific literature to formulate research questions
   b. Develop formal hypotheses based on research questions
   c. Design a study or studies to test the formal hypotheses
   d. Conduct basic descriptive and inferential statistical analyses in order to argue support or non-support for the formal hypotheses
   e. Interpret the arguments for the support or non-support of the formal hypotheses in relation to the broader scientific literature

2. All psychology majors will demonstrate analytical and critical thinking skills in other writing assignments that do not require formal scientific writing skills. For these other writing assignments, students will be able to:
   a. Develop a point of view from which to build arguments.
   b. Support the position taken through the use of reasoning, logic, evidence referenced from other writers, experience, or observation.

3. All psychology majors will demonstrate visual skills through the graphic presentation ideas or data. Students will be able to:
   a. Inform readers through the presentation of data in tabular form
   b. Inform readers through the use of figures as graphic representations of conceptual ideas or for the summarization of data

Proposed Views Requirements

It was clear from reviews of existing course syllabi that psychology majors are completing several written, oral, and visual communication assignments in many different courses. As such, the psychology department is confident that psychology majors will receive training in the ViEWS competencies beyond the minimum requirements specified below.

Formal Scientific Writing. The psychology department will meet the formal scientific writing expectation through the following courses: PSYC 4354 / 4364 - SENIOR SEMINAR and PSYC 4XXX - LABORATORY.

PSYC 4354 / 4364 - SENIOR SEMINAR (3 CH) - Each psychology major is required to take a senior seminar. The topics in the senior seminars reflect the interest of the faculty member teaching the course. Therefore, it is impossible to dictate an assignment template that each instructor must follow. Instead, it is mandated that student performance in each senior seminar be based entirely on the assessment of ViEWS competencies. Furthermore, that 75% of the course grade must be based on aspects of formal scientific writing as specified in learning goal #1 above. The basis for the remaining 25% of the grade is at the discretion of the instructor, and
may include formal scientific writing, other writing assignments, visual presentations, or oral presentations.

**PSYC 4XXX - LABORATORY (1 CH)** - Each psychology major must complete one 4000-level laboratory class. The content topics of each laboratory are yoked to the 4XXX – Lectures being taught in that semester. Once again, the variation in content prevents the specification of an assignment template. Instead, it is mandated that 100% of the final grade must be based on some aspect of formal scientific writing as specified in learning goal #1 above. At this time, the 4000 - level laboratory courses in the Psychology Department are:

- 4204: Laboratory in Motivation
- 4214: Cognitive Psychology Laboratory
- 4234: Laboratory in Developmental Psychology
- 4244: Laboratory in Advanced Learning
- 4254: Personality Research Laboratory
- 4264: Laboratory in Physiological Psychology
- 4274: Laboratory in Sensation and Perception
- 4284: Laboratory in Social Psychology
- 4294: Laboratory in Psychological Measurement

**Other Writing Assignments.** The psychology department will meet the goals for the other writing assignments through the following courses: PSYC 2004 – RECITATION and PSYC 4XXX – LECTURE

**PSYC 2004 – RECITATION (1 CH)** - A recitation section is included in our introduction to psychology course. In recitation, 40% of the final grade is based on four essays. The plan is to maintain the current four-essay requirement and to ensure through ongoing training and supervision of recitation GTA’s that they provide feedback on the essays that is consistent with learning goal #2 above.

**PSYC 4XXX – LECTURE (3 CH)** - Each psychology major must complete two 4000-level lecture classes. As with the other courses, the topics vary greatly, so an assignment template across all the classes cannot be specified. Instead, it will be mandated that 25% of the course grade is based on the assessment of ViEWS competencies. More specifically, that 15% of the course grade must be based on writing assignments that do not require scientific writing skills. The basis for the remaining 10% of the grade is at the discretion of the instructor, and may include formal scientific writing, other writing assignments, visual presentations, or oral presentations. At this time, the 4000-level lecture courses in the Psychology Department are:

- 4014: History and Systems in Psychology
- 4024: Industrial and Organizational Psychology
- 4034: Advanced Developmental Psychology
- 4044: Advanced Learning
- 4054: Personality Research
- 4064: Physiological Psychology
Visual Presentations. The psychology department will meet the visual skills goals specified in Learning Goal #3 through the aforementioned 4XXX – LABORATORY course requirement. As previously noted, 100% of the 4XXX laboratory course grade is based on formal scientific writing. It is further specified that 50% of that 100% must reflect the use of visual skills in the presentation of ideas or data.

Phasing in of ViEWS Proposal

The psychology department’s proposal doesn’t require a formal phase-in period. The proposal was constructed in part to ensure a seamless transition from the writing intensive requirements to the ViEWS requirements. Implementation of the ViEWS proposal is only a matter of ensuring the faculty teaching the relevant courses understand the new requirements, and that GTA’s are trained to give feedback on writing assignments.

ViEWS Experiences Across the Four Years as a Psychology Undergraduate

The psychology department is well aware that its ViEWS proposal does not evenly distribute the ViEWS training experiences across the four years of undergraduate training. Almost all of the ViEWS experiences are embedded in 4000 – level courses. The reality is that we have approximately 1,000 psychology majors (counting double majors) and 19 tenure track faculty! That is over a 50 to 1 undergraduate to faculty ratio. Furthermore, our introductory course (2004), the other 2000 – level courses, and our 3000 – level courses all service a multitude of majors from other departments. To establish ViEWS requirements in these lower level courses would simply overwhelm the psychology faculty and graduate students.

In fairness to our faculty, a quick review of the syllabi in these 2000 and 3000 level courses reveals a wide array of writing assignments, visual presentations, and oral presentations. As stated early in the proposal, the requirements set forth in this proposal do not adequately represent the wide variety of communication skills being taught in all of our courses. However, the psychology department simply does not have the resources to mandate ViEWS requirements in these 2000 – 3000 level courses.

Check Sheets.

Appendix A presents the currently approved check sheet for psychology majors. Appendix B presents the proposed revised check sheet for psychology majors. For ease of comparison, modifications to the revised check sheet are presented in bold and italicized print.
Outside Resources

The psychology department’s ViEWS proposal does not require any resources from other academic departments.

ASSESSMENT

The evaluation process will be supervised by the Psychology Department’s Director of Undergraduate Studies. A graduate student will be assigned to assist the Director with the evaluation process.

The assessment of the ViEWs requirements, once initiated, will be an on-going process. On an annual basis, the assessment process will entail:

1. An evaluation of all 4000 - level syllabi by the assessment team for compliance with ViEWS requirements (A review of the recitation syllabus is not required because it is common syllabus for all sections.). In particular, the evaluation will assess that the grading percentages for all 4000 – level courses meet the requirements set forth for learning goals #1, #2, and #3.
2. A random sample of GTA recitation instructors will be selected each semester. For each selected instructor, a sample of essays will be evaluated by the assessment team in regards to the quality of feedback being provided to students. In particular, the feedback will be evaluated in relation to meeting the second learning goal for other writing assignments.
3. Each semester, a stratified random sample of 4000 - level courses will be selected for more in depth assessment. The stratum will contain three categories: 4XXX – LECTURES, 4XXX – LABORATORY sections, and the 4354 / 4364 SEMINARS.
   a. 4XXX – LECTURE: The assignments used to meet learning goal #2 will be reviewed in terms of the extent to which the assignments lend themselves to meeting the second learning goal, and the extent to which instructor feedback facilitates student progress toward meeting the second learning goal. Also, the use of other ViEWS type assignments that fit with learning goal #1 or #3, or assignments that include oral presentations will be documented.
   b. 4XXX – LABORATORY sections: The assignments used to meet learning goals #1 and #3 will be assessed in terms of the extent to which the assignments lend themselves to meeting the first and third learning goals, and the extent to which instructor feedback facilitates student progress toward meeting the first and third learning goals.
   c. 4354 / 4364 SEMINARS: The assignments used to meet learning goal #1 will be assessed in terms of the extent to which the assignments lend themselves to meeting the first learning goal, and the extent to which instructor feedback facilitates student progress toward meeting the first learning goal. Also, the use of other ViEWS type assignments that fit with learning goal #2 or #3, or assignments that include oral presentations will be documented.
4. Each semester, all students enrolled in 4000-level courses will be asked to evaluate the ViEWS course requirements using a modified SPOT evaluation form.
At the end of every academic year, the Director of Undergraduate Studies will submit a ViEWS evaluation report to the Department Chair. The evaluation report will document the ViEWS evaluation process and synthesize the data into an assessment of the department’s success at meeting the learning goals of the ViEWS requirements. The annual ViEWS assessment will begin in the 2006-2007 academic year, with the first ViEWS evaluation report due at the end of the Spring 2007 semester.

REQUIRED RESOURCES

As mentioned earlier, the psychology department has around 1,000 majors and only 19 tenure-track faculty. Requirements mandated by administrators, such as ViEWS, fall hardest on departments such as ours. The psychology department estimates that the implementation of the ViEWS proposal and the associated evaluation process will require the addition of four 20-hour graduate assistantships beginning in the Fall semester of 2006. The additional funds primarily are needed so that the instructor of each 4000-level lecture section is assigned a 10-hour graduate teaching assistant. Currently, each 4000-level lecture section averages over 50 students. Given the new 25% ViEWS requirement for each of these lecture sections, instructors must have support for the coordination, implementation, and grading of the additional ViEWS requirements.

Part of the added graduate assistantship monies is needed to support the graduate student who assists the Director of Undergraduate Studies with the evaluation phase of the ViEWS requirements.
Appendix A

Currently Approved Check Sheet for Psychology Majors
Majors are required to take 28 hours in psychology and additional requirements indicated below.

REQUIRED PSYCHOLOGY COURSES (19 HRS):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 2004-Introductory Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 2044-Psychology of Learning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 2094-Principles of Psychological Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One 4000-level course with co-requisite laboratory: *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4___ Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4___ Lab</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Two (additional) 4000-level courses: *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4___ Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 4___ Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* PSYC 4964, 4974, 4994 cannot be used.

PSYCHOLOGY ELECTIVES (Minimum=9hrs., Maximum=31 hrs.): **

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC ___ Course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC ___ Course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Of the required psychology hours, 21 must be other than field-study/independent research.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

A. Statistics: Any 3-unit course from Statistics Department except STAT 3104 or Mathematics 1034.

| STAT ___                                        | 3     |

B. Beyond college core requirements. 6 semester hours in same discipline of biology, physics or chemistry.

| ___ ___                                          | 3     |
| ____ ____                                        | 3     |
C. Beyond college core requirements. 6 semester hours distributed across or within Computer Science, Statistics or Philosophy.

   ____  ____ (3) ( )
   ____  ____ (3) ( )

D. Satisfactory progress.

The following are to be used to assess satisfactory progress toward a B.S. degree in Psychology:

Upon having attempted 30 semester hours, the student must have completed 12 semester credits that apply to the Arts and Sciences Core Curriculum, PSYC 2004 and have an overall QCA of 2.00.

Upon having attempted 72 semester hours, the student must have completed 24 semester credits that apply to the Arts & Sciences Core Curriculum and have an overall QCA of 2.00. Also, PSYC 2004, PSYC 2094, an additional 3 hr. PSYC course, and a 3 hr. course in STATISTICS, must be completed.

Upon having attempted 96 semester credits, the student must have completed all Arts & Sciences Core Curriculum Courses and have an overall QCA of 2.00.
PSYCHOLOGY
UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE CORE REQUIREMENTS

(See relevant pages in Psychology Undergraduate Handbook for further information)

AREA 1 - WRITING AND DISCOURSE
6 credits of freshman writing courses

ENGLISH Course ________ ENGLISH Course ________

WRITING INTENSIVE (If entered before Fall 1999, 3 credits required. If entered in Fall 1999 or later, 6 credits required. All students must complete at least 3 credits within psychology. Students who entered after Fall 1999 may satisfy 3 of the 6 credits from a department other than psychology.)

PSYC ________ Dept ________ Course ________

AREA 2 - HUMAN IDEAS, CULTURAL TRADITIONS AND VALUES
6 credits from University approved core list

Dept ________ Course ________ Dept ________ Course ________

AREA 3 - SOCIETY AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR (SOCIAL SCIENCES)
6 credits from University approved core list

Dept ________ Course ________ Dept ________ Course ________

AREA 4 - SCIENTIFIC REASONING AND DISCOVERY (Natural Sciences)
8 credits (6 lecture + 2 lab) from a sequence or cluster listed in handbook

Dept Course Lab Dept Course Lab

AREA 5 - QUANTITATIVE AND SYMBOLIC
6 credits from a sequence or cluster listed in handbook

Dept ________ Course ________ Dept ________ Course ________

AREA 6 - CREATIVITY AND AESTHETIC EXPERIENCE
one 3-credit course

Dept ________ Course ________

AREA 7 - CRITICAL ISSUES IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT
one 3-credit course

Dept ________ Course ________
Appendix B

Proposed Check Sheet for Psychology Majors

(Modifications from check sheet in Appendix A appear in **bold italicized** type)
Department of Psychology

Major Check sheet for Students Graduating in 2007

Approved:

Majors are required to take 28 hours in psychology and additional requirements indicated below.

REQUIRED PSYCHOLOGY COURSES (19 HRS):

PSYC 2004-Introductory Psychology (3)  
PSYC 2044-Psychology of Learning (3)  
PSYC 2094-Principles of Psychological Research (3)  

One 4000-level course with co-requisite laboratory: *

PSYC 4___ Course (3)  
PSYC 4___ Lab (1)  

One (additional) 4000-level courses: *

PSYC 4___ Course (3)  

One 4000-level Senior Seminar:

PSYC 4354/4364 (3)  

* PSYC 4964, 4974, 4994 cannot be used.

PSYCHOLOGY ELECTIVES (Minimum=9 hrs., Maximum=31 hrs.): **

PSYC ____ Course ( ) ( )  PSYC ____ Course ( ) ( )  
PSYC ____ Course ( ) ( )  PSYC ____ Course ( ) ( )  
PSYC ____ Course ( ) ( )  PSYC ____ Course ( ) ( )  
PSYC ____ Course ( ) ( )  PSYC ____ Course ( ) ( )  

** Of the required psychology hours, 21 must be other than field-study/independent research.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

A. Statistics: Any 3-unit course from Statistics Department except STAT 3104 or Mathematics 1034.

STAT ____ (3)  

B. Beyond college core requirements. 6 semester hours in same discipline of biology, physics or chemistry.

____ ____ (3)  
____ ____ (3)
C. Beyond college core requirements. 6 semester hours distributed across or within Computer Science, Statistics or Philosophy.

\[ \text{____ ____ (3) } \quad ( ) \]
\[ \text{____ ____ (3) } \quad ( ) \]

D. If entered in the Fall of 2005 or later, then the university’s ViEWS requirement is fulfilled when the following required psychology courses are completed:

- PSYC 2004-Introductory Psychology
- One 4000-level course with co-requisite laboratory***
- One (additional) 4000-level courses***
- One 4000-level Senior Seminar

*** PSYC 4964, 4974, 4994 cannot be used to fulfill the ViEWS Curriculum requirement.

E. Satisfactory progress.

The following are to be used to assess satisfactory progress toward a B.S. degree in Psychology:

Upon having attempted 30 semester hours, the student must have completed 12 semester credits that apply to the College of Science Core Curriculum, PSYC 2004 and have an overall QCA of 2.00.

Upon having attempted 72 semester hours, the student must have completed 24 semester credits that apply to the College of Science Core Curriculum and have an overall QCA of 2.00. Also, PSYC 2004, PSYC 2094, an additional 3 hr. PSYC course, and a 3 hr. course in STATISTICS, must be completed.

Upon having attempted 96 semester credits, the student must have completed all College of Science Core Curriculum Courses and have an overall QCA of 2.00.
PSYCHOLOGY
UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE CORE REQUIREMENTS
(See relevant pages in Psychology Undergraduate Handbook for further information)

AREA 1 - WRITING AND DISCOURSE
6 credits of freshman writing courses

ENGLISH Course ______  ENGLISH Course ______

WRITING INTENSIVE**** (If entered before Fall 1999, 3 credits required. If entered in
Fall 1999 or later, 6 credits required. All students must complete at least 3 credits within
psychology. Students who entered after Fall 1999 and prior to Fall 2005 may satisfy 3
of the 6 credits from a department other than psychology.)

PSYC ______ Dept ______ Course ______

****Writing Intensive courses are not required for students who entered Fall of 2005 or
later.

AREA 2 - HUMAN IDEAS, CULTURAL TRADITIONS AND VALUES
6 credits from University approved core list

Dept ______ Course ______ Dept ______ Course ______

AREA 3 - SOCIETY AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR (SOCIAL SCIENCES)
6 credits from University approved core list

Dept ______ Course ______ Dept ______ Course ______

AREA 4 - SCIENTIFIC REASONING AND DISCOVERY (Natural Sciences)
8 credits (6 lecture + 2 lab) from a sequence or cluster listed in handbook

Dept Course Lab Dept Course Lab
________ _______ _______ _______ _______ _______

AREA 5 - QUANTITATIVE AND SYMBOLIC
6 credits from a sequence or cluster listed in handbook

Dept ______ Course ______ Dept ______ Course ______

AREA 6 - CREATIVITY AND AESTHETIC EXPERIENCE
one 3-credit course

Dept ______ Course ______

AREA 7 - CRITICAL ISSUES IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT
one 3-credit course

Dept ______ Course ______