Psychology

Objectives
Given by department:
The psychology major is designed to offer students:

Opportunities for hands-on training in psychological research
An understanding of the use of scientific methodology in psychological research at both intermediate and advanced levels.
Knowledge in primary areas of the discipline through an array of intermediate courses.
Depth of understanding in areas of specific interest to individual students through opportunity for independent study.
Instruction in writing clearly and effectively in an appropriate professional style.
Knowledge useful in the application of psychological principles to human and social problems.

I. Students will be expected to understand the application of scientific methodology to psychological phenomena, including
a. being able to design observational, survey, and experimental studies
b. understanding the logic of reliability, validity, and generality
c. understanding principles of inference from scientific data
d. measuring psychological phenomena using operationally defining constructs
e. using the scientific literature
to read and comprehend psychological research in the primary literature
to review the background to an empirical research problem
to locate and integrate representative and relevant references
f. critically approaching scientific measurement and design

II. Students will have a basic knowledge in at least four primary areas of psychology. This should include basic research methodology and research findings specific to four content areas, along with important conceptual issues surrounding that research.

III. Students will be expected to develop depth of understanding in an interest area. This depth will include:
a. the ability to weigh alternative conclusions, hypotheses and problems in empirical data
b. the ability to contrast different types of constructs and test them empirically
c. intermediate mastery of the content of an area through analysis of selected topics, focusing on major issues in explanation and the critical analysis theories;
d. understanding of the role of theory in explanation

IV. Students will be able to write and fluently, including
a. formulating questions and organizing a conceptually-grounded argument coherently and logically
b. presenting the conceptual/theoretical basis for empirical predictions
c. unambiguously and thoroughly presenting the methods and results of scientific research using APA style and data portrayed in graphs and tables
d. drawing substantive, theoretical conclusions from numerical data

**Mission**

Given by department:
The university mission statement holds that the university strives for an atmosphere in which students are mentored by outstanding teachers, including nationally and internationally recognized researchers and artists. Therefore, the survey results indicate that students believe that this aspect of the mission statement is met satisfactorily.

**SACS**
The above goals are consistent with the department's mission in that they emphasize a scientific and analytically critical approach to six fundamental areas of psychology, and they allow an in-depth empirically-based approach to advanced inquiry as the capstone experience in the major.