



Undergraduate Psychology Major Learning Objectives and Outcomes

The American Psychological Association's Board of Educational Affairs has provided ten suggested objectives and related learning outcomes for the undergraduate psychology major. They are grouped into two major categories. These objectives have been refined to reflect the unique mission of Bethany Lutheran College's Department of Psychology.

Knowledge, Skills, and Values Consistent with the Science of Psychology and Biblical Truth, Along with the Application of Psychology.

Objective 1: Knowledge Base of Psychology. Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.

Objective 2: Research Methods in Psychology. Students will apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation to better understand human behavior.

Objective 3: Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology. Students will respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.

Objective 4: Application of Psychology. Students will understand and apply psychological principles to personal, spiritual, social, and organizational issues.

Objective 5: Values in Psychology. Students will be able to weigh evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, behave in accordance to the code of ethics within the discipline of Psychology and the Christian faith.

Knowledge, Skills, and Values Consistent with Liberal Arts Education that are Further Developed in Psychology

Objective 6: Information and Technological Literacy. Students will demonstrate information competence and the ability to use computers and other technology for many purposes.

Objective 7: Communication Skills. Students will be able to communicate effectively in a variety of formats consistent with the APA style guide.

Objective 8: Sociocultural and International Awareness. Students will recognize, understand, and respect the complexity of sociocultural and international diversity.

Objective 9: Personal Development. Students will develop insight into their own and others' behavior and mental processes, apply effective strategies for self-management and self-improvement, and value Christian stewardship (lives of service before God) and face the realities of life on earth with a view of the hereafter.

Objective 10: Career Planning & Development. Students will emerge from the major as a lifelong learner with realistic ideas about how to implement their psychological knowledge, skills, and values in occupational pursuits in a variety of settings.