Introduction

The University of Hawaii at Manoa has adopted the knowledge, skills, and values consistent with the science and application of Psychology as proposed by the American Psychological Association (APA) Task Force. The Board of Education Affair of the APA has identified 10 major learning goals for an undergraduate program in psychology, along with specific learning outcomes associated with each goal. The Undergraduate Psychology Learning goals and outcomes are considered reasonable expectations of psychology majors in the United States institutions of higher education.

SLOs Assessed in '06

1. Knowledge about psychological concepts and theory
2. Knowledge of basic research methods
3. Use of critical and creative thinking skills in solving problems
4. Understanding of how psychological concepts are used in everyday life
5. Developing communication skills including writing, interpersonal and oral communication

Ten Major Student Learning Outcomes Based on the APA Principles

1. Theory and content of Psychology
2. Research Methods in Psychology
3. Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology
4. Application of Psychology
5. Values in Psychology
6. Information and Technology Literacy
7. Communication Skills
8. Sociocultural and International Awareness
9. Personal Development
10. Career Planning and Development

Data collection is an ongoing process to evaluate the degree to which these outcomes are being met annually.

Our psychology faculty members play a part by applying these goals and outcomes in their teaching and research activities as a means to reflect on the mission and assessment in Psychology.

Assessment Methods

Syllabi are being collected for each course, accompanied by a statement from each faculty member, including the specific outcomes expected from that course.

An entry and exit survey is being administered. The goal of these surveys is to assess the degree to which outcomes have been enhanced upon graduation.

Students rate the extent to which the SLOs were achieved at the time of graduation.

Results

Analysis made of the rating scores obtained in the Fall 2008 to Spring 2009 academic year indicated significant improvement in attaining SLOs 1 and 2 ($p<0.001$), and SLO 3 approached statistical significance ($p<0.06$). However, SLOs 4 and 5 were not significantly achieved. These results indicate that at the time of graduation, our psychology undergraduates have attained some, but not all, of the major SLOs of our psychology program.

Conclusions and Next Steps

We plan to place increased emphasis on our student learning outcomes relevant in attaining SLOs 4 and 5 through collaboration with the Psychology faculty by applying these specific goals in their teaching and research activities.