Psychology

WASC Assessment Plan for PhD Program

Learning Outcomes for PhD Recipients:
1. Demonstrated ability to conduct independent research
2. Demonstrated ability to communicate research orally and in writing
3. Demonstrated ability to teach undergraduates in class or mentor them in research
4. Understanding of professional development issues, including ethics

Learning Outcomes at Advancement to Candidacy:
5. Mastery of literature in research subarea, with broad knowledge of major methods and theories in the discipline
6. Ability to plan an integrated research program

Assessments of Learning Outcomes:
1. Employment in a research/academic position (SLO 1, 2, 4, 5, 6) – PhD recipients should be employed in a tenure-track academic position and/or a career research position in industry or government.
2. Author or co-author scientific papers (SLO 1, 2, 4, 5, 6) - PhD recipients should have research papers published or in press.
3. Presentation at national or international research conference (SLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) – Students should have presented their research at inter/national research conferences.
4. Grant application (SLO 2, 4, 5, 6) – Students should have submitted an extramural fellowship or research grant application.
5. Qualifying Exam (SLO 1, 2, 5, 6) – Students should pass within 3 years of starting the Program.
6. Student and faculty evaluations of teaching TAing (SLO 3) – Students should have satisfactory Student Evaluation of TAing and satisfactory written evaluation of teaching by the course instructors.
7. Undergraduate co-authors on publications and/or conference presentations indicate success in research mentorship (SLO 3).
8. Professional Development Course (SLO 4) – Satisfactory completion of one professional development course, or other relevant professional experience, prior to obtaining Ph.D.
9. Dissertation defense (SLO 1, 2, 5, 6) - Students should successfully defend their dissertation within 3 years of advancing to candidacy.
10. Core coursework (SLO 5) – Students should pass all required area core courses by the end of their second year.
11. Second year paper (SLO 1, 2, 5, 6) – Students should complete the 2nd year paper before the end of their 2nd year
**Assessment Mechanisms** – Yearly assessments of individual student progress and percentages reaching selected benchmarks will occur at the annual graduate evaluation meeting.