Experimental Specializations Assessment (PhD)

Assessment Plan/Process

Assessment of student outcomes with respect to specialization training objectives is conducted through analysis of students’ performance in coursework, yearly standardized student evaluations by faculty, examination of student contributions to professional scholarly activity, and ongoing discussions in faculty meetings.

A formal yearly student evaluation is conducted on all students. Students indicate progress on specialization milestones (e.g., second year project, dissertation) and list accomplishments (e.g., publications) over the past year. Faculty then meet to evaluate all students. Each student receives a 1 (unacceptable) to 5 (exceptional) rating in each of the following categories: 1) involvement in research; 2) specialization seminar participation; 3) maturity / professionalism; 4) ability to work with others; 5) responsiveness to feedback; 6) performance in assistantships; 7) timely progress toward specialization completion; 8) course grades.

1) Breath of knowledge of psychology is assessed by:
   - examination of student performance in formal coursework via grades in classes
   - yearly faculty evaluations of overall performance in this area (i.e., course grades) on standardized evaluations.

2) Specialized knowledge in a specialization area of psychology is assessed by:
   - student performance in a specialization-area specific seminar (Psy 7090) each semester
   - yearly faculty evaluations of overall performance in this area on standardized evaluations (i.e., specialization seminar participation).

3) Active engagement in psychological research is assessed by:
   - yearly faculty evaluations of student performance in this area on standardized evaluations (i.e., involvement in research).

4) Professional competence in dissemination of research is assessed by:
   - evidence of student presentations at professional meetings
   - evidence of student authorship of scholarly publications