Core Curriculum Assessment Annual Report

General Information

1. Name / Number of Course / Sequence:
   PSYC 2010 Introduction to Psychology

2. SLO(s) being assessed:
   Student will understand and appreciate the diversity of and within societies of the United States and the World.

3. Department:
   Psychology

4. Department Representative:
   Daniel J. Svyantek

5. AGSC Content Alignment:
   AREA IV: History, Social, and Behavior Sciences

Assessment Information

6. Assessment Method: [Explain how assessment for the measures associated with this SLO – not grading for the course as a whole was conducted.]

   We used two methods of assessment: 1) a 7-item misconceptions quiz containing items regarding misconceptions of mental illness, aging, ethnicity, and gender differences, and 2) 30-item Content Area Quiz that assesses their knowledge and understanding of content areas related to diversity (i.e. developmental, abnormal, and social) in addition to basic processes in psychology (learning and neuroscience).
The Misconceptions Quiz was collected twice using students enrolled in PSYC 2010 (at beginning of semester: pre and at end of the semester: post). Data was collected for the Fall 2010 semester (Pre: 917 students, 97% response rate and Post: 682 students or 72% response rate), Spring 2011 semester (Pre: 980 students: 93% response rate and Post: 457 students (42% response rate), and Summer 2011 semester (Pre only: 37 students, 54% response rate).

Content Area Quiz was assessed at the end of the semester for Fall 2010 91 students (This was only 10% of the sample— this low sample was due to some administration problems, specifically, issues with the copies that were made, formatting errors with the questionnaire. These problems were rectified as seen in the increase in the sample in Spring 2011) and Spring 2011 (464 students, 42% response rate through an online survey).

7. Findings: [What assessment data did each assessment method produce?]

Misconception Quiz: Fall 2010 Results: Pre-Test Total Score: Mean (SD) = 3.03 (1.10) and Post-Test Total Score Mean (SD) = 3.01 (1.11), Spring 2011 Results: Pre-Test Total Score: Mean (SD) = 3.06 (1.20) and Post-Test Total Score Mean (SD) = 3.12 (1.20), and Summer 2011: Pre-Test Total Score : Mean (SD) = 3.22 (1.03).

Content Area Quiz: Fall 2010: Post-Test Total Score for the Content Area Quiz: Total Mean Percent Correct (SD) = 56.59 (20.27), Median = 63.33, Range = 13% - 90% Correct Spring 2011: Post-Test Total Score for the Content Area Quiz: Total Mean Percent Correct (SD) = 59.55 (15.17), Median = 63.33, Range = 3.33% - 90% Correct.

Content Areas: Developmental Percent Correct (SD) = 65.08 (21.15), Abnormal Percent Correct (SD) = 58.06 (24.03), Social Percent Correct (SD) = 63.66 (24.22), Learning Percent Correct (SD) = 70.25 (26.26), and Neuroscience Percent Correct (SD) = 50.10 (19.53). As a group, students had difficulty with the Neuroscience items.

8. How did you or will you use the findings for improvement: [What questions / issues/ concerns did your data raise for the faculty teaching the course? What discussion did the faculty have about the findings? What future actions to improve student attainment of this outcome will the department / program takes as a result of this analysis?]

Improvement: Our results indicate that there is a considerable drop in pre-post assessment response rate which might impact the lack of improvement across the
semester in the Misconceptions Quiz. We are working on 1) increasing response participation, and 2) reassessing the items in the quiz to ensure they reflect the knowledge and understanding of diversity in psychology more globally. Our Content Area Quiz is assessed only at the end of the semester, therefore, we are working on assessing this knowledge at the beginning of the semester to better capture that students are increasing their knowledge and understanding of content areas related to diversity (i.e. developmental, abnormal, and social) in PSYC 2010.

9. Additional comments: [What else would you like the Committee to know about your assessment of this course or plans for the future?]

The Psychology Department Assessment committee will meet to discuss these results during Fall 2011 and will work on improving CORE assessment. We aim to implement the changes to better capture improvement and assessment of SLO 9 beginning Spring 2012.

10. Core Curriculum General Education Committee Comments:

A very good start- it might be useful to engage the students in some higher level tasks (service learning, visiting an institution, etc.), but given the conditions of the SLOs they are doing a good job of assessing and reflecting on assessment data. It might be helpful if sample test questions were included in the assessment data provided. According to the RFP for this course, content area questions were to be included in the final exam; it now appears content questions are a separate assessment (apparently voluntary and completed outside of class). In-class time constraints was the reason given