

Department of Psychology
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Degree Program(s) Assessed	Assessment Methods	Number of Individuals Assessed
B.A. Psychology B.S. Psychology	Comparison of average GRE Psychology Subject Test scores with average scores of all examinees nationwide	4

Analysis and Findings

The GRE Psychology Subject Test is required for admission to some graduate programs in Psychology. This standardized test can offer an objective assessment of students' knowledge of essential areas in psychology. We utilized this instrument as a direct measure of undergraduate student learning in our department. Students who chose to take the subject test were offered a bursar credit in the amount of the test fee in exchange for a copy of their test scores. We are disappointed in the number of students who actually took the test and submitted results. The fact that the test is not required by some universities, including OSU, for admission into their graduate programs in Psychology and other factors including students' wish to delay admission to graduate school or not attend graduate school at all limited the number of scores used in this assessment.

The highest possible score on the Psychology Subject Test is 990. According to Educational Testing Services, the mean score for all examinees (n= 32,304) between 1997-2000 was 563. The mean score for our three participants was 633. The standard error of measure for this test is 22.

In addition to the composite score, examinees also receive two sub-scores: one in experimental psychology and one in social psychology. The mean score for all examinees on each sub- test is 56. The mean score for our participants was 64 on the experimental sub-test and 62 on the social sub-test.

These findings suggest that OSU Psychology undergraduates are performing at a level higher than average compared to students nationwide however, the small sample size minimizes our confidence in these results

Uses of Assessment Results

The results of this year's assessment will be shared with faculty during meetings and a written report will be made available to interested faculty members.

Recommendations from last year's assessment have been implemented over the course of the past year. Specifically, improved communication for new and current students via a list serve, printed materials and individual meetings with the advisor. A free GRE workshop is being offered to students during the summer 2004 semester. In response to students' desire for more educational programming the Psychology Club, with support from the department, has sponsored several educational events and speakers including programs on graduate school preparation and admission and careers in psychology. Expanded course offerings will continue to be a priority as resources allow.