Mission Statement

The Master of Psychology at Kean University has several goals that are aligned with the University Mission. This program concentrates in offering high quality instruction and collegial support in two advanced areas of psychology: human behavior and organizational psychology. The goal is to prepare students to become competent professionals in their chosen area and to integrate research, ethics and diversity in the application of the specific constructs of their field.

Assessment Plan

Graduate students in the Master of Psychology with the Human Behavior and Organizational Psychology option need to take two skill courses and two content courses as requirements for the program. These courses build on the foundation of the discipline acquired in undergraduate courses. They reinforce statistical methodological skills, APA writing skills and knowledge-based content. Beyond the core courses students may select other courses within the program such that program courses may differ. Therefore, assessment consists of comprehensive examinations to address the knowledge-based content and a thesis which addresses the skills aspects of the program. Comprehensive examinations are given twice a year, once in each semester. Students are expected to take this exam after completing a minimum of 21 credits consisting of core courses with a grade of C or better. Thesis completion is done during the two Advanced Seminar courses and approved by a Content Advisor and Course Instructor. Each semester assessments will be collected to address areas of strengths and weaknesses to aid in our decision making for program improvements.

Student Learning Objectives

SLO 1  Demonstrate advanced and comprehensive knowledge of psychological constructs.

Direct Measure: Comprehensive Examination
Indirect Measure: Graduating Student Survey

SLO 2  Discriminate among the methods of psychological research and apply the appropriate statistical techniques to these methods.

Direct Measure: Completed Thesis
Indirect Measure: Graduating Student Survey

SLO 3  Explain, interpret and support the application of psychological constructs by integrating program knowledge with methods and practices.

Direct Measure: Completed Thesis
Indirect Measure: Individual Exit Interview
Psychological Services

Mission Statement

The Master of Psychology at Kean University has several goals that are aligned with the University Mission. This Master of Arts in Psychology is offered in two options that concentrate in offering high quality instruction and collegial support: Human behavior and organizational psychology and psychological services. Through research and coursework, independent theses and informal interactions, the psychology faculty offer students a superior graduate experience and strive to fulfill the mission of the college as well as addressing the goals outlined below.

The Vision of the Master in Psychology: Psychological Services Option is:

To provide students with learning experiences that:

- increase their critical thinking skills
- facilitate their acquisition of the body of knowledge inherent in the study of human behavior
- equip them with research methodology
- prepare them for employment or further study

To create an environment that:

- reflects a concern for students as persons by a commitment to a quality advising program
- provides professional development opportunities for staff and faculty
- is consonant with the values and mission of the University

To provide opportunities for students and faculty that:

- encourage scholarly activities by supporting ethical, quality, and creative research designed to refine and extend the body of knowledge that constitutes the discipline of psychology

To promote a view of psychology as a discipline that:

- can advance self-understanding as well as understanding of self in relation to society
- can impart awareness of and sensitivity to issues that affect the quality of life in society
- To serve the University and the community as informed and concerned citizens.

At the completion of the program, graduate students should be prepared for entry into more advanced graduate programs, or entry into occupations which require application of knowledge of human behavior. Accordingly, these graduates should possess:

- knowledge of current theory and data across a broad range of the discipline in psychology
- advanced research and statistical skills to permit both critical evaluation of psychological research and the conduct of ethical and competent research
- where appropriate, professional skills to deliver competent and ethical psychological services
- written and oral presentation skills sufficient to effectively communicate psychological information
Assessment Plan

Graduate students in the Master of Psychology with the Psychological Services option should have twelve credits in psychology including General Psychology, Experimental Psychology, Tests and Measurements as requirements for the program. The program is 33 credits, six of which are given for a research seminar and thesis. The curriculum is composed of 18 credits of core psychology courses and 9 credits of electives. Assessment consists of comprehensive examinations to address the knowledge-based content and a thesis which addresses the skills aspects of the program. Comprehensive examinations are given twice a year, once in each semester. Students are expected to take this exam after completing a minimum of 21 credits consisting of core courses with a grade of C or better. Thesis completion is done during the two Advanced Seminar courses and approved by a Content Advisor and Course Instructor. Each semester assessments will be collected to address areas of strengths and weaknesses to aid in our decision making for program improvements.

Student Learning Objectives

SLO 1 Demonstrate advanced and comprehensive knowledge of psychological constructs

1. Critical thinking skills— including but not limited to the ability to:
   - read texts closely, appropriately interpreting texts
   - critique the validity of arguments or conclusions, including one’s own
   - critique the methodological and ethical components of research
   - detect and evaluate underlying assumptions or biases
   - avoid oversimplification of topics
   - make an argument supported by available evidence and reason
   - theorize — generate and articulate views about the relationships among a set of concepts that are appropriately novel, creative, logically consistent, faithful to the data, hypothesis-generating, or some combination of the above

2. Communication skills— in both written and oral communication, important skills include, but are not limited to:
   - summarizing
   - synthesizing
   - using sources properly (e.g., avoiding inappropriate paraphrasing)
   - mastering APA (American Psychological Association) writing style

   Direct Measure: Comprehensive Examination scored via faculty-developed rubrics
   Indirect Measure: Graduating Student Exit Survey

SLO 2 Discriminate among the methods of psychological research and apply the appropriate statistical techniques to these methods.

3. Research Skills
   - ability to review, analyze, and synthesize an existing body of research
   - ability to design and implement ethical empirical research using appropriate method.
- data analysis skills including but not limited to:
  - mastery of basic SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) skills
  - ability to choose and conduct appropriate descriptive & inferential statistical tests
  - ability to reason statistically/quantitatively (e.g., awareness of base rates)
  - ability to locate appropriate sources from the library and/or electronic resources
  - ability to distinguish scholarly from non-scholarly sources & primary from secondary

**Direct Measure:** Completed Thesis scored via faculty developed rubrics.
**Indirect Measure:** Graduating Student Exit Survey

**SLO 3** Explain, interpret and support the application of psychological constructs by integrating program knowledge with methods and practices.

**Direct Measure:** Completed Thesis scored via faculty-developed rubrics
**Indirect Measure:** Exit Interview