

Selected Findings from May
2016 – December 2017
Graduating Senior Exit Survey

Respondents

- 157 respondents (32% of 499 of those who applied to graduate)
 - 83.3% female
 - 32.1% reported ethnic minority background
 - 15.8% reported English was second language
 - Average age was 25 years old (SD=4.79)
 - 60.5% first generation college students (neither parent earned a BA/BS degree or higher)

Based on your experiences, please rate the following aspects of the psychology department:

Ratings range from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent).

	Mean	SD
Quality of instruction	3.87	0.83
Opportunities for personal growth	3.80	1.03
Course content was relevant	3.78	0.88
Clear degree requirements	3.66	1.03
Frequency of courses that interested you	3.56	1.01
Variety of psychology courses offered	3.35	0.98
Frequency of courses needed for graduate program requirements	3.11	1.01
Available days and times for courses	2.85	1.11
Frequency of online SSU psychology courses	2.13	1.14

Classes unable to take

- 41.4% wanted a class that they were unable to take. Of these students, they answered the following:

Why did you want to take these classes?	Percent
for graduate school requirements	12.1
for personal interest	11.5
they were listed in catalog but not offered	7.0
for job requirements	2.6

To what extent did the psychology major (courses and internships) develop the following interpersonal skills: Ratings range from 1 (not at all) to 5 (extensively).

	Mean	SD
Read a peer reviewed psychology journal article	4.14	0.92
Use active listening techniques	4.08	0.84
Facilitate small group discussions	4.06	0.81
Use mindfulness techniques	4.05	0.98
Use library databases to locate psychological research and theory	3.98	1.07
Regulate my emotions effectively	3.88	1.04
Solve interpersonal problems effectively	3.80	0.86
Prepare and give a professional oral presentation	3.69	1.16
Effectively serve diverse populations	3.66	1.06
Write effectively for different audiences	3.63	1.03
Change or improve a health-related habit	3.53	1.11
Interact with diverse demographic groups	3.47	1.00
Work with people who disagree with you	3.34	0.90
Conduct an interview	3.04	1.22
Construct a questionnaire	3.00	1.12
Use EXCEL or other spreadsheet programs	2.34	1.25
Write cover letters and resumes	2.34	1.32
Use SPSS or other data analysis program	2.08	1.27

Department Advising

- 27.4% saw a faculty advisor at least twice a semester, 22.9% just one or twice while at SSU and 4.5% never saw an advisor
 - Rated satisfaction as 2.95 (SD=1.80) from 1 (very effective) to 7 (not at all effective)
 - 53.6% reported that they attend group advising (M(satisfaction)=2.65, SD=1.08 rated from 1 (very effective) to 7 (not at all effective))

Help sought; Help wanted

Help Sought	Percent
Choosing courses in major	54.1
Problems with AAR report for psychology requirements	41.4
Advice about GE courses	37.6
Requirements for graduate school	33.1
Career options in psychology	31.9
Graduate school training options in psychology	30
Information about specific graduate school programs	21.0
Counseling related career options	15.0
Problems with AAR report for non-psychology requirements	14.0
Other (included question about business minor, class help, study abroad, extra unit petition and graduation requirements (5).	6.4

Help Wanted	Percent
More discussion of graduate school training options in psychology	51.0
More discussion of graduate school requirements	50.3
More discussion of specific graduate school programs	41.4
More discussion of non-counseling career options in psychology	38.9
More direction in choosing courses in the major	31.9
More advice about GE courses	24.8
More discussion of counseling related career options	19.8
Other	5.1

Percent of Respondents who participated in “High Impact Experiences”

Community Internships	Undergraduate research	Service Learning class	Teaching Assistant	Studied Abroad
18.7%	15.3%	35.7%	33.1%	3.2%

Future Plans

What best describes your plans after graduation?	Percent
You plan to continue your graduate education in any field	43.7
You are or plan to be employed in a field related to psychology	36.1
You are unsure	13.4
You are or plan to be employed in a field unrelated to psychology	5.9
Other (please describe): find job ASAP	0.8

Graduate Training Intentions (n=52)

	Percent
Marriage and family therapy	19.2
Social work	19.2
Masters training in a non-clinical psychology research area (e.g., social, development)	17.3
Other (please specify): masters in clinical psychology y(2), any grad school (5)	13.5
Doctoral training in a non-clinical psychology research area (e.g., social, development)	11.5
Law school	11.5
School counseling	9.6
Doctoral training in clinical or counseling psychology at a Research 1 university (e.g., U.C. Berkeley)	9.6
Doctoral training in clinical psychology at a professional school (e.g., Argosy, Alliant)	5.8
Medical school	5.8
Occupational therapy	3.5
Teaching certificate	1.9
Nursing school	0

Graduate program applications

- 45.5% (n=24) applied to a graduate program
- 13 students listed programs to which they were accepted

Specific program to which respondent was accepted

Clinical Psychology, CSU Dominguez Hills

Counseling program at SSU

distance learning MSW programs at San Jose State, CSU San Bernardino & CSU Northridge

MSW from CSU Long Beach

Online MA in Professional Counseling /Ed.S in Professional Counseling at Seton Hall University

Post Baccalaureate- Pre Health Professions- CSUF

SDSU psychology MA

SFSU School Psych Program

SJSU, Counselor Education program, PPS Credential

Tulane Medical School- Master of Anatomy Program. This is a backup right now, I am still waiting acceptance to a medical program.

University North Carolina Wilmington, Masters in Social Work (2)

University of San Francisco

University of Texas, Austin, MSW program

Experiences outside department

- Of those who started at SSU in first year, 50.9% took psychology in high school
- 26.7% member of Psi Chi
- 6.8% experienced academic probation
 - Report reliably higher psychology grades (A- average) compared to overall GPA (B+ average)
- 73.7% of the respondents work close to 20 hours a week (M=2.90, SD=1.09)
 - 45.3% planned to stay in same job after they graduated

17.8% reported minors

AMCS

Applied Statistics (3)

Native American Studies

Business (2)

Criminal Justice (4)

Early Childhood Education

German

Gerontology

I declared both biology and chemistry minors but did not complete either.

Sociology

sociology, but only for a semester

Spanish

Studio Art

WGS

Note. Just 1 respondent unless a different number is indicated in parentheses.

Observations

- Many first generation college students
- Many first year students already completed introduction to psychology in high school
- Interest in assigned advisors
- Interest in general career information and preparation
- Interest in more diversity-related curriculum
- Better at methods and developmental content, worse at psychopathology content
- Very few have participated in high impact experiences