

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

## Student Learning Outcomes for the B.A./B.S. in Psychology

Students completing the B.A./B.S. major will be able to:

**SLO1:** Formulate a testable research question, test psychological hypotheses by designing a research study to address that question, conduct the study, perform basic statistical analyses of the data, and write about the research with appropriate scientific style and precision.

Level 1 (Remembering & Understanding): Students will be able to recall and retrieve the elements of a testable research question, of psychological research methods, of statistical analyses. Students will be able to write and speak about these topics in their own words.

Level 2 (Applying & Analyzing): Students will be able to develop a testable research question and related hypothesis(es), design a psychological study, and perform appropriate statistical analyses. Students will be able to analyze the findings, and specifically distinguish between facts and inferences, orally and in writing.

Level 3 (Evaluating & Creating): Students will be able to critically evaluate existing psychological research and be able to design and conduct a psychological study (including developing testable research questions and hypotheses, utilizing appropriate research methods and statistical analyses, and precise interpretation of the findings).

**SLO2:** Distinguish between data, interpretation, and theory, and evaluate the strengths and limitations of empirical research.

Level 1 (Remembering & Understanding): Students will be able to recognize and recall the difference between data, interpretation, and theory. Students will be able to articulate this distinction in their own words.

Level 2 (Applying & Analyzing): Students will apply their understanding of this distinction in analyzing the strengths and limitations of existing empirical work.

Level 3 (Evaluating & Creating): Students will be able to develop arguments about psychological principles and findings utilizing their understanding of the distinction between data, interpretation, and theory.

**SLO3:** Critique and evaluate psychological claims that are made in a variety of domains from scholarly, scientific, and academic journals, as well as from the popular media.

Level 1 (Remembering & Understanding): Students will be able to identify when a claim in scholarly, scientific and academic publications, as well as those in the popular press, are based in psychological principles and will be able to articulate the basis of psychological claim in their own words.

Level 2 (Applying & Analyzing): Students will be able to identify and analyze the evidence on which psychological claims are based, both in scholarly, scientific, and academic formats, as well as popular media.

Level 3 (Evaluating & Creating): Students will be able to articulate evidenced-based psychological claims in formats appropriate for scholarly, scientific, and academic journals, as well as in formats appropriate for communicating with non-expert audiences using popular media.

**SLO4:** Apply knowledge of research methods, theory, empirical findings, and human diversity, in systems neuroscience, perception and cognition, personality and social psychology, and developmental psychology to problems within the field of psychology as well as in the real world, outside of the classroom and laboratory.

Level 1 (Remembering & Understanding): Students will recall and retrieve previously learned information of research methods, theory, empirical findings, and human diversity, in systems neuroscience, perception and cognition, personality and social psychology, and developmental psychology and explain this understanding in their own words.

Level 2 (Applying & Analyzing): Students will apply information of research methods, theory, empirical findings, and human diversity, in systems neuroscience, perception and cognition, personality and social psychology, and developmental psychology to real-world (out-of-classroom or lab) problems. Students will be able to identify the basis of existing knowledge of research methods, theory, empirical findings, and human diversity, in systems neuroscience, perception and cognition, personality and social psychology, and developmental psychology.

Level 3 (Evaluating & Creating): Students will be able to critically evaluate existing knowledge of research methods, theory, empirical findings, and human diversity in systems neuroscience, perception and cognition, personality and social psychology, and developmental psychology. Students will be able to construct new meaning from existing knowledge and contribute to the creation of new knowledge of research methods, theory, empirical findings, and human diversity in systems neuroscience, perception and cognition, personality and social psychology, and developmental psychology.

**SLO5:** Recognize, identify and apply the APA Ethical Guidelines regarding the conduct of ethical research practices, informed consent, confidentiality, privacy, and conflicts of interest.

Level 1 (Remembering & Understanding): Students will recall and retrieve previously learned information the APA Ethical Guidelines regarding the conduct of ethical research practices, informed consent, confidentiality, privacy, and conflicts of interest. Students will be able to explain ethical principles in their own words

Level 2 (Applying & Analyzing): Students will be able to identify the components of existing studies that incorporate the APA Ethical Guidelines regarding the conduct of ethical research practices, informed consent, confidentiality, privacy, and conflicts of interest and will be able to analyze if studies conform to these ethical principles and guidelines.

Level 3 (Evaluating & Creating): Students will be able to design and conduct psychological research according to APA Ethical Guidelines regarding the conduct of ethical research practices, informed consent, confidentiality, privacy, and conflicts of interest.

Program Website: <http://www.psych.ucr.edu/>