

Program Performance Review: Culmination Meeting Memo Psychology BA & MA programs

The 2022-2023 Program Performance Review (PPR) process for the Psychology BA and MA programs in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) concluded with a culmination meeting on May 17, 2024.

The following people attended the meeting: Amir Dabirian (Provost), Jessica Stern (Dean, HSS), Carl Wendt (Associate Dean, HSS), Jessie Peissig (Department Chair), Kristin Beals (Faculty), Jennifer Carlson (Faculty), David Gerkens (Faculty), Christine Scher (Faculty), Eriko Self (Faculty), Sue Sy (Faculty), Laura Zettel-Watson (Faculty), Merri Lynn Casem (AVP for Undergraduate Studies and GE, AVPUSGE), Aimee Nelson (Executive Director of Graduate Studies, EDGS), and Su Swarat (Senior AVP for Institutional Effectiveness and Planning, SAVPIEP).

The Provost commended the programs for their excellent contribution to the university, carrying large majors and heavy demand. The following specific accomplishments were highlighted:

- The undergraduate program has grown significantly since the last review.
- The department has revised its Mission and Goals, and created Community Guidelines in an effort to ensure all students and faculty feel valued and supported.
- Faculty are engaged teacher-scholars, publishing 170 peer-reviewed journal articles in the last five years and receiving several large external grants.
- The first-year student four-year graduation rate exceeds the CSU's GI 2025 goal, and the transfer student two-year graduation rate is less than half a percent shy of the GI 2025 goal.

Major recommendations raised through the PPR process were discussed as follows:

1. Enrollment sustainability:

- The external reviewers commended the BA program for its significant growth since the last review. The Provost inquired about the support the program needs to sustain enrollment.
- The Chair indicated several needs – classroom and lab space; computers and lab equipment updates; staffing needs for faculty and staff.
- The Provost acknowledged the need for classroom and lab space. He is working to optimize campuswide classroom utilization and to add larger classrooms.
- The Dean reported that the plan is in place to update computers in the labs. The Provost also recommended the program to consider using laptop carts in the classroom as an alternative.
- The AVPUSGE suggested the consideration of moving classes online. Faculty who are interested in doing so could benefit from free online instruction training programs from the CO.
- The Provost acknowledged the need for more staffing to accommodate enrollment growth. He recommended the programs to work with the college leadership to determine whether to give reassigned time to faculty for the short term or hire staff for the long term. The Dean concurred that she would balance the two approaches while considering resource needs.

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2. Integration of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusive (JEDI) pedagogy:
 - The programs are commended and encouraged to continue to incorporate justice, equity, diversity, and inclusive (JEDI) pedagogy across all levels of the curriculum.
 - The programs were recommended to expand the Multicultural/Diversity track for the major.
 - The Chair reported that the multicultural track is popular at the Experience CSUF day, but a “track” is not an official degree option.
 - The AVPUSGE suggested the option of “concentration” or “minor”. It is also possible to explore interdisciplinary program options to expand this track.

3. First year experience:
 - The programs were recommended to consider developing a first-year experience that introduces new students to the field, clarifies the curriculum, identifies career and post-graduation paths, and builds community.
 - The faculty reported that a pilot is being planned for fall 2025 for both first-time freshmen and first-year transfer students. The pilot is likely to take form as a one-unit, 5-week “mini course”, which allows 3 groups to complete each semester. This design helps address the large number of new students Psychology receives. The course may also incorporate advising, peer mentoring, and elements that connect to the major.
 - The Provost suggested the option of offering the course in the summer before matriculation to help address the constraints of large enrollment and limited space.

4. Administrative unit reorganization:
 - Given the large enrollment, Psychology was suggested to work with the Dean’s office to explore the option of creating smaller administrative units such as separate departments around the concentrations as seen with CBE.
 - The faculty do not seem to like the idea. They stated that it would be challenging to divide the department into smaller components.
 - The Provost asked the faculty to think about growth strategies and the corresponding resource needs. He stated that the university is working on strategic enrollment planning as its priority, which will aim to manage growth with added resources.

The Provost commended the programs for their continued contribution to the university and concluded the meeting by thanking the hard work of the Chair and the faculty.