

Linking Psychology Curriculum with Career Skills: The Faculty Perspective

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Background & Objectives

Psychology Degree

- 5th most popular degree
- 54% probability of being underemployed in first job

Objectives

- Identify career applicable KSAOs that are gained during undergraduate psychology curriculum
- Obtain Subject Matter Expert ratings from ASU faculty professors on the relevance of KSAOs in psychology courses

Table 3. The 30 Most Important Types of Knowledge, Skills, and Characteristics Needed by College Graduates to Succeed in the 21st-Century Workplace.

Knowledge	Skills	Characteristics
1. The English language—39%	11. Speaking—37%	21. Dependability—97%
2. Customer and personal service—28%	12. Active listening—33%	22. Attention to detail—95%
3. Education and training—14%	13. Critical thinking—28%	23. Integrity—88%
4. Mathematics—12%	14. Reading comprehension—28%	24. Initiative—77%
5. Computers and electronics—12%	15. Writing—12%	25. Cooperation—75%
6. Psychology—9%	16. Social perceptiveness—10%	26. Self-control—62%
7. Administration and management—7%	17. Judgment and decision-making—8%	27. Stress tolerance—60%
8. Law and government—7%	18. Monitoring/assessment—6%	28. Adaptability/flexibility—60%
9. Public safety and security—5%	19. Complex problem-solving—6%	29. Analytical thinking—59%
10. Clerical—3%	20. Time management—1%	30. Persistence—59%

Note. Each knowledge, skill, and characteristic is followed by the percentage of the 536 occupations contained in O*NET that require at least a vocational or associate's degree in which it was rated as either very important or extremely important by professional job analysts and those employed in those occupations.

Research Questions

- What critical KSAOs do students obtain in their psychology courses?
- What is the level and relevance of each KSAO in each psychology course?

Methodology

Subject Matter Experts:

- Approximately 60 undergraduate psychology faculty at Appalachian State University

Method:

1. Replicate O*Net survey methodology to rate importance and level of KSAOs taught in undergraduate psychology courses
2. Administer a survey to gauge expert faculty perceptions of KSAOs gained through psychology curriculum such as:
 - a. Critical Thinking
 - b. Analytical Concepts

Research Goals

- Confirm what career relevant KSAOs are taught in each psychology course
- Develop a matrix based on results from SME surveys to aid students in identifying acquired KSAOs

References

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