

**USF Sarasota-Manatee**  
**Assessment Scoring Rubric for Student Learning Outcomes**  
**B.A. in Psychology**

**OUTCOME 1** Apply concepts and theories in at least 4 areas of psychology (e.g., developmental, social, cognitive, clinical, behavioral, physiological, evolutionary, applied, health), and relate them to the scientific study of behavior and mental processes, or to real-world problems.

<b>SCORING SCALE</b>	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 5	Sample 6	Sample 7	Sample 8	Sample 9	Sample 10
<p><b>1 Far less than expectations:</b> <i>The student covers one area of psychology or less. Even if this coverage is excellent for this area the rating would be a 1. Or the students covers 2 or 3 areas of psychology, but does a less than adequate job in applying the areas covered to the study of behavior, mental processes, or real-world problems.</i></p>										
<p><b>2 Less than expectations:</b> <i>The student covers only 2 to 3 areas of psychology, and does an adequate job in applying the areas covered to the study of behavior, mental processes, or real-world problems. Or the student covers and demonstrates basic knowledge of 4 areas of psychology, but does a less than adequate job in applying the areas covered to the study of behavior, mental processes, or real-world problems.</i></p>										
<p><b>3 Meets expectations:</b> <i>The student covers 4 areas of psychology, and does an adequate job in applying the areas covered to the study of behavior, mental processes, or real-world problems. The student provides at least a sentence or two on each theoretical area. Merely listing different areas of psychology or defining them without tying them into the area being studied is not sufficient.</i></p>										
<p><b>4 Exceeds expectations:</b> <i>The student covers more than 4 areas of psychology, and does an adequate job in applying the areas covered to the study of behavior, mental processes, or real-world problems. Or the student covers 4 areas of psychology in a manner that qualitatively exceeds expectations by doing a better than adequate job in applying the areas covered to the study of behavior, mental processes, or real-world problems.</i></p>										

**OUTCOME 2** Recognize the impact of human diversity (gender, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, culture, age, religion, disabilities) on behavior and mental processes.

SCORING SCALE	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 5	Sample 6	Sample 7	Sample 8	Sample 9	Sample 10
<p><b>1 Far less than expectations:</b> <i>The student fails to discuss human diversity's impact on behavior or mental processes.</i></p>										
<p><b>2 Less than expectations:</b> <i>The student discusses the impact human diversity on behavior or mental processes, but addresses the matter only superficially or does not demonstrate adequate knowledge of this impact.</i></p>										
<p><b>3 Meets expectations:</b> <i>The student discusses the impact of human diversity, in one of the areas listed above, on behavior and mental processes and demonstrates adequate knowledge of this impact.</i></p>										
<p><b>4 Exceeds expectations:</b> <i>The student discusses the impact of human diversity, in two or more of the areas mention above, on behavior and mental processes and demonstrates adequate knowledge of this impact. Or the student discusses the impact of human diversity, in one of the areas listed above, on behavior and mental processes and demonstrates more than adequate knowledge of this impact.</i></p>										

**OUTCOME 3** Demonstrate knowledge of professional ethics in the use of research subjects.

- The basic ethical principles covered by the APA ethical principles are: (1) respect for persons, (2) beneficence, and (3) justice. The applications of these principles are: (1) informed consent, (2) assessment of risks and benefits, (3) use of deception in research, (4) selection of subjects, and (5) debriefing. In addition the APA ethical principles also include the humane care and use of animals in research.

SCORING SCALE	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 5	Sample 6	Sample 7	Sample 8	Sample 9	Sample 10
<b>1 Far less than expectations:</b> <i>The student fails to mention professional ethics in the use of research subjects.</i>										
<b>2 Less than expectations:</b> <i>The student mentions professional ethics in the use of research subjects, but the coverage has one or more of the following characteristics: (1) it is trivial; (2) incorrect information is provided; (3) the student does not demonstrate adequate knowledge of these ethics.</i>										
<b>3 Meets expectations:</b> <i>The student demonstrates adequate knowledge of professional ethics in the use of human subjects. To do this he/she must discuss or apply two of the central APA ethical principles.</i>										
<b>4 Exceeds expectations:</b> <i>The student demonstrates a superior knowledge of professional ethics in the use of human subjects. To do this he/she must discuss or apply three of the central APA ethical principles. Or the student demonstrates more than adequate knowledge of professional ethics in the use of human subjects, and demonstrates this knowledge very convincingly in relation to two guidelines for ethical treatment of human subjects.</i>										

**OUTCOME 4** Critical Thinking: Critically evaluate various research methods and designs, including their strengths, weaknesses, and applications to psychological inquiry, and their role in causal hypothesis testing.

SCORING SCALE	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 5	Sample 6	Sample 7	Sample 8	Sample 9	Sample 10
<p><b>1 Far less than expectations:</b> <i>The student lacks basic knowledge of any research method or design. Or the student demonstrates basic knowledge of just one research method or design, but fails to demonstrate adequate knowledge of its strengths, weaknesses, and role in psychological inquiry or causal hypothesis testing. For example, merely listing limitations (e.g., “weaknesses of this study included small sample size, limited generalizability, and parental influence was not assessed.”) is not adequate. The student must also clearly state the impact of these limitations on causal hypothesis testing or on the reliability or validity of the results.</i></p>										
<p><b>2 Less than expectations:</b> <i>The student evaluates only one research method or design, but demonstrates an adequate knowledge of the research method or design, including its strengths, weaknesses, and role in psychological inquiry or causal hypothesis testing. Or the student demonstrates a basic level knowledge of two or more research designs, yet does not show adequate knowledge of their strengths, weaknesses, and role in psychological inquiry or causal hypothesis testing (e.g., shows incomplete mastery or obvious confusion, fails to cover important strengths or weaknesses, or does not examine their roles in the application of psychological inquiry or causal hypothesis testing).</i></p>										
<p><b>3 Meets expectations:</b> <i>The student demonstrates adequate knowledge of at least two research methods or designs, including their strengths, weaknesses, and role in psychological inquiry or causal hypothesis testing.</i></p>										
<p><b>4 Exceeds expectations:</b> <i>The student demonstrates adequate knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of three or more research methods or designs, including their strengths, weaknesses, and role in psychological inquiry or causal hypothesis testing. Or the student demonstrates a level of mastery and insight, with regard to two or more research methods or designs, including their strengths, weaknesses, and role in psychological inquiry or causal hypothesis testing, that is more than adequate.</i></p>										

**OUTCOME 5** Communication: Write effectively by producing work in the APA style and standards.

In order to score this section it is important to note the scope of APA style. The following has been taken from APA publication manual (6th ed., 2010)

- a. APA style and format should be scored based on how well students abided by APA Stylistic guidelines such as neatness, spacing, indentations, format or reference and title pages, and proper use of quotes, headings, citations.
- b. The APA manual also speaks to how researchers should present their ideas, theories, research, methods, and results.
  - i. Of great importance is logical flow of the paper with concretely supported assertions. Although all of the assignments are on a common theme, they should stand alone as coherent essays. Ideas are presented with proper introductions, conclusions and transitions between ideas.
  - ii. Also, there is a certain professionalism that is expected under the APA style that requires a formal writing style as opposed to an informal style of writing.
  - iii. Finally, APA style also relates to the readability, clarity and grammatical correctness of the paper.

SCORING SCALE	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 5	Sample 6	Sample 7	Sample 8	Sample 9	Sample 10
<b>1 Far less than expectations:</b> <i>The paper's organization, lay-out, content, and writing style show inadequate writing skills, or a fundamental lack of knowledge of APA style; or academic dishonesty has been demonstrated through plagiarism (e.g., failure to cite sources when using direct quotes or paraphrasing, copying another work).</i>										
<b>2 Less than expectations:</b> <i>The paper's organization, lay-out, content, and writing style demonstrate basic writing skills and basic knowledge of APA style. However the student makes many APA stylistic errors; or the paper is low in readability, clarity, and flow; or the paper lacks appropriate professionalism.</i>										
<b>3 Meets expectations:</b> <i>The paper's organization, lay-out, content, and writing style demonstrate adequate writing skills and adequate knowledge of APA style; the paper includes few stylistic errors and shows good readability, clarity, and flow. The paper is written with an appropriate level of professionalism.</i>										
<b>4 Exceeds expectations:</b> <i>The paper's organization, lay-out, content, and writing style demonstrate good writing skills and good knowledge of APA style. The paper includes virtually no stylistic errors, is high in readability, clarity, and flow. The paper is written with a high level of professionalism.</i>										