

Western Carolina University
QEP Impact Report 2011-2012
B.S. in Psychology
Department of Psychology
College of Education and Allied Professions

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Development and approval of our QEP has had significant impact already. Our Goal 1 (Knowledge Base of Psychology) has prompted us to develop a 54-item test for use pre and post that reflects the core concepts we think all psychology majors should know. This was a department-wide effort and thus reflects our specific view of what we want students to learn in the major. The first working version of the measure is now ready for initial use in the Fall semester of 2012. We will administer it to all sections of PSY 271 (first research methods course, sophomores primarily, the first catchment point for majors) and to all sections of PSY 495 (Senior Seminar) both Fall and Spring semesters. Over time we hope to see significant growth reflected in the seniors, not only in comparison to the PSY 271 sophomores but also in comparison to other seniors over time.

Goal 2: Research Methods in Psychology. Again, the establishment of this goal has resulted in significant curriculum impact, with a clear sequence of research proposals that start in PSY 272 (sophomores), progress a step in the Learning /Cognition course junior year, and culminate in the more sophisticated proposal expected of all students in the capstone Senior Seminar. The research proposal assignments and the associated evaluation rubrics are included as appendices in our QEP. Data collection will begin during the 2012-2013 academic year.

Development of the QEP has prompted us to establish a requirement that all students in the major must complete at least one course with a service learning component. Again, the common assignment template and the evaluation rubric are presented as appendices in our QEP. Data collection will begin during the 2012-2013 academic year.