The Department of Psychology  
Social Sciences Element  

General Education Program  
Pacific Lutheran University  

Framing Language and Program Goals  
Psychology is a scientific discipline that seeks to understand human and nonhuman behavior. Psychology is also a profession that seeks to change behavior for the betterment of humankind. Through its curriculum, research activities, and use of community resources, the Department of Psychology provides students with a balanced exposure to psychology as a scientific discipline and profession.  

General Education Element Description  
Investigating Human Behavior, Culture, and Institutions  
The social sciences investigate individual and collective human behavior, and the history, development and variation of human culture and institutions. To assure wide exposure to a wide variety of social science concepts, theories, and methods, students must select at least two courses chosen from different disciplines.  

Psychology: studies mental processes, brain, and behavior and the relationship among them.  

General Education Element Learning Outcomes  
The student will:  
1. learn about the science of Psychology, understanding its basic research methodology and values in order to understand how both individual and collective human behavior is influenced by mental processes; and,  
2. use critical thinking to apply concepts and psychological principles to understand human behavior.  

Particular Course Outcomes for Psychology 101  
• The student will acquire a knowledge base in the discipline of Psychology and therefore be able to:  
  o Characterize the nature of psychology as a discipline.  
  o Demonstrate knowledge and understanding representing appropriate breadth and depth in selected content areas of psychology.  
  o Use the concepts, language and major theories of the discipline to account for psychological phenomena.  
  o Explain major perspectives of psychology.  
• The student will understand the basic research methods in Psychology and therefore be able to:  
  o Describe the basic characteristics of the science of psychology.  
  o Explain different research methods used by psychologists.  
• The student will be able to use critical thinking effectively.  
• The student will learn about the application of Psychology and therefore be able to:  
  o Describe major applied areas of psychology.  
  o Articulate how psychological principles can be used to explain social issues and inform public policy.  
  o Apply psychological concepts, theories, and research findings as these relate to everyday life.  
• The student will learn about the values in Psychology and demonstrate an ability to:  
  o Recognize the necessity for ethical behavior in all aspects of the science and practice of psychology.
Demonstrate reasonable skepticism and intellectual curiosity by asking questions about causes of behavior.

Tolerate ambiguity and realize that psychological explanations are often complex and tentative.

Recognize and respect human diversity and understand that psychological explanations may vary across populations and contexts.

Alignment to the ILOs
In addition to the knowledge base connecting Psychology to basic liberal arts and sciences, students completing Psychology 101 will develop the abilities of:

**Critical Reflection**
- Select sources of information using appropriate research methods, including those employing technology, and make use of that information carefully and critically.
- Consider issues from multiple perspectives.
- Evaluate assumptions and consequences of different perspectives in assessing possible solutions to problems.
- Understand and explain divergent viewpoints on complex issues, critically assess the support available for each, and defend one's own judgments.

**Valuing**
- Articulate and critically assess one’s own values, with an awareness of the communities and traditions that have helped to shape them.
- Recognize how others have arrived at values different from one's own, and consider their views charitably and with an appreciation of the context in which they emerged.