

Pilot Program-to-Program Articulation Project Psychology – August 1 Interim Report

Submitted: July 26, 2010

The first half of the month we continued to gather feedback on our model from within the committee. In general, the feedback was supportive and did not lead us to make any notable changes to the model described in the July 1 Interim Report.

On July 21st, we sent an email to the Psychology representatives from our Constituency groups, to gather our first round of 'external' feedback on the model. Below are copies of the email sent to the constituents, along with a 5-item survey they are being asked to complete.

Email to Psychology Constituents:

Dear Colleagues –

As you may already know, the PA legislature (Act 50) is requiring that Community College and State Universities in Pennsylvania coordinate the curriculum in such a way as to enable students with an Associate's degree from any PA Community College to transfer to any participating 4-year school as a 1st semester junior, without having to retake courses or lose credits in the transfer process. (We have attached a copy of a document sent to you previously by PDE explaining the goals of the articulation project.) Psychology was chosen by PDE as one of the pilot programs to take on this task. A committee of 5 members from PASSHE schools, 5 members from PA Community Colleges, and 2 members from 'Opt-in' schools was formed and have been working since late April on proposing a basic structure to work with. This committee is co-chaired by Dr. Sue Morin, Chair of Psychology at Shippensburg University, and Dr. Kathy Doherty, Chair of Psychology at Harrisburg Area Community College.

Our starting point has been both "APA Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major," (<http://www.apa.org/ed/precollege/about/psymajor-guidelines.pdf>) as well as APA's report on "Teaching, Learning, & Assessing in a Developmentally Coherent Curriculum." (<http://www.apa.org/ed/governance/bea/curriculum.pdf>). Our discussions thus far have led us to propose a basic foundational structure for a 4-year degree in Psychology. We are looking for common ground, not specific course-by-course direct alignment. This structure is simply a common starting block to provide a blueprint for students in their first two years. The committee realizes that each 4-year program is entitled to have requirements above this minimum structure. Thus, the 4-year schools maintain a great deal of autonomy for completion of the major beyond the first two years.

If we are to be successful, we must recognize that each participating school will need to make some modifications to their current curriculum. However, we hope that our approach, if done well, will not require programs to make drastic and wholesale changes.

As part of our work, we want to provide the first of several opportunities to share your feedback to the committee. Attached to this email is the proposed model, along with a document containing questions we would like you to address. The committee would like your thoughts regarding the application of the APA models to the curriculum. Please read over the proposal, and **send your comments to Kathy Doherty** (ktdohert@hacc.edu) and **Sue Morin** (smmori@ship.edu) **no later than Thursday, August 5th**.

The committee will be meeting on Thursday, August 12th to review your feedback. This will be an ongoing dialogue. Once we submit our first draft to PDE there will be further opportunities to provide feedback.

Thank you for your input. We look forward to hearing from you.

Kathy Doherty and Sue Morin, Committee Co-Chairs

Five-item survey for Psychology Constituents:

Name _____

Institution _____

Email contact: _____

Feedback from Constituents on Initial Model drafted by the Psychology Pilot- PAC

Please respond the following questions:

1. How well does the proposed model adhere to the APA guidelines?
2. How well does the proposed model fit with your departments' philosophical approach to the undergraduate Psychology major?
3. How well does the suggestions for content in areas outside of Psychology fit with your philosophical approach to the undergraduate Psychology major?
4. Do you see any problems with this approach?
5. Other comments on the proposed model?

Next Steps

We asked our constituents to complete and return the survey by August 5th.

We have planned a face-to-face meeting of the committee for August 12th, where we will review the feedback and pull together the draft proposal for our August 31st deadline.