

Montana University System
PROGRAM REVIEW

Institution: **Montana State University - Northern**

Program Years: **2017 - 2019**

List of the programs reviewed:

Psychology – Minor and General Education courses

Decision(s) concerning the future of the program(s), based on the program review criteria established at the campus:

The recommendation is to retain the Psychology program.

For purposes of the 2019-2020 Board of Regents Program Review process, the following information is presented.

Rationale or justification for the decision based on the program review process established at the campus. Include graduation numbers and student majors for each of the last seven (7) years for every program under review.

Psychology Minor

Academic Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Minor Counts (Fall)	-	-	-	-	55	64	61
Graduates	-	-	-	-	-	13	22

All Psychology Classes

Academic Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Minor Counts (Fall)	221	181	200	336	407	547	495

The Psychology program at MSU-Northern consists of the Psychology minor, as well as the course offerings included in the General Education Core and required or elective in several programs across campus. Three psychology courses are included in the General Education Core, including PSYX 100 Introduction to Psychology, PSYX 150 Drugs & Society, and PSYX 230 Developmental Psychology. One or more psychology courses are required or elective in the following programs: Community Leadership, Education, Health Promotion, Liberal Studies, and Nursing.

The Psychology minor began being offered in May 2017. Since that time, it has been one of the most popular minors offered at MSU-Northern. Students primarily selecting to pursue the Psychology minor are Criminal Justice majors (70%). However, Psychology minors also include majors of Business Administration, Health Promotion, Community Leadership, Liberal Studies, Nursing, Graphics Design, and Biology. In order to accommodate students in these diverse programs, the bulk of the Psychology courses are offered online.

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Since Fall 2015, the Psychology program has operated with one full-time faculty and a few adjunct instructors each semester. Given the high demand for psychology courses and the Psychology minor, MSU-Northern could benefit from the addition of a second full-time faculty member. For example, in Fall 2019, PSYX 100 Introduction to Psychology served 72 students, PSYX 150 Drugs & Society served 31 students, and PSYX 230 Developmental Psychology served 46 students, in addition to six other psychology courses offered that semester. The existing use of adjuncts each semester has presented several challenges to the stability and continuity of the program.

In January 2020, changes to the Psychology minor have been proposed. These changes will serve to realign the Psychology minor with: (1) the American Psychological Association guidelines that emphasize, among other things, the development of cultural competence and diversity skills; and (2) the MSU-Northern Core Theme #2 to “promote [a] student centered and culturally enriched environment which fosters student success.” These cultural competency goals can be better addressed by including PSYX 362 Multicultural Psychology in the required courses, than through PSYX 360 Social Psychology. Additionally, changes have been proposed to the electives included in the Psychology minor to represent the full breadth of MSU-Northern’s psychology course offerings.