

B.A. in PSYCHOLOGY

THE LEADERS

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ASSESSMENT

Given that ethical standards are essential in any discipline, the Psychology program's decision to assess students' ability to identify violations of such standards is a model for all programs. The faculty decided to assess ethics knowledge across two possible pathways: Students in B.A. and B.S. programs get training in ethical standards through PSY 3020 (Research Methods), an elective, and PSY 3993 (Experimental Psychology), a required course. A comparison of performance on the same multiple-choice test of ethics knowledge revealed that students in PSY 3020 scored better than students in PSY 3993. Analysis of the test items identified a few areas that were problematic for students and that faculty members have chosen to address.

IMPACT

The assessment revealed the importance of looking at different pathways through a curriculum that might affect student learning outcomes. To improve undergraduate psychology students' knowledge of both ethics and research methods, faculty decided to require PSY 3020 for all psychology majors who entered the university in fall 2015 or later. The course will no longer be an elective, ensuring that all students receive more robust ethics training during their undergraduate program.



AIM HIGHER

ENHANCING STUDENT LEARNING
