Undergraduate Program Review
Psychology
2005-2006

I. Strengths

1. The program provides a reasonably quality education in the subject of psychology. The courses offered appear to be taught within the standard practices of higher education. The anecdotal reports of graduates’ employment and enrollment in graduate schools indicate that employers and graduate programs consider the students to be adequately prepared in their subject.

2. The faculty are qualified to teach the courses in the subject.

3. The faculty-student interaction and involvement with organizations and activities comprise strength of the program. Faculty not only participate in various on-campus and off-campus student-related activities, they advise upper level students. Students also participate in various on-campus and off-campus organizations and meetings.

II. Weaknesses

1. Given the large class sizes, the routinely different course preparations and the fact that faculty advise upper level students, the quality of instruction might benefit from additional faculty. This is especially true for courses taught in San Antonio where the majority of courses are taught by adjunct instructors.

2. As with many programs on campus, there appears to be no external, standardized examination of students’ knowledge. Although perhaps not the ultimate gauge of students’ knowledge, such exams would provide some external measurement on which the program could compare itself with national standards.

III. Recommendations

1. The committee recommends an unconditional continuation of the Psychology Program. However, the program may implement the following recommendations to improve the quality of the program:

   a. Tracking students after graduation.
   b. Offer a technical writing course.
   c. Split the Psychology and Sociology programs into separate departments.
d. An adequate number of full-time faculty be hired for the program. Because at least 80% of PSYC courses are not being taught by full-time instructors at SC-SA and the number of students at the San Antonio campus is steadily increasing, it is especially recommended that an adequate number of full-time faculty be hired for that campus.

e. If such tests exist, some type of external examination—be it a nationally standardized exit exam or a professional certification—be acquired and used.

*One-Year Follow-Up*

Unconditional continuation