

## Senior Exit Survey, Fall 2006 Summary

(Data based on 30 completed surveys from population of 72 graduates or 42% response rate.)

### What best describes your plans for the year immediately after graduation?

- 4 (14.3%) begin graduate school for Marriage and Family Therapy
- 1 (3.6%) begin graduate school for School Counseling
- 0 (0.0%) begin doctoral training in clinical psychology at a professional school
- 2 (7.1%) begin doctoral training in clinical or counseling psychology at a university
- 2 (7.1%) begin graduate work in a non-clinical psychology area (e.g., social, developmental)
- 4 (14.3%) begin graduate work in non-psychology discipline (education, law, medicine, education)
- 1 (3.6%) begin a teaching certificate program
- 0 (0.0%) begin certificate work in a specialized area
- 3 (10.7%) full-time employment in psychology-related field
- 3 (10.7%) full-time employment in unrelated field
- 2 (7.1%) work part time in a capacity *related* to my career plans
- 0 (0.0%) work part-time in a capacity *unrelated* to my career plans
- 3 (10.7%) take some time off work and school
- 5 (10.7%) unsure at the moment
- 1 (3.6%) other (After School Care program)

### What best describes your long-range plans beyond your B.A. in psychology?

- 15 (50%) go on eventually to a graduate program in psychology
- 7 (23.3%) go on eventually to graduate work in another field
- 1 (3.3%) full-time employment in field of psychology
- 0 (0%) full-time employment in a field other than psychology
- 1 (3.3%) other (crisis intervention counselor)
- 6 (20.0%) unsure at the present time

**To what extent do you feel your education in psychology at SSU developed the following abilities? Participants rated skills from not at all (1) to completely (5).**

#### ACADEMIC SKILLS

	MEAN	STD
to apply psychological theory	4.12	.53
to understand and apply humanistic psychology	4.09	.60
to learn skills that promote behavioral change	3.96	.69
to understand and apply transpersonal psychology	3.84	.55
to research psychological issues.	3.80	.65
to read critically.	3.80	.71
to use informational resources (e.g., web)	3.75	.80
to think critically.	3.71	.69
to understand human systems (from individual to global).	3.71	.69
to write well.	3.64	.70
to speak well.	3.40	.76

to communicate effectively.	3.24	.78
to give and receive constructive criticism.	3.24	.72
to evaluate peer reviewed research reports	3.04	1.06
to present research results	2.92	.95
to use computers.	2.76	1.05

### PERSONAL SKILLS

	MEAN	STD
to reflect on your own experience and find meaning in it.	4.32	.69
to deal sensitively and effectively with a variety of people.	4.00	.58
to express thoughts and feelings appropriately.	3.92	.96
to facilitate the development of human potential.	3.92	.86
to collaborate as a team or community member.	3.68	.99
to create a healthy lifestyle.	3.60	.87
to develop your creative potential.	3.48	.96
to help others adopt health promoting behaviors.	3.28	1.06
to manage your time effectively.	3.12	.88
to become involved in community or political activities.	3.04	1.06

### How frequently over the course of your attendance at SSU did you talk with a psychology faculty advisor?

- 9 (30%) More than once each semester
- 11 (36.7%) At least once each semester
- 10 (33.3%) Once or twice during my time here
- 1 (4%) Never

### Overall, how did you find the faculty advisor(s)?

- 9 (30%) Very helpful
- 12 (45%) Helpful
- 3 (26%) Not very helpful
- 1 (4%) Very unhelpful

### What would you have liked to see in your advising? *(Respondents could choose more than one option.)*

- 2 More direction in choosing courses
- 2 More discussion of graduate school training options in psychology
- 5 More discussion of career options in psychology
- 2 More discussion of counseling related career options
- 4 More discussion of specific graduate school programs
- 1 More advice about GE courses
- 4 More discussion of specific pre-requisites and requirements for graduate school
- 6 Other comments: all of the above (2), nothing more (2), more on career and graduate schools, more availability

- 15 (51.7%) completed an internship.
- 11 (37.9%) took a service learning course.
- 16 (56.2%) took a research methods course.
- 17 (60.7%) took a personality course.
- 15 (53.6%) took a counseling psychology course.
- 25 (89.3%) took a developmental course.
- 6 (20.7%) took a biological psychology or neuroscience course.
- 13 (54.2%) took a body/health psychology course.

The largest class size (on average) was 80.  
 The smallest class size (on average) was 18.  
 The average class size was 40.  
 The longest single written assignment (on average) was 15 pages.

**Participants could rate each item from completely disagree (1) to completely agree (5).**

	Mean	STD
I increased my level of awareness about diverse populations after taking psychology courses.	3.86	.95
SSU psychology courses incorporate materials/perspectives about diverse populations.	3.78	.95
The SSU psychology department provides training to students that promotes an understanding of people from diverse backgrounds	3.43	1.24

**What sorts of class assignments do you remember as including diversity? (Respondents could check more than one.)**

- 10 Homework assignments
- 12 Group Activities
- 7 Handouts
- 9 Oral presentations
- 18 Textbooks
- 15 Videos
- 16 Papers
- 15 Guest Lecturers
- 16 Personal stories
- 13 Books/articles on specific diverse populations
- 8 In-class assignments
- 12 Instructor's lectures

**How would you rate the following aspects of the psychology department? Participants rated items from awful (1) to excellent (5).**

	Mean	STD
Availability of courses needed to fulfill graduate program requirements	4.46	1.39
Preparation for graduate study	4.43	0.96
Variety of courses offered	4.29	0.85
Availability of required courses	4.11	0.96
Availability of field work, practicum, internship experience	4.11	0.93
Opportunities for personal growth	4.11	1.07
Flexibility of program to meet your needs	3.89	0.83
Opportunities to pursue individual projects.	3.89	1.03
Availability of courses that interested you	3.73	1.00
Facilitating the development of job skills	3.67	1.97
Advising for graduate study	3.64	1.25

Clear degree requirements	3.57	1.48
Advising for career	3.54	0.92

### **Demographic details**

12 (41%) participants entered program as transfer students; 11 students began SSU as first year psychology majors. Participants' ages ranged from 22 to 51 (M=25, Median=24), 77% were women, 87% were European-American, the average psychology course grade average was between 3.50 and 3.74, the average cumulative GPA was between 3.25 and 3.49. Participants reported working an average of 22 hours a week, studying for an average of 2.9 hours for each hour of psychology class and 2.3 hours for each hour of non-psychology class.