Expected Outcome 1: Broad Understanding and Expertise

Graduates of the Cognitive and Behavioral Sciences (CaBS) PhD program will have a broad and detailed knowledge base and a sufficiently refined skill set.

Assessment Method 1: Postdoctoral training and/or employment

Assessment Method Description
The program surveys CaBS alumni who completed their degree within the past twelve years. Postdoctoral and/or employment status is determined via self-report.

Findings
Of the 34 alumni between academic years 2001-2002 through 2013-2014, 33 responded (97.1% response rate). Of the respondents 97% are currently employed in an area related to their cognitive and behavioral sciences training.

58.8% are in Professor Positions (94.7% are tenured or in tenure track positions), 6.1% are in postdoctoral research positions, 18.2% are in private consulting, 6.1% are in the military, 9.1% are research scientists, and 3% are unemployed.

How did you use findings for improvement?
No program-level adjustment seems necessary at this time. The market for cognitive and behavioral sciences remains strong. Our alumni are successful in obtaining and keeping positions when appropriate (i.e., tenure). The one alumni that is unemployed is due to family reasons rather than the inability to secure employment.

Additional Comments
Expected Outcome 2: Research Competence
Graduate students in the Cognitive and Behavioral Sciences PhD program will engage in the production of original research, contribute to the professional literature, and demonstrate competence in research methodology and critical thinking.

Assessment Method 1: Presentations and Publications

Assessment Method Description
As part of the CaBS program annual student evaluation the program surveys all enrolled CaBS graduate students. This survey includes questions pertaining to research productivity:

1) Number of conference presentations given (as first or co-author) during the academic year.
2) Number of refereed journal papers accepted (as first or co-author) during the academic year.

Findings
Constituting 100% of the enrolled student, twenty-four (n = 24) respondents provided the following data:

1) Conference presentations given (as first or co-author) during the academic year:
   a. Number of student giving at least one presentation: 20 out of 24 (83.3%)
   b. Average number of presentations given per presenter: 3 (range = 1 to 8)

2) Refereed journal papers accepted (as first or co-author) during the academic year:
   a. Number of students publishing at least one article: 6 out of 24 (25%)
   b. Average number of publications per author: 1 (range = 1 to 1)

How did you use findings for improvement?
Even though before receiving their PhD, all CaBS students present their research in at least on professional venue and/or publish one paper, we continue to explore ways to increase the reported percentages. This has involved incorporating assignments in core coursework that lead to such products, providing targeted research mentorship, and making funding available to students for research-related travel.

Additional Comments