

Summary of Psychology Subcommittee Minority Report

The following provides a summary of a memo from the CCN Psychology Subcommittee.

Recommendation
Alternate solutions for aligning PSY 201Z and PSY 202Z.

Chart approved by CCN Psychology and Co-chairs Zip Krummel and Ethan McMahan, June 7, 2023.

Status: Received by Transfer Council June 15, 2023. Decision: approved Recommendation Report to full HECC Commission.



CCN Subcommittee

Minority Report

CNN Psychology

Subcommittee Members

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Co-chairs

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June 5, 2023

Re: Recommendation from the subcommittee

Be it resolved that the following members

MariaLynn Kessler
Eric Kim

Oregon Institute of Technology
Lane Community College

of the CCN Psychology Subcommittee would like file a Minority Report to provide a record of their disagreement with the following motion:

- Introduction to Psychology I 201Z and Introduction to Psychology II 202Z will be taught as a two-course sequence.
- Course Credits for Introduction to Psychology I 201Z will be a 4-credit course and Introduction to Psychology II will be a 4-credit course.

Section A : Rationale & Alternative Recommendations

The above disagree with the following recommendation for the following reasons
Recommendations

- I. Require Introduction to Psychology I 201Z and Introduction to Psychology II 202Z be taught as a three-course sequence instead of a two-course sequence, or
- II. Require Introduction to Psychology I 201Z and Introduction to Psychology II 201Z be taught as 5-credit courses instead of 4-credit courses.

Reason: (the following reasons apply to Recommendations I and II, both; the numbering is for reference, only)

- A. Psychology is a STEM science, as defined by the National Science Foundation. Like other introductory STEM science courses such as biology, chemistry or physics, students should learn psychology as a one-year sequence. Psychology often doesn't match the public's mental representation of a STEM science and therefore, is less likely to receive the consideration it deserves. Learning psychology in less than a one-year sequence, devalues psychology.
- B. Psychology is one of the seven hub sciences. The seven hub sciences are Social Science, Psychology, Math, Physics, Earth Science, Medicine and Chemistry. A hub science is a science that influences other areas of research. Psychology has a significant influence on research in other disciplines.

- C. Psychology students learn about diverse topics, including research methods, neuroscience, sensation and perception, consciousness, lifespan development, learning, memory, thinking and intelligence, motivation and emotion, personality, social psychology, health and well-being, psychological disorders and therapies. Learning and assessing these 14 topics in 20 weeks (two, quarter courses) can only be done in a superficial way and provide students with the illusion that they understand psychology.
- D. With the 14 topics that need to be covered in 20 weeks (two, quarter courses), high impact learning practices such as group work, sharing, and student engagement are less likely to occur and this can disenfranchise those who have difficulties with learning by lectures alone.
- E. Science is detail oriented. When students learn topics that do not match their prior expectations, without expending effort, they will revert to prior learning as their default. Learning the distinction between hypothesis and theory, experiment and correlation, negative reinforcement and positive punishment, takes time. Students who learn these topics quickly and not getting feedback on their performance makes for shallow and superficial learning.
- F. A psychology program offers students unique knowledge and skills that contribute to their academic and career success, even if they are not psychology majors. In [“The Superpowers of Psychology Major”](#) (2021), Stephen Chew of Samford University refers to these as the superpowers of psychology. Some of the superpowers relevant for introductory psychology students are (1) effective learning, (2) managing stress and anxiety, (3) you understanding personality traits and individual differences, (4) knowing about biases and prejudices, and (5) how people think and decide.
- G. A psychology program offers students the opportunity to practice and apply many civic skills such as communicating how learning about psychology can be applied to their personal life or potential career, and it helps them address social issues and public policies or use psychology to improve their life.

Section B: Considerations

In conclusion, we ask the Transfer Council to consider these issues carefully and to do/consider the following:

- 1. Consider requiring the 7 Oregon Public Universities and 17 Community Colleges to teach Introduction to Psychology I and II as a three-course sequence instead of a two-course sequence, or

2. Consider requiring the 7 Oregon Public Universities and 17 Community Colleges to teach Introduction to Psychology I and II as 5-credit courses instead of 4-credit courses.

Signed by:

Name Eric Kim

Signature *Eric Kim*

Name: MariaLynn Kessler

Signature *Maria Lynn Kessler*

Date: June 5, 2023

Provide copies to:

CCN Psychology
Subcommittee

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