



Psychology Application for Major Essay

The Department of Psychology at Wisconsin Lutheran College has identified five major student learning outcomes (SLO's) that align with the *American Psychological Association's Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major* (<https://www.apa.org/ed/precollege/about/undergraduate-major>). These student learning outcomes detail the type of knowledge and skills that students should expect to acquire before graduating as a psychology major at WLC. Your mastery of these five student learning outcomes will develop as a result of course-work and psychology related opportunities (eg. PsychoSocial Club, Poster Showcase, volunteer experiences, internships, etc). The five psychology major student learning outcomes are:

1. Describe and apply the key concepts, principles and overarching themes in psychology (*APA Goal 1: Knowledge Base*).
2. Interpret, design, critically analyze, and conduct basic psychological research. (*APA Goal 2: Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking*).
3. Apply ethical standards to evaluate psychological science and practice (*APA Goal 3: Ethical and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World*).
4. Demonstrate competence in communicating ideas, both written and spoken, in a clear, organized, and compelling way (*APA Goal 4: Communication*).
5. Develop a meaningful professional direction for life after graduation (*APA Goal 5: Professional Development*). *When reflecting on this learning outcome, please identify what your tentative career plans are at this time and then proceed to answer the three prompts.*

For this paper, you are asked to focus on each of the five student learning outcomes and respond to each of the three prompts listed below. **For organization purposes, please start with the first learning outcome and answer all three prompts, then move on to the second learning outcome and answer all three prompts, etc. Your complete paper should be double spaced, between 3-5 pages, and include an APA style title page.** We hope that in writing this essay, you will gain a better understanding of the knowledge and skills that you will be developing as a psychology major and that through this reflection we can work together to intentionally and actively shape your individual trajectory and mastery of these outcomes.

1. Identify where you currently see your development, using the continuum below, in relation to each learning outcome and provide an explanation for your answer. Note – we recognize that everyone is declaring their major at different times and may have had no or limited exposure to a given learning outcome. That is okay. Your answer in no way impacts whether you will be accepted as a psychology major, rather it helps us know where you are at this particular developmental juncture.

No exposure	Introduced to	Developing	Mastered
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2. Consider your strengths and areas of growth in regards to each student learning outcome. Specifically, what personal characteristic do you have that may lend themselves nicely to mastering this outcome and/or what is a personal characteristic that may make mastering this outcome more difficult? Also, are there specific opportunities/experiences in or outside of classes that you've had that move you closer to mastering this goal (that would be a strength) or clear gaps in terms of this goal (that would be a weakness).
3. Finally, identify steps/experiences/opportunities that you would like to obtain before graduating that would move you closer to mastering this learning outcome.