CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (Declarative Knowledge): Graduates in Psychobiology will demonstrate their knowledge of basic concepts, theories, and experimental findings in three core areas of psychobiology (biological bases of behavior, comparative animal behavior, and comparative animal physiology).

Three of the courses students must successfully complete are designed to cover each of the core subfields of psychobiology listed above:
CBH 4024: Comparative Animal Behavior
PCB 4723: Comparative Animal Physiology
PSB 3002: Biological Bases of Behavior
Exams and other coursework assigned by the faculty will be designed to assess student achievement of these learning outcomes.

CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (Technical Skills): Graduates in Psychology will demonstrate their ability to (1) enter data into a database, and (2) select, plan and conduct appropriate statistical analyses on sets of data using computer software.

Each student in the program must complete STA 3163L (Intermediate Statistics Laboratory). Exams and other coursework assigned by the faculty will be designed to assess student achievement of these learning outcomes.

COMMUNICATION (Written Communication): Graduates in Psychology will be able to produce writing that is grammatically correct, well-organized, and properly formatted according to the American Psychological Association's Publication Manual.

Students are required to successfully complete, with grades of "C" or higher, four courses in writing (for a total of 12 credit hours) in accordance with the "Gordon Rule" for writing. This may be achieved through the university's Writing Across the Curriculum Program, or by taking more standard Gordon rule courses (for writing).

Successfully completing this graduation requirement will provide a demonstration of general writing skills. In addition, knowledge of APA style will be assessed in the recitation component of PSY 3213 (Research Methods in Psychology), a course required of all psychology majors.

COMMUNICATION (Written Communication; Graphical Communication): Graduates in Psychology will demonstrate their ability to properly communicate the meaning of the results of statistical analyses and the scientific conclusions that may be drawn from then, in written, tabular, and graphical form following APA style.

As a part of the semester assignments completed in STA 3163L (Intermediate Statistics Laboratory), students will create tables and graphs to communicate the scientific meaning of the analysis results and visually present these.

CRITICAL THINKING (Analytical Skills): Graduates in Psychology will use critical thinking to evaluate information and data related to psychological processes by applying basic principles of scientific methodology including (1) the nature of scientific explanations, (2) threats to the validity and reliability of observations, (3) the limitations of measurement scales, (4) the use of experimental and quasi-experimental designs to test hypotheses and (5) the proper interpretation of correlational and experimental data.

Exams and other coursework assigned by the faculty who teach PSY 3213 (Research Methods in Psychology) will assess student achievement of these learning outcomes.