AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

APA Introductory Psychology Initiative (IPI) Student Learning Outcomes for Introductory Psychology

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In an introductory psychology course, students are expected to:



PSYCHOLOGY CONTENT

Identify basic concepts and research findings

1.1 Define and explain basic psychological concepts.

1.2 Interpret research findings related to psychological concepts.

1.3 Apply psychological principles to personal growth and other aspects of everyday life.



SCIENTIFIC THINKING

Solve problems using psychological methods

2.1 Describe the advantages and limitations of research strategies.

2.2 Evaluate, design, or conduct psychological research.

2.3 Draw logical and objective conclusions about behavior and mental processes from empirical evidence.

2.4 Examine how psychological science can be used to counter unsubstantiated statements, opinions, or beliefs.



KEY THEMES

Provide examples of psychology's integrative themes

A. Psychological science relies on empirical evidence and adapts as new data develop.

B. Psychology explains general principles that govern behavior while recognizing individual differences.

C. Psychological, biological, social, and cultural factors influence behavior and mental processes.

D. Psychology values diversity, promotes equity, and fosters inclusion in pursuit of a more just society.

E. Our perceptions and biases filter our experiences of the world through an imperfect personal lens.

F. Applying psychological principles can change our lives, organizations, and communities in positive ways.

G. Ethical principles guide psychology research and practice.

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