

URI Psychology Department Multicultural Competency Requirement

Students earning a graduate degree in psychology should acquire and be able to demonstrate multicultural competence in the following three areas:

1. Didactic component:

All graduate students will fulfill the didactic requirement by taking one of the following courses:

- a) PSY 600 Multicultural Issues in Psychology: Theory, Research, and Practice; or
- b) PSY 643: Multicultural Psychology and Mental Health; or
- c) A course in Multicultural Psychology approved by the URI Psychology Department Multicultural Psychology Focus Area

2. Research component:

Students are expected to receive multicultural training through their research activities. They are to demonstrate multicultural competence in their research competency, theses, and dissertations (i.e., proposals and final write-up products) by articulating how the issue of multiculturalism has been considered at every stage of the research process. In their write-up, students should discuss how diversity variables relate to their research variables and this discussion should be integrated within relevant areas throughout the document. This is not intended to limit the student's choice of topic, participants, or method, but to assure that the student expresses the ways in which various decisions have implications on subsequent interpretation and application of results. See attached table entitled "Issues to Consider in Creating Multiculturally Competent Graduate Student Research" for examples of choices with multicultural implications, as well as attached notes describing a specific example for a research project on bullying.

3. Applied component:

To allow students the opportunity to demonstrate their multicultural competence, all students will complete one of the following activities:

- a) A practicum dealing with a diverse client group or setting where multicultural supervision is provided;
- b) Teaching a course on multicultural psychology or teaching a course in psychology (or a related discipline) in which multicultural issues are infused throughout course content;
- c) A comprehensive examination question about an issue in multicultural psychology, or written from a multicultural perspective; or
- d) A research study primarily addressing a multicultural question or involving diverse participants and which includes culturally sensitive procedures, analyses, and interpretation.

All students must complete and submit the "URI Psychology Department Multicultural Competency Verification Form" to their major professor, program director, and the department chair prior to graduation.

Issues to Consider in Creating Multiculturally Competent Graduate Student Research Projects

Research Stage	Issues to Consider/Recommendations
Problem formulation & conceptualization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural influences on research topic • Development of critical consciousness and reflexive practice
Literature Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extant literature on this topic with diverse populations • Applicability of topic on diverse populations • Existing discourse with respect to marginalized populations • Relevance of bias, privilege, power, and disenfranchisement
Methodology and Methods	<p><i>Participants</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine demographic characteristics in the population • Power study to detect differences <p><i>Concept, Measurement, and Instrumentation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implications of etic and emic concepts • Content validity and appropriateness of norms • Cultural response sets and threats to validity • Content and process of demographic data gathering <p><i>Institutional Review Board</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment strategy and impact on sample diversity • Recruitment of individuals from protected groups • Consent process (e.g., reading level, translation)
Statistical Analyses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider statistical issues included in JARS (2008) for cultural relevance • Examine and handle missing data • Conduct subgroup analyses for psychometric differences • Conduct subgroup analyses for differences in outcome and performance • Identify and analyze impact of socio-demographic variables
Interpretation & Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify multicultural literature that might explain between- or within-group differences • Note relevant limitations (i.e., generalizability to socio-demographic groups, psychometric properties of instruments, etc.) • Include future directions for inclusive research in the area • Limitations address how conclusions drawn from the study findings might be limited by sample characteristics
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check for biased language (consult APA publication manual)

Note: Specific example includes: A research project investigating bullying.

- a) The write-up describes if this is a problem reported more for one group over another (e.g., girls/women more than for boys/men; one racial/ethnic group over another; straight versus gay; etc.).
- b) The write-up specifies the characteristics of the sample, and also addresses limitations in conclusions that can be drawn from the findings related to the sample characteristics.

URI Psychology Department Multicultural Competency Verification Form

Student name: _____ Date: _____
Program (circle one): M.A. M.S. Ph.D.
Area (Behavioral Science, Clinical, School): _____

This is to certify that I have completed the Multicultural Competence requirement by successfully completing the following activities (*one component per category*):

1. Didactic component:

_____ PSY600
_____ PSY643
_____ A course in Multicultural Psychology approved by the URI Psychology Department Multicultural Focus Area. List name of course here: _____

2. Research component:

- a. *Research competency:* Incorporated multicultural considerations into research competency? Yes _____ No _____
- b. *Masters thesis proposal:* Incorporated multicultural considerations into thesis proposal? Yes _____ No _____
- c. *Dissertation proposal:* Incorporated multicultural considerations into dissertation proposal? Yes _____ No _____

3. Applied component:

_____ Practicum (List course # and title): _____
_____ Teaching (List course # and title): _____
_____ Research project (List title): _____
_____ Comprehensive exam question (List title): _____
_____ Other (Describe): _____

Student print name here

Major professor print name here

Student signature here

Major professor signature here