Department of Psychology: 10 Undergraduate Learning Goals & Outcomes

1. **Knowledge Base of Psychology:** Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
   a. having a well-defined vocabulary
   b. basic knowledge of the critical subject matter of psychology (e.g., a curriculum)
   c. understanding that psychology is a science

2. **Research Methods:** Students will understand and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research designs, data analysis, and interpretation.
   a. understanding different research methods
   b. evaluating the appropriateness of different methods
   c. critically evaluating research reported in the media
   d. design and conduct basic studies
   e. valuing the intellectual challenges required to use scientific thinking

3. **Critical thinking:** Students will respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
   a. open-mindedness, tolerance for ambiguity, intellectual engagement
   b. evaluating sources
   c. creative thinking
   d. effective problem solving

4. **Applications:** Students will understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.
   a. applying psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues in work, relationships, and the broader community
   b. knowing the applied areas (e.g., clinical, I/O)
   c. applying psychological principles to solving problems
   d. recognizing ethically complex situations

5. **Values:** Students will be able to weigh evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a discipline.
   a. acting ethically
   b. skepticism (taking a creative and amiable skeptic approach)
   c. tolerance for ambiguity
   d. respect for diversity
   e. knowing the limits of psychological knowledge and skills

6. **Information and Technological Literacy:** Students will demonstrate information competence and the ability to use computers and other technology for many purposes.
   a. being competent in using and evaluating information
   b. skilled in the use of computers, technology, and discipline specific software
   c. ethical use of technology

7. **Communication Skills:** Students will be able to communicate effectively in a variety of formats.
   a. communicating effectively in different modes and with many different audiences
   b. ability to collaborate (teamwork)
   c. quantitative literacy

8. **Sociocultural and International Awareness:** Students will recognize, understand, and respect the complexity of sociocultural and international diversity.
   a. recognizing, understanding, and fostering respect for diversity
   b. understanding sociocultural contexts of behavior
   c. recognizing prejudice
9. **Personal Development**: Students will develop insight into their own and others’ behavior and mental processes and apply effective strategies for self-management and self-improvement.
   a. being insightful and reflective about own and others’ behavior and mental processes.
   b. applying psychological principles to promote personal development
   c. self-management strategies

10. **Career Planning and Development**: Students will emerge from the major with realistic ideas about how to implement their psychological knowledge, skills, and values in occupational pursuits in a variety of settings.