

Evaluate Comprehension of Theories and Concepts in Child and Adolescent Studies Students

Child and Adolescent Studies BS - College of Health and Human Development

Step 1: Student Learning Outcome

Students will be able to describe and/or explain relevant theories, concepts and related research findings

Step 2: Methods and Measures

Evaluation consisted of a common essay response item on the final exam requiring students to describe the theory as well as the relevant concepts for Bronfenbrenner's Ecological System's Theory.

Assessment was based on 6-point rubric used by an assessment committee (inter-rater reliability reported to be at least .70). Students were rated as, Exceeds Competency, Meets Competency, or Fails to Meet Competency.

Step 3: Criteria of Success

Successful completion of this SLO was considered met if students achieved a "meets" or "exceeds competency" rating based on a rubric and assessment by committee.

Step 4: Results

55% of the student sample who took the exam on Bronfenbrenner's Ecological System's Theory achieved a rating of "meets" or "exceeds" competency" (4 or higher) as rated on the rubric.

Step 5: Improvement Actions

Findings were discussed with all instructors and the information was disseminated to students.

In light of the findings, learning goals associated with CAS 325A were revised for clarification of theories to be taught.

In addition, pedagogical strategies for effective, engaging approaches to teaching theory were gathered and posted on the department's learning management system.

Preliminary follow-up analyses have already indicated the majority of students are now meeting competency with this SLO.