

**Ministry of Education**

**Identified Competency Focus Areas and Core Courses for Ethiopian Higher Education Institutions’ Exit Examination**

**Program: - BA in Psychology**

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Contents

[**1.** **Introduction** 3](#_Toc109137579)

[**2.** **Expected Profile Of Graduates** 3](#_Toc109137580)

[**3.** **Competencies for Graduates** 4](#_Toc109137581)

[**4.** **Categorizing Courses in to Themes** 6](#_Toc109137582)

[**5.** **Matching Competencies with Courses** 7](#_Toc109137583)

[**6.** **Summary** 9](#_Toc109137584)

1. **Introduction**

Quality of education can be achieved by carrying out set of activities in an integrated manner. Among these, assessment of learning outcomes and achievements of competencies periodically is critical. Cognizant of this, MOE has already started the implementation of exit examination in fields such as legal and medical /health sciences. As part of an effort to upscale best practices in examination, the Ministry is committed to start implementation in many other fields, in which Psychology is included at a national level as of 2015 E.C. A two days’ workshop was organized by the MOE in Bishoftu at Bin International Hotel to prepare this guideline.

The undergraduate Psychology program is hosted in 34 public universities nationally. Among the research universities, Bahir Dar and Addis Ababa Universities are given the mandate to develop this guideline for the exit exam preparation. This draft guideline is generally prepared by consulting international experiences and with intention of putting all undergraduate Psychology programs on the same page in making necessary academic and administrative preparations to effectively implement the exit exam. Most importantly, it will have immense benefits in making students ready and prepare in advance for the examination.

To this end, competencies of undergraduate program Psychology graduates and thirteen courses have been identified from the nationally harmonized curriculum. Then, competencies are matched with courses to guide the preparation of examination for Psychology graduates.

The guideline is organized in Six Sections and is presented here under.

1. **Expected Profile Of Graduates**

* Provide professional assistance to individuals with personal, social, family , and educational problems
* Offer guidance and counseling services to students and other special groups such as street children, people living with HIV/AIDS, displaced individuals, orphans etc.
* Provide professional assistance on psychosocial and educational issues to school teachers, managers, administrators, workers in justice system, health professionals and relevant others
* Act as a resource person in test development and statistical techniques at the academic and non-academic institutions.
* Give various psychological trainings at academic and non-academic settings
* Conduct scientific research in various specialties of psychology
* Develop critical thinking in solving problems

1. **Competencies for Graduates**

Competence is variously defined, and in this context, it involves the possession and demonstration of knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for the level of performance expected from Psychology graduates. The main competencies and core areas are presented below.

**Theme One- Fundamentals of Psychology Competencies**

* Use psychological principles and theories to understand and explain their behavior and others’
* Assist others to understand how the psychological factors influence their day to day life experiences

**Theme Two- Lifespan Human Development competencies**

* Understand theories of child and adolescent development
* Distinguish the different aspects and stages of development
* Consult various groups on child and adolescent development

**Theme Three- Psychology of Education and Psychological Assessment competencies**

* Measure academic achievements using appropriate assessment instruments.
* Use and appreciate standardized tests.
* Monitor assessment practices of schools and other academic institutions.
* Understand application of psychological principles in teaching-learning process and settings.

**Theme Four- Research and Statistical Methods and Project in Psychology competencies**

* Apply a scientific approach in conducting psychological research
* Prepare and use appropriate data gathering instruments.
* Develop psychological research proposals
* Summarize research results using statistical techniques

**Theme Five- Social Psychology Competencies**

* Understand attitude formation
* Apply persuasion techniques to change attitude and behavior of people
* Apply techniques of social influence in various social settings
* Design possible mechanisms to enhance pro- social behaviors
* Apply aggression reduction mechanisms in the society
* Comprehend organizational and industrial behavioral patterns of employees, leaders and owners
* Appreciate the application of the social psychology in various settings
* Apply various psychological principles to improve organizational productivity
* Understand concepts of social relations

**Theme Six- Counseling Psychology Competencies**

* Organize, manage and administer guidance and counseling services in different organizations
* Comprehend current counseling psychology theories
* Understand the "process" in the therapeutic relationship and its effect on intervention.
* Provide counseling related services to reproductive health, marital issues, career and developmental aspects
* Appreciate ethical principles in providing counseling service
* Apply counseling techniques and skills on various groups of clients
* Consult leaders and policy makers on prevention and intervention strategies of different Psychosocial issues

**Theme Seven- Health and Clinical Psychology Competencies**

* Understand the main diagnostic classification systems of psychological disorders
* Understand etiology and characteristics of various psychological disorders
* Apply therapeutic techniques in treating people with mental disorders

1. **Categorizing Courses in to Themes**

Categories of courses with respect to major themes are presented as follows.

**Theme One: Fundamentals of psychology**-

* General Psychology
* Personality Psychology

**Theme Two: Lifespan Human Development-**

* Psychology of Childhood
* Psychology of Adolescence

**Theme Three: Psychology of Education and Psychological Assessment**

* Educational Psychology
* Educational Assessment and Evaluation

**Theme Four: Research and Statistical Methods and Project in Psychology**

* Statistical Methods in Psychology I
* Research Methods in Psychology

**Theme Five: Social Psychology**-

* Introduction to Social Psychology
* Industrial/Organizational Psychology

**Theme Six: Counseling Psychology**

* Introduction to Guidance and Counseling- knowledge
* Theories and Techniques of Counseling- Skill

**Theme Seven: Health and Clinical Psychology**

* Psychopathology

1. **Matching Competencies with Courses**

| ***S.N.*** | ***Competence*** | ***Achievement*** | ***Theme*** | ***Course*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Use psychological principles and theories to understand and explain their behavior and others’ | Knowledge | Fundamental | General Psychology |
| Assist others to understand how the psychological factors influence their day to day life experiences | Knowledge | Personality Psychology |
| 2 | Understand theories of child and adolescent development | Knowledge | Lifespan Human Development | Psychology of Childhood/Adolescence |
| Distinguish the different aspects and stages of development | Knowledge/attitude | Psychology of Childhood/Adolescence |
| Consult various groups on child and adolescent development | Skill | Psychology of Childhood/Adolescence |
| 3 | Measure academic achievements using appropriate assessment instruments | Skill | Psychology of Education and Psychological Assessment | Educational Assessment and Evaluation |
| Use and appreciate standardized tests | Skill/attitude | Educational Assessment and Evaluation |
| Understand application of psychological principles in teaching-learning process and settings | Knowledge | Educational Psychology |
| 4 | Apply a scientific approach in conducting psychological research | Skill | Research and Statistical Methods and Project in Psychology | Statistical Methods/ Research Methods in Psychology |
| Prepare and use appropriate data gathering instruments | Knowledge/Skill | Statistical Methods/ Research Methods in Psychology |
| Develop psychological research proposals | Skill | Statistical Methods/ Research Methods in Psychology |
| Summarize research results using statistical techniques | Knowledge/Skill | Statistical Methods/ Research Methods in Psychology |
| 5 | Understand attitude formation | Knowledge | Social Psychology | Introduction to Social Psychology |
| Apply persuasion techniques to change attitude and behavior of people | Skill | Introduction to Social Psychology |
| Apply techniques of social influence in various social settings | Skill | Introduction to Social Psychology |
| Design possible mechanisms to enhance pro- social behaviors | Skill | Introduction to Social Psychology |
| Apply aggression reduction mechanisms in the society/organizations | Skill | Introduction to Social Psychology/I/O |
| Comprehend organizational and industrial behavioral patterns of employees, leaders and owners | Knowledge/attitude | Industrial/Organizational Psychology |
| Appreciate the application of the social psychology in various settings | Attitude | Introduction to Social Psychology |
| Apply various psychological principles to improve organizational productivity | Skill | Industrial/Organizational Psychology |
| Understand concepts of social relations | Knowledge | Introduction to Social Psychology |
| 6 | Organize, manage and administer guidance and counseling services in different organization | Knowledge/Skill/Attitude | Counseling Psychology | Introduction to Guidance and Counseling and  Theories and Techniques of Counseling |
| Comprehend current counseling psychology theories | Knowledge |
| Understand the "process" in the therapeutic relationship and its effect on intervention | Knowledge |
| Provide counseling related services to reproductive health, marital issues, career and developmental aspects | Skill/Attitude |
| Appreciate ethical principles in providing counseling service | Attitude |
| Apply counseling techniques and skills on various groups of clients | Skill |
|  | Consult leaders and policy makers on prevention and intervention strategies of different Psychosocial issues | Knowledge/Skill |
| 7 | Understand the main diagnostic classification systems of psychological disorders | Knowledge | Health and Clinical Psychology | Psychopathology |
| Understand etiology and characteristics of various psychological disorders | Knowledge |
| Apply therapeutic techniques in treating people with mental disorders | Skill |

1. **Summary**

Competencies are important in guiding the preparation of exit examination. Matching of courses selected from the national curriculum with specific graduates’ competencies is made. This document offers a general guidance for Professors, administrators and students for making preparations for undergraduate psychology exit examination.