Occidental Psychology Department
Student Writing Portfolio

All psychology majors must submit a portfolio of their writing samples from psychology classes. The writing samples are evaluated primarily to determine whether a student passes Occidental College's departmental writing requirement, but also used to assess how our curriculum and teaching are reflected in students' collective development as writers.

Basic Departmental Criteria:

- ❖ Student can write clear, succinct papers following basic writing principles and using proper grammar.

- ❖ Student can select appropriate research materials.

- ❖ Student can summarize accurately and evaluate theory and research critically, making sensible judgments about the quality of published literature, including specific features of research designs and statistical analyses.

- ❖ Student can integrate concepts across the sub-disciplines within psychology, and, to some extent, integrate his/her foundation in psychology with other disciplines.

- ❖ Student can demonstrate an understanding of differences between individuals, groups, or species, and can use psychological concepts and principles to explain how those differences (i.e., diversity) relate meaningfully to an issue of social justice and/or well-being.

- ❖ Student can format papers in APA style. Students are encouraged to review the department's policy on APA style in student papers (see departmental website) and the *American Psychological Association*'s *Publication Manual*.

Portfolio Submission Requirements

Gather past writing assignments. You should not edit these papers heavily before submitting them, as the department needs to collect the original works. However, basic spelling errors and errors in APA format may be corrected prior to submission.

Students must select specific writing samples to fulfill requirements listed on the checklist (on the next page). Students can use the same paper to fulfill multiple requirements; *in theory*, a single 20-page paper could be submitted. Portfolios that do not meet the requirements listed in the checklist will be rejected and not evaluated.

LAST NAME: _____ **FIRST NAME:** _____

CHECKLIST

After gathering appropriate writing samples, please put checkmarks below to indicate that your portfolio meets each of the following requirements:

_____ Contains a <u>total</u> of <u>at least</u> <u>20 full pages</u> of written text (excluding title pages, reference pages, figures, appendices, etc.).

_____ Includes at least <u>one sample</u> that is at least <u>8 full pages of written text in APA style</u>.

_____ Contains an "**integrative**" writing sample that <u>integrates</u> material across 2 or more subdisciplines in psychology OR across 2 or more levels of analysis within a discipline.

_____ Contains a "**diversity**" writing sample that explains the nature of differences between individuals, groups, or species, and how those differences affect an issue of social justice and/or well-being.

_____ You have completed the form below, indicating which writing samples are your: 8-page APA style paper, integrative paper, and diversity paper.

▬ ▬

In the spaces below, please list the title of the papers that meet specific requirements.

APA-style, 8-page Sample
Title:

_____

Integrative Sample
Title:

_____

Diversity Sample
Title:

_____