

# Psychology Comprehensive Exam

The Psychology Comprehensive Exam (PCE) is part of the Department of Psychology's efforts to improve the quality of its curriculum; consequently, **your participation is very important** to the Department!

## Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Do I HAVE to take the PCE?
  - Yes. Beginning with the Fall 2007 catalog, a Senior Exit Evaluation is a graduation requirement for all psychology majors. The PCE is that Exit Evaluation.
2. Why is it a graduation requirement?
  - Your performance allows the department to get a better understanding of how good a job we are doing at teaching our majors. It may help us identify and improve weak areas in our curriculum. The purpose of the test is to evaluate our program, not individual students.
3. Will I get any kind of notification about when I have to take it?
  - Yes. The PCE will show up as a "course" on your WebCT class list, and you will receive an email from Dr. Brito instructing you to take the exam.
4. When will I have to take it?
  - You have to take the PCE toward the end of the semester for which you have applied to graduate.
5. Where do I take it?
  - You take it online. The PCE will show up as a "course" on your WebCT class list.
6. How long will it take?
  - The PCE usually takes less than 1 hour to complete. However, you will be able to save your work and continue at a later time.
7. What information does the PCE cover?
  - The PCE consists of 70 multiple-choice items reflecting 6 areas in psychology: Developmental, Social, Abnormal/Personality, Stats/Research Methods, Cognitive/Learning, and Physiological/Sensation & Perception
8. Will my score on the PCE affect my graduation?
  - No. Your performance on the PCE will be absolutely confidential and will in no way affect your graduation. Only the assessment committee chair will ever have access to individual student scores.
9. Can I find out my score?
  - Yes, through WebCT you will be able to see right away your score. You will also be able to find out how you performed relative to other students.
10. How will the information be used?
  - Scores on the PCE will be averaged across various student groups, and used in a number of Departmental Reports. The results will also be discussed by various Department faculty members as we consider what our students are learning about psychology and the courses we offer.
11. Who do I contact for more information?
  - You can contact Dr. Brito ([cfbrito@eiu.edu](mailto:cfbrito@eiu.edu)) for general questions or Dr. Stowell ([jrstowell@eiu.edu](mailto:jrstowell@eiu.edu)) for technical/WebCT questions.
12. I'm graduating this semester, but I haven't received any notification or email about taking the exam; it's not showing up on WebCT. What do I do?
  - First, check PAWS and/or your degree audit to verify that you have applied to graduate on time for this semester. If that is in order, contact Dr. Brito ([cfbrito@eiu.edu](mailto:cfbrito@eiu.edu)).