

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Florida A&M University

AFRICAN-CENTERED PSYCHOLOGY

MISSION STATEMENT

- “The Department of Psychology exposes students to the *science of behavior*, provides a foundation for the pursuit of *advanced degrees* in the field and in related disciplines, and offers students multicultural *perspectives* for understanding *human nature and functioning* at undergraduate and graduate levels.”
- “A unique multicultural programmatic framework distinguishes our programs. The emphasis of this thrust is primarily, although not exclusively, on the *reconceptualization and application* of psychology to the experiences of people of African descent.”

DEPARTMENTAL GOALS

- 1. Define African psychological experiences from an African-centered perspective.***
- 2. In student training, provide experiences to increase self-knowledge and self-acceptance through the examination of our collective past, present and future.***

DEPARTMENTAL GOALS (CONT.)

- 3. Prepare graduates of whom a large majority pursue and complete PhD degrees.*
- 4. Prepare graduates of whom a large majority demonstrate self-acceptance which extends to the acceptance others and to the uplifting of our community.*

*‘Let our collective action tell the story of our Department’s determination and **commitment** to our students ... and affirm the right of our Department to exist and to develop students to their **fullest potential**’ (O. Miller, 2010)*

Guiding Principles:

Departmental Objectives are based on the beliefs that:

The highest value of life lies in the interpersonal relationships between humans

- ‘Social associations, connections, or affiliations between two or more people’
- ‘Interactions and communications centered around something(s) shared in common’
- Instead of value in the object, or in the acquisition of the object

Based on Molefi Asanti’s definition of Afrocentrism

Guiding Principles:

Departmental Objectives are based on the beliefs that:

One gains knowledge through symbolic imagery and rhythm

- Knowledge is gain, not through simple counting or measuring
- ‘Attributing symbolic meanings or significance to objects, events, or relationships’
- Consideration of intangible conditions or truths

Based on Molefi Asanti’s definition of Afrocentrism

Guiding Principles:

Departmental Objectives are based on the beliefs that:

- **One should live in harmony with nature**
 - Should not attempt to control and dominate nature
 - Make world a better place; improve health of Earth
 - Environmentally sound, sustainable
- **There is a oneness between humans and nature**
 - Not a dichotomy, or separateness
 - Respect all life; interconnections

Based on Molefi Asanti's definition of Afrocentrism

Guiding Principles:

Departmental Objectives are based on the beliefs that:

- **The survival of the group holds the utmost importance**
 - Not survival of the fittest
- **Humans should appropriately utilize the materials around them**
 - Not have an unlimited exploitation of the materials around them/Wasteful

Based on Molefi Asanti's definition of Afrocentrism

Guiding Principles:

Departmental Objectives are based on the beliefs that:

- **One's self is complementary to others**
 - Interconnected, not distinct from others
- **Change occurs in a natural, evolutionary cycle**
 - Not arbitrary/chance, nor simply to meet the immediate objectives

Based on Molefi Asanti's definition of Afrocentrism

Guiding Principles:

Departmental Objectives are based on the beliefs that:

- **Cooperation, collective responsibility, and interdependence are the key values to which all should strive to achieve**
 - Not Competition, independence, separateness, and individual rights
- **All humans are considered to: be equal, share a common bond, and be a part of the group**
 - Opposed to individualistic, unique, and different

Based on Molefi Asanti's definition of Afrocentrism

Guiding Principles:

Departmental Objectives are based on the beliefs that:

The Afrocentric worldview is a circular one, in which all events are tied together with one another

- Rather than linear, in which all events are separate and there is no togetherness

Based on Molefi Asanti's definition of Afrocentrism

“The mission of the Psychology Department is to provide personal and academic excellence through unity, responsibility, and cooperation.

This goal is realized only by the collective work of the numerous vital elements in this department contributing to our efforts to elevate and empower Our Department, Our Communities, and Our Profession!”

***I am because WE are
and therefore WE are
because I am.***

(Asante Proverb)