

Perceived vs. Actual: Bridging the Gap in the Understanding of Psychology Majors' Skills

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Background

- Psychology majors → high underemployment rates
- KSAs: **K**nowledge, **S**kills, and **A**ilities
- KSAs from psychology curriculum
 - Includes sought-after characteristics by employers

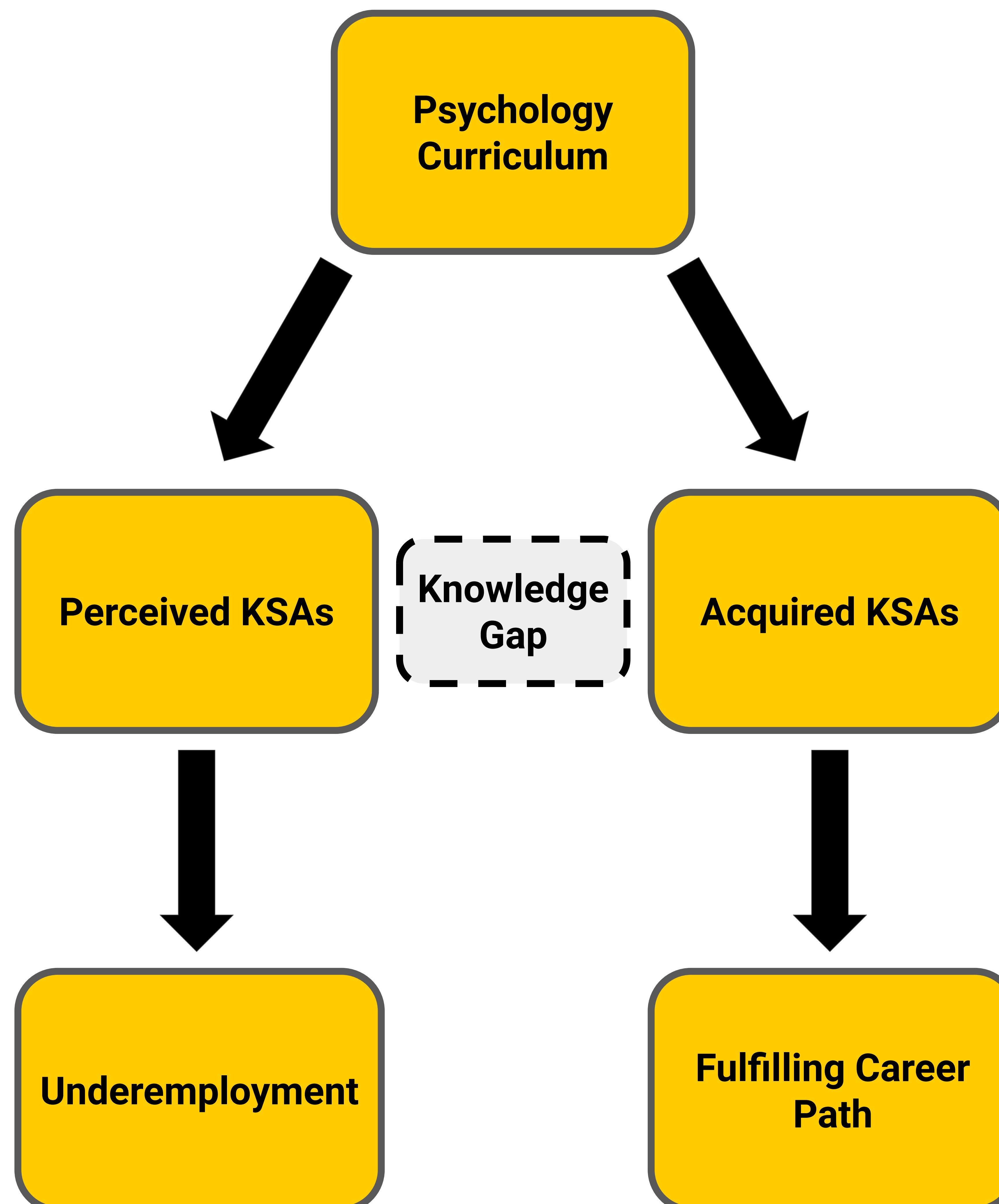
Methods

- Questionnaire employing Qualtrics
- Questionnaire Focus
 - Perceived KSAs
 - Awareness of career development opportunities
 - Awareness of careers in psychology
 - Commitment to prospective career

References

1. American Psychological Association. (2023, August). APA guidelines for the undergraduate psychology major. <https://www.apa.org/about/policy/undergraduate-psychology-major.pdf>
2. National Association of Colleges and Employers. (2016). Job outlook 2016. <https://www.nacweb.org/career-development/trends-and-predictions/job-outlook-2016-attributes-employers-want-to-see-on-new-college-graduates-resumes/>

Is there a gap in the perceived vs actual KSAs of psychology undergraduates?



Expected Results

- Knowledge gap in perceived vs. actual KSAs
- Lack of student awareness
 - Career development resources
 - Careers outside of graduate school
- Uncertainty about prospective career paths

Implications

- For psychology undergraduates
 - Understanding of actual KSAs
 - Ability to accurately market KSAs
 - Fulfilling employment opportunities
- For employers
 - Utilize the KSAs of psychology undergraduates
- For psychology departments
 - Accurately market and articulate job-ready value of the degree