



# Commission on Accreditation

## Winter 2024 Update

CoA Leadership

Stephanie C. Wood, PhD  
Chair

F. Myron Hays, PhD, ABPP  
Associate Chair, Program Review

Janay B. Sander, PhD  
Associate Chair, Quality Assurance



Welcome to the Commission on Accreditation Winter 2024 Update. I'm Stephanie Wood, Chair of the CoA. Leadership of the Commission also includes Dr. Myron Hays, Associate Chair for Program Review and Dr. Janay Sander, Associate Chair for Quality Assurance.

# Commission on Accreditation

- ◆ At least 32-members representing broad constituencies
- ◆ Responsible for the accreditation criteria of programs in health service psychology
- ◆ Meets four times annually
- ◆ Recognized by US Department of Education and the CHEA
  - Doctoral, Internship, and Postdoctoral Residency Programs
  - Master's Programs



The Commission on Accreditation is a body of at least 32-members representing broad constituencies in psychology with public representation and is responsible for formulating, promulgating, and implementing accreditation policies, procedures, and criteria for the accreditation of programs in health service psychology. **The 2024 CoA currently has 35 members, with special appointments made to address some of the ongoing work of the accrediting body.**

Meetings are held four times a year with a meeting in early February to consider policy-related matters and three Program Review Meetings in April, July, and October to act on programs seeking accreditation or re-accreditation.

The Commission is recognized by both the Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. At this time, the CoA accredits doctoral, internship, and postdoctoral residency programs. However, the Commission is working on the accreditation of master's programs with plans to submit a change of scope request to its recognition bodies in the future.

# Commission on Accreditation

**419**

## Doctoral programs

256 Clinical  
72 School  
76 Counseling  
15 Combined

**178**

## Postdoctoral Residency programs

96 Clinical  
10 Clinical Child  
12 Clinical Health  
45 Clinical Neuro  
1 Forensic  
3 Geropsychology  
11 Rehabilitation

**665** Internship programs

\* as of October 28, 2023



The CoA accredits a total of 1,262 programs at the doctoral, internship, and postdoctoral residency levels in health service psychology (HSP) as of the close of the Fall 2023 program review meeting on Oct 28, 2023.

## History of Accredited Programs

Year	Doctoral	Internship	Postdoctoral	Total
1948	36	—	—	36
1958	78	62	—	140
1968	97	102	—	199
1978	140	138	—	278
1988	246	347	—	593
1998	312	450	2	764
2008	374	469	48	891
2018	406	630	144	1180
2019	395	642	164	1201
2020	396	645	174	1215
2021	414	647	175	1235
2022	419	659	177	1255
2023	419	665	178	1262



The history of accredited programs shows an increase in the number and type of programs across time. Currently, there are 419 doctoral, 665 internship, and 178 postdoctoral programs.

# Master's Accreditation

## Phase 3a

Development of practices for accreditation review

IRs for procedures with public comment period(s)

Implementation of initial accreditation review



## Phase 3b

All programs are eligible to apply for accreditation review

Submission of scope expansion to recognition bodies



The accreditation of Master's programs has been occurring in phases.

In the first two phases, which are not reflected in this slide, the Commission developed the Standards of Accreditation for Master's programs and approved these standards following multiple rounds of public comment. The Standards were also approved as policy by APA Council after being vetted by APA's Board of Educational Affairs. This phase included the development of the Accreditation Operating Procedures for Master's programs as well as the development of Implementing Regulations related to the Standards of Accreditation for Master's programs and the Accreditation Operating Procedures for Master's programs.

Also, the Commission approved the Accreditation Operating Procedures, or AOP, for Master's programs. The AOP was approved as policy by APA Governance after being vetted by APA's Board of Educational Affairs and approved by APA's Board of Directors. During this phase, the Commission finalized Implementing Regulations related to the Standards of Accreditation for Master's programs following public comment.

In phase 3a, the Commission has developed practices for accreditation review and is finalizing Implementing Regulations related to the Accreditation Operating Procedures for Master's programs. During this phase, the Commission is also initiating accreditation review of a set of master's degree programs, that reflect the field of master's degree

education in HSP.

In phase 3b, all master's programs will be eligible to apply for APA accreditation and the Commission will submit an expansion of scope request to its recognition bodies.

## Site Visitors

- ◆ In-person site visits
- ◆ Vital role in the accreditation process
- ◆ Rewarding way to serve the profession
  - 25 hours of Continuing Education (CE) credit
  - A one-year APA journal subscription
- ◆ Master's expertise



Since Spring of 2023, the Commission has transitioned back to in-person site visits with virtual visits only completed due to unique circumstances. The CoA encourages you to consider becoming a site visitor if you are not one already. Site visitors play a vital role in the accreditation process, and serving as a site visitor is a rewarding way to serve the profession of psychology. Currently, site visitors who complete one visit and the required site visit report for a doctoral, internship, or postdoctoral residency program in a year are allowed either **25 hours of Continuing Education (CE) credit or a one-year APA journal subscription.**

The growing diversity in education and training has led a need for a robust group of site visitors with a particular need for chairs, generalists, and site visitors with master's expertise.

# Site Visitor Criteria

## Health Service Psychologists

- Doctoral degree (APA accredited program)
- Five years post-degree experience
- APA accredited training program faculty or training staff
- Formal association with an accredited training program (independent service delivery)
- Doctoral, internship, or postdoctoral program site visit teams

## Generalists

- Doctoral degree (accredited institution)
- Five years post-degree experience
- Doctoral department or school faculty
- Responsible for delivering graduate psychology education
- Doctoral program site visit teams only



Site visitors are classified as either health service psychologists (if they practice in the areas of clinical, counseling, and school) or generalists (if they practice in the areas of psychology outside the scope of accreditation). Both health service psychologists and generalist site visitors are knowledgeable about educational, professional, and scientific issues in psychology as well as active members of professional organizations within psychology. Health Service Psychologist site visitors may serve on doctoral, internship, or postdoctoral site visit teams.

Health service psychology site visitors have a doctoral degree from an APA accredited program with at least five years of post-degree professional experience. This experience may include postdoctoral training. They also are involved as faculty or training staff in an APA accredited training program or have had an association with an APA training program within the past five years. If candidates are primarily engaged in independent service delivery, they have a formal association (e.g., adjunct faculty, external supervisor, didactics) with an accredited training program.

Generalists have a doctoral degree from an accredited institution with at least five years of post-degree professional experience. They have also been or are involved as faculty in a doctoral department or school that is within a regionally accredited institution with responsibility for delivering graduate psychology education that is



not substantially online. Retired generalist candidates have had such association within the last five years. In comparison to health service psychologists, generalists are only able to serve on doctoral program site visit teams.

More information on the site visitor application process and upcoming site visitor workshops can also be found in the "site visitors" section of the Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation website: [accreditation.apa.org](http://accreditation.apa.org)

# Interim Reporting

- ◆ For programs receiving ten years between periodic reviews
  - Due on January 1 of the fifth year
  - Submitted via the CoA Portal
- ◆ Requirements
  - Record Keeping (Doctoral I.D.4, Internship I.C.4, & Postdoctoral I.C.5)
  - Proximal Outcome Data (Doctoral II.D.1.a, Internship II.D.1.a, & Postdoctoral II.D.1.b)
  - Distal Outcome Data (Doctoral, Internship, & Postdoctoral II.D.1.b)
  - Communication (Doctoral, Internship, & Postdoctoral V.B.2)



Interim reports are required of programs that receive ten years between periodic reviews. The Implementing Regulation for Interim Reports indicates that these are due on January 1st of the fifth year. To date, programs that received 10 years accreditation or reaccreditation in 2017 and 2018 have had interim reports due.

These interim reports focus on a program's status regarding Record Keeping, Proximal Outcome Data, Distal Outcome Data, and Communication.

The Commission has provided interim report preparation sheets which can be found in the "programs" section at [accreditation.apa.org](http://accreditation.apa.org).

# IR Changes

- ◆ C-13 D, C-15 I, and C-15 P. Telesupervision
  - Included “supervision” definition
  - Removed limit on practicum site’s amount of telesupervision
  - Effective October 1, 2023
  - For doctoral-, internship-, and postdoctoral residency-level programs
- ◆ C-2 P. Accreditation Process for Postdoctoral Residencies
  - What constitutes a program graduate
  - Justification for non-specialty programs lasting longer than one year of full-time training



In 2023, the Commission made changes to the telesupervision IR at the doctoral, internship, and postdoctoral residency levels by including a definition of “supervision” and removing a former limit on the amount of telesupervision a site could provide. These IRs were approved in July 2023 and became effective on October 1, 2023.

The Commission also made changes focusing on the length of postdoctoral residency programs in IR C-2 P by expressing a need for programs longer than one year of full-time training to justify their program length and including a condition that a program graduate must have completed the entirety of the program. This IR was approved in July 2023 and became effective immediately.

## IR Changes (cont.)

- ◆ C-11 D. Distance and Electronically Mediated Education in Doctoral Programs
  - Distance and electronically mediated education
  - Effective October 1, 2023
  
- ◆ D.4-7(b). Thresholds for Student Achievement Outcomes in Doctoral Programs
  - Reviewed thresholds used for compliance
  - Increased 3-year Attrition Rate
  - Decreased Time to Degree average
  - Decreased Time to Degree median
  - Decreased Student-Core Faculty Ratio



Correspondent to the changes in IR C-13 D, the Commission also revised IR C-11 D to incorporate telehealth by updating elements for all accredited and applicant programs to include for distance and electronically mediated education. This IR was approved in July 2023 and became effective on October 1, 2023.

The Commission reviewed the thresholds used for compliance which were established by determining the number in each area that would place a program in the bottom 5% based on a three-year average of all programs. The recommendations were to increase the 3-year Attrition Rate by half a percent and decrease the Time to Degree average by 0.26 years, the Time to Degree median by 0.05 years, and the Student to Core Faculty Ratio by 0.03. There was no recommended change to the Internship Acceptance Rate. This IR was approved in July 2023 and became effective immediately.

## IR Changes Available for Comment

- ◆ C-29 I and C-25 P Delivery of Educational Activities
  - Developed following October 2023 meeting
  - Out for public comment until January 30, 2024
  - For internship and postdoctoral level programs



During the October 2023 meeting, the Commission created two IRs at the internship and postdoctoral residency levels regarding programs' delivery of educational activities in compliance with the SoA. These IRs will require programs to evaluate their authorization to provide supervision, verification processes of trainee/resident identity, nature/sufficiency of regular/substantive interactions, and qualifications of training staff for educational activities. These IRs will be available for public comment until January 30, 2024.

## Contact Information

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This concludes the Commission on Accreditation Winter 2024 Update. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation.