



**Application for Inclusion of a
Developed Practice Area in
Professional Psychology for
Purposes of Doctoral and Internship
Program Accreditation**

Committee on Accreditation
c/o Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
Education Directorate
American Psychological Association
750 First Street NE
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Introduction and Instructions

Doctoral graduate and internship education and training in preparation for entry-level practice in professional psychology should be broad and professional in its orientation rather than narrow and technical. This preparation should be based on the existing and evolving body of knowledge, skills, and competencies that define the declared substantive practice area(s) and should be well integrated with the broad theoretical and scientific foundations of the discipline and field of psychology in general¹.

The current *Guidelines and Principles of Accreditation* (G&P) became effective on January 1, 1996. These guidelines were meant to capture the various substantive areas of professional psychology of the time (clinical, counseling, and school) while allowing for other substantive areas to emerge in the future. The lack of consensus on the nature of how those new areas would be defined led to ambiguity in the guidelines.

In 2000, the Committee on Accreditation (CoA) began efforts to further define substantive areas and how it would determine when new substantive areas emerge as noted in its statement “Accreditation of Programs in Substantive Areas and Specialties.” Following two proposals attempting to define “emerging substantive areas” in 2002 and 2004, the CoA reviewed the prior feedback it had solicited during its July 2005 meeting and considered another proposal regarding the issue of the “emerging substantive areas” language in the scope of accreditation for doctoral programs.

The 2005 proposal put forward a revision to the scope of accreditation that includes accreditation of doctoral and internship programs in “developed practice areas.” According to this proposal, the practice area(s) would have to be added to the scope of accreditation before a program could be reviewed for accreditation. This proposal preserves the traditional areas of psychology, provides flexibility and openness in the accreditation process, and provides a CoA-directed process for additional areas that want to be added to the scope of accreditation. Following the period of public comment and acceptance by the Board of Educational Affairs and APA Board of Directors, the APA Council of Representatives adopted this change to the scope of accreditation in August 2006.

The following document includes the application materials for areas wishing to be added to the scope of accreditation as “developed practice areas.” This application is focused around the criteria that were approved as part of the change to the scope of accreditation and are stated in the CoA’s Implementing Regulation C-14, which is also available on the CoA website at www.apa.org/ed/accreditation).

- ❖ *Please note that a program cannot be reviewed for accreditation in a developed practice area until that area has been added to the scope of accreditation.*
- ❖ *Areas seeking to become included in the scope of accreditation must provide all information requested in the following application.*
- ❖ *Applications not following this format will be returned without review.*
- ❖ *While there is no page limit, areas are asked to be succinct in their answers.*
- ❖ *Applications may be submitted electronically as an email attachment at apaaccred@apa.org. A CoA staff member will confirm receipt of the application.*
- ❖ *Areas may submit their applications at any time. However, in order to be reviewed during a specific CoA meeting, applications must be received at least 2 months prior to that meeting. A list of CoA meeting dates is available at <http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/acrddate.html>. Applications received after that deadline will be reviewed during the next available meeting.*

¹ See *Guidelines and Principles for Accreditation of Programs in Professional Psychology*, Section II: Guiding Principles of Accreditation.

Implementing Regulation C-14: Definition of “Developed Practice Areas” for Doctoral and Internship Programs and the Process by which Areas May be Identified as Such

Scope of Accreditation for Doctoral Programs:

The Committee on Accreditation (CoA) reviews doctoral programs in psychology that provide **broad and general** training in scientific psychology and in the foundations of practice. Practice areas include clinical psychology, counseling psychology, school psychology, and *other developed practice areas*. The CoA also reviews programs that combine two or three of the above practice areas.

Scope of Accreditation for Internship Programs:

The CoA reviews applications from internship training programs in practice areas including clinical psychology, counseling psychology, school psychology, and *other developed practice areas* or in general professional psychology.

Definition: Developed practice areas of psychology have all of the following characteristics:

- National recognition of the practice area by a national organization(s) whose purpose includes recognizing or representing and developing the practice area, by relevant divisions of the APA, or by involvement in similar umbrella organizations;
- An accumulated body of knowledge in the professional literature that provides a scientific basis for the practice area including empirical support for the effectiveness of the services provided;
- Representation by or in a national training council that is recognized, functional, and broadly accepted;
- Development and wide dissemination by the training council of doctoral educational and training guidelines consistent with the Accreditation G&P;
- Existence of the practice area in current education and training programs;
- Geographically dispersed psychology practitioners who identify with the practice area and provide such services.

Process: Steps in the identification process are:

1. Application by the training council will be initially reviewed by the CoA based upon the criteria defined above to determine the eligibility of the area for public comment on its inclusion;
2. If in this initial review, the area meets the criteria for eligibility, the CoA will invite subsequent public comment as well as inviting letters of support or concern from relevant organizations;
3. Final decision by the CoA.
4. In the case of a decision to not include the area in the scope of accreditation, the training council may file an appeal using an appeal process parallel to the current procedures for the appeal of program-level decisions. Specific procedures for that appeal will be developed.

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- ❖ *Provide the name and contact information of the training council and contact person with whom the CoA should interact regarding the application*

Title of Developed Practice Area: _____

Training Council: _____

Contact Person: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email Address: _____

- 1) State the title of the practice area:

- 2) Name(s) of national organization(s) (including APA divisions/societies) recognizing or representing and developing the practice area:
 - a) Provide evidence/documentation of practice area recognition/support by at least one national organization whose purpose includes recognizing or representing/developing the practice area or by relevant divisions of the APA or similar umbrella professional organizations (e.g. may be letters of support).

- 3) Name of national training council representing the practice area:
 - a) Provide evidence/documentation of the council's recognition, functionality, and broad acceptance (attach as Appendix).

- 4) Provide the nationally recognized definition of the practice area (e.g. may cite CRSPPP archival definition):

- 5) Provide a copy of the training council's doctoral education and training guidelines (attach as Appendix)
 - a) Describe the process of development, organized review, and distribution of these guidelines:

 - b) Discuss how these guidelines are consistent with the *Accreditation Guidelines and Principles*:

 - c) Discuss how the guidelines embody commitments to broad and general training in psychology in each of the following areas:
 - The breadth of scientific psychology including:
 - Biological aspects
 - Cognitive and affective aspects
 - Social aspects
 - History and systems
 - Psychological measurement
 - Research methodology
 - Techniques of data analysis

 - Foundations of practice in the program's substantive area including:
 - Individual differences
 - Human development

- Dysfunctional behavior/psychopathology
- Professional standards and ethics
- Diagnosing or defining problems through assessment and implementing intervention strategies (including empirically supported procedures) including exposure to the current body of knowledge in at least the following areas:
 - Theories and methods of assessment and diagnosis
 - Effective intervention
 - Consultation and supervision
 - Evaluating the efficacy of interventions

6) Provide evidence of an accumulated body of knowledge in the professional literature that provides the scientific basis for the practice area (e.g. list references):

a) Provide evidence of empirical support for the effectiveness of services offered within the practice area:

7) Provide evidence of the practice area's existence in current doctoral education and training programs in professional psychology:

a) Provide the names and contact information of 10 programs currently offering this training (use the following format and attach as Appendix):

Institution: _____
 College: _____
 Department: _____
 Program Name: _____
 Contact Person: _____
 Mailing Address: _____

 Phone: _____
 Fax: _____
 Email Address: _____

b) Submit copies of program materials (including goals, curriculum plan, etc.) for 4 exemplary programs meeting the practice area's education and training guidelines and provide contact information for these programs in the above format:

8) Provide evidence of the existence of a substantial and geographically dispersed group of practitioners within the petitioning practice area (e.g. may include reference to a membership list of a relevant professional society or division within the APA):