



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION (CoA)
POLICY AND PROCEDURE UPDATE
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Richard Seime, Ph.D.
Chair

Joyce Illfelder-Kaye, Ph.D.
Associate Chair, Program Review

Elizabeth Klonoff, Ph.D.
Associate Chair, Quality Assurance

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS

Annual Report Online Closes September 15

All accredited programs must complete the [Annual Report Online \(ARO\)](#) by September 15, 2010. Contact Jon in the Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation (OPCA) if you have any questions regarding ARO completion ([e-mail](#), 202-336-6002).

Annual Fees

Invoices for the 2010 annual [fees](#) were mailed to all accredited programs this summer. If you did not receive an invoice or have any questions about payment, please contact the OPCA. Fees are due no later than December 31, 2010.

Public Comment on IR C-16

The proposed revisions to IR C-16, Evaluating Program Adherence to the Principle of "Broad and General Preparation" for Doctoral Programs, are still available for public review and comment. Comments will be accepted through **August 20, 2010** and will be reviewed by CoA at its November meeting. To read the proposed IR revisions, view comments, or register to post comments, please visit the [Accreditation Public Comment website](#). Contact the OPCA with any questions about posting comments.

Appeal Panel Changes Finalized

The APA Board of Directors has approved CoA's changes to the [Accreditation Operating Procedures](#). These [changes to CoA's appeal process](#) were made to be consistent with the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008. The revisions to Section 5.5 alter the decision options of the appeal panel and the new Section 5.6 provides the process for review of an adverse decision made by CoA that is based solely on financial deficiencies.

Site Visit Report Templates

Site visitors are now required to utilize specific templates to complete their reports of programs. Templates for each type of program (doctoral, internship, postdoctoral) are available on the OPCA website, along with other [site visitor resources](#).

CoA SUMMER MEETING

CoA held its summer meeting on July 15-18, 2010 at the APA building, in which it reviewed 59 doctoral, internship, and postdoctoral programs for initial and continued accreditation, as well as 13 requests for change in status. The [accreditation decisions](#) taken at this meeting will be posted to the OPCA website 30 days following the meeting (August 18). In addition to program review, CoA continued important work on developing and refining accreditation policies and procedures.

Evaluating the Quality of Internship Placements in Accredited Doctoral Programs

It is expected that each accredited doctoral program provides evidence of the quality of education and training for ALL aspects of its program, including the required internship component. At its July meeting, in discussing the extent to which CoA can properly assess the quality of internship placements in accredited doctoral programs, CoA agreed that only accreditation of an internship program through a recognized accrediting body can provide such quality assurance. In the process of accreditation, the accrediting bodies of the APA and Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) review the quality of internship programs according to a set of standards that include the setting, policies and procedures, curriculum and training, supervision, resources, and program outcomes. When doctoral programs place students in internships that are not APA/CPA-accredited, those programs must provide sufficient information to allow CoA to evaluate the quality of that training. This is the case for ALL internships that are not APA/CPA-accredited, regardless of whether the internship is part of an internship membership organization (e.g. non-accredited APPIC-member programs) or any organized training group. CoA will be reviewing its guidelines for program review, instructions for provision of public information (IR C-20), and its annual thresholds for review of programs between review cycles (IRs D.4-7 and D.4-8) to ensure consistency across sources of program information for all consumers. Revisions to IR C-20 were adopted at the July meeting (discussed below).

CoA Reviewer-Program Matching Process

As stated earlier this year, CoA reaffirms the principle of peer review by individuals who have knowledge or experience with the program's model (i.e., the "Snowbird" recommendation). As such, CoA is initiating procedures that ensure that one of the CoA reviewers for each program will have knowledge or experience consistent with the program's substantive area and model (doctoral programs) and level and type of training (doctoral, internship and postdoctoral programs). CoA is in the process of closely examining each Commissioner's ability to serve as a "matched" reviewer with various types of training programs and models, and will report further progress on this initiative when it is available.

New and Revised Implementing Regulations

CoA adopted several **new** and **revised** Section "C" Implementing Regulations (IRs) at its July meeting. Section "C" of the Implementing Regulations contains policies that clarify portions of the *Guidelines and Principles* (G&P), and is the section most relevant to accredited and applicant programs with respect to program review.

The new and revised IRs are described in the table below and can be viewed by clicking on the links on the left side. The [revised 'August 2010' IR document](#) can be found on the OPCA webpage.

IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS ADOPTED AT JULY 2010 MEETING	
<p>Revised C-11(a), Accreditation Process for Postdoctoral Residencies</p>	<p>The existing IR C-11(a) describes the different formats that a postdoctoral program (or multiple programs at the same agency or institution) may use in preparing a self-study; Format #3 ('Integrated Practice Programs') is for self-studies involving two or more traditional practice or specialty practice programs. The IR was modified to replace the term <i>integrated practice programs</i> with <i>multiple practice programs</i>.</p>
<p>New C-11(c), Postdoctoral Residency Program Transitions</p>	<p>The newly adopted IR C-11(c) provides guidance to postdoctoral residency programs that may be looking to add or transition from traditional to specialty practice areas. CoA recognizes that this process is complex and that training agencies and institutions may need assistance in implementing the transition in a way that does not jeopardize accreditation of the existing program.</p>
<p>Revised C-20, Disclosure of Education/Training Outcomes and Information Allowing for Informed Decision-Making to Prospective Doctoral Students</p>	<p>The major revision to the existing IR C-20 consists of new provisions regarding the location and titling of the required public information, effective September 15, 2010, which were first announced by CoA in February of this year. Additional revisions to the IR include notification that all information must be updated by October 1 of each year and clarifications on calculating and presenting required information on time to completion, program costs, internships, attrition, and licensure. Doctoral programs are strongly urged to review the revised IR to ensure compliance with all requirements.</p>
<p>New C-27, Distance and Electronically Mediated Education in Doctoral Programs</p>	<p>The newly adopted IR C-27 is the product of multiple years of deliberation during which CoA reviewed the research and literature on distance delivery and considered the practices of other health profession accreditors in this area, all within the context of the G&P Domain A.3 on academic residency and related IR C-2. The <i>Distance and Electronically Mediated Education</i> IR was developed in recognition of current and emerging practices in higher education and in service of ensuring the quality of education and training in professional psychology. In December 2009, the CoA posted a draft of the IR for a 6-month public comment and review period. At its July meeting, CoA carefully considered the public comments gathered in response to the draft IR and made several changes designed to clarify and respond to feedback from the field. The adopted IR represents CoA's best professional judgment at this time on the evolving area of distance education in professional psychology, an area that CoA expects to revisit as more evidence and experience become available.</p>
<p>New C-28, Telesupervision</p>	<p>The newly adopted IR C-28 was developed to 1) require programs to report the extent to which they may be utilizing telesupervision within their training programs and 2) ensure that quality education and training continues if programs utilize this supervision modality. In December 2009, CoA posted a draft of the IR for a 6-month public comment and review period. At its July meeting, CoA carefully considered the public comments gathered in response to the draft IR and made several changes designed to clarify and respond to feedback from the field. Given the limited literature base regarding the use of telesupervision in psychology training at the doctoral, internship, and postdoctoral levels, the adopted IR represents CoA's best professional judgment at this time on the evolving area of telesupervision consistent with its mandate to protect the public and maintain program quality. As the literature base expands, CoA will consider revisiting the guidelines and limits imposed by this IR.</p>
<p>New C-29, Internship and Postdoctoral Residency Didactics</p>	<p>The newly adopted IR C-29 was developed to clarify the type of information required from internship and postdoctoral residency programs regarding didactic activities that may be offered as part of the training curriculum.</p>

QUESTIONS?

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation (OPCA)
 American Psychological Association
 750 1st Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002
 Phone: (202) 336-5979 Fax: (202) 336-5978
 E-mail: apaaccred@apa.org
 Web: <http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation>