



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION (CoA) POLICY AND PROCEDURE UPDATE – FEBRUARY 2010

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2009 Program Review Summary

Of the **126** full reviews and final decisions that were made in 2009:

- 121 (96%) programs were granted initial or continued accreditation
- 3 accredited programs were placed on probation
- 2 applicant programs were denied accreditation

In addition to these full reviews:

- 1 applicant program was denied a site visit
- 13 programs were granted “accredited, inactive” status for either 2009-2010 or 2010-2011
- 11 accredited programs voluntarily withdrew from accreditation

The current status of all accredited and applicant programs can be found on the Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation (OPCA) website (www.apa.org/ed/accreditation).

Fees Update for 2010

Site Visit Fees: Have increased from \$1500 to \$1700 per site visitor in light of general inflation and recent increases in travel and hotel costs. Prior to this increase, site visitor fees had remained constant since 1998.

Appeal Hearing Fees: For doctoral programs, have increased to \$2500 to be consistent with other doctoral program fees (internship and postdoctoral appeal fees remain at \$2000).

Please contact the OPCA at any time with any questions about fees or your program’s payment status at (202) 336-5979 or apaaccred@apa.org.

CoA Meeting Structure Update

Work and Policy Groups

Every CoA member is assigned to one work group and one policy group that meet during each of the CoA’s program review meetings.

2010 Work Groups:

- Training
- Research
- Complaints

2010 Policy Groups:

- Doctoral
- Internship
- Postdoctoral
- Cross-cutting

Program Review Panels

CoA is committed to fulfilling the spirit of the recommendations from the 2005 Accreditation Summit (“Snowbird”). With respect to conducting program reviews through specialized review panels, the CoA reaffirms the principle of peer review of congruent programs. In moving forward with its transition, CoA will ensure that during program review, one of the primary reviewers will have knowledge and experience consistent with the program’s substantive area and model (doctoral programs) or level and type of training (internship and postdoctoral programs); this reviewer will receive all of the program’s materials. External Program Review Consultants (PRCs) will be utilized as necessary to ensure range of expertise. CoA will continue to ensure heterogeneity of reviewers on all panels, believing that this diversity is integral to its reviews and is consistent with the principles discussed in Snowbird.

CoA will be working with the different training groups to better define what constitutes the reviewer-program match described above. The exact nature of this process will be determined no later than the CoA’s July 2010 meeting, and the peer review process will be fully implemented by the April 2011 meeting.

As the implementation of these plans evolves, the CoA intends to communicate its efforts to be consistent with the principles of Snowbird, so that the process is more transparent.

Accreditation Assembly: Past and Future

Beginning in 2007, the CoA hosted an annual Accreditation Assembly to engage with its various constituency groups and provide training, another recommendation that came out of the Snowbird meeting. The CoA is not holding a stand-alone Assembly in 2010 because of the opportunity afforded by the CCTC Joint Conference to meet these goals. For 2011 and 2012, an alternative to a stand alone Assembly will be used. Representatives of the CoA and OPCA will be attending meetings of the different training councils and other groups to provide training, engage in discussions, and receive input from interested parties. Details regarding the implementation of this plan will be made public when available.

Public Information for Doctoral Programs

As of 2007, IR C-20 requires accredited doctoral programs to make available to the public specific information about its education and training outcomes. In reviewing this information over the last several years, the CoA has run across many instances where the information was difficult to locate, inaccurately presented, or hard to understand from the perspective of a student. In an effort to ensure that the information for each program is available to the public in a more consistent fashion, the CoA announces two new requirements that will be effective for all accredited doctoral programs as of **September 15, 2010**:

- The required information must be titled “*Student Admissions, Outcomes, and Other Data*”
- If the program has a website, the information must be located no more than “one click” away from the main/home doctoral program web page.

After September 15, CoA and OPCA staff will be checking to see that each doctoral program is compliant with the above requirements, and that the data provided are consistent with the program’s data from academic year 2009-2010. CoA will continue to review the information it requires in C-20, as well as the format of that information, and will likely post some changes in the required elements with specified dates for compliance in the near future.

New and Revised Implementing Regulations (IRs)

As a reminder, to ensure compliance with all relevant policies, all programs should periodically consult the OPCA website for the latest version of the IRs and other news items. Section “C” of the IRs contains the policies which clarify portions of the *Guidelines and Principles* (G&P) and is the section most relevant to accredited and applicant programs.

Throughout 2009, the CoA worked on developing several new and revised IRs. The CoA formally adopted the following IRs at its recent meetings:

IR Number and Title	Purpose	When Adopted
C-15(b), Required Supervision in Internship and Postdoctoral Training Programs	Revision to this existing IR clarifies CoA’s expectation regarding definition and amounts of supervision	November 2009
C-22, Diversity Recruitment and Retention	Clarifies CoA’s interpretation of Domain D.1 (all levels of programs)	November 2009
C-22(a), Review of Programs Invoking Footnote 4	Clarifies how CoA reviews programs invoking Footnote 4	January 2010*
C-23, Diversity Education and Training	Clarifies CoA’s interpretation of Domain D.2 (all levels of programs)	November 2009
C-24, Empirically Supported Procedures/Treatments	Clarifies the CoA’s interpretation of current doctoral/internship G&P terminology.	November 2009
C-25, Positive Identification of Students Consistent with the Higher Education Opportunity Act	Written to be consistent with the requirements of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) of 2008; requires that all programs using any type of distance education methodologies have procedures in place for positive identification of students engaging in those methods.	November 2009
C-26, Practicum Guidelines for Doctoral Programs	Clarifies the CoA’s expectations with regard to the specific provisions of Domain B.4a-d of the G&P for doctoral programs.	January 2010*

**Not reflected in the current (‘January 2010’) version of the IR document on the OPCA website. We will have a ‘February 2010’ version available online ASAP that will include these two IRs.*

Public Comment

Two proposed IRs are currently out for public review and comment. Both IRs were developed over the course of 2009 in conjunction with CoA’s discussions about reviewing programs utilizing distance education methodologies:

- Proposed IR: Distance and Electronically Mediated Education in Doctoral Programs
- Proposed IR: Telesupervision

To read these proposed IRs, view comments, or post comments, please visit the Accreditation Public Comment website at

<http://apaoutside.apa.org/AccredSurvey/public/>.

Comments will be accepted through March 22, 2010.

At this time the CoA is providing notice of changes to its appeal process that are mandated by the HEOA of 2008. These changes affect Sections 5.5 and 5.6 of the *Accreditation Operating Procedures* and will be effective July 1, 2010. In accordance with its own policies, the CoA will be making the changes available for a period of public review and comment. They will be posted on the Accreditation Public Comment website (link noted above) as soon as possible.