

## **Suggested Guidelines for the Evaluation of the Education and Training of Clinical, Counseling, and School Psychologists Who Graduated Prior to 1979**

In adopting these suggested guidelines, it is not the intent of the American Psychological Association to establish a new set of standards; rather, they are designed to clarify this Association's policy regarding the evaluation of the education, training, and credentialing of psychologists who graduated from doctoral programs in psychology prior to 1979.\*

These guidelines have been developed for the evaluation of clinical, counseling, and school psychologists who received the doctoral degrees prior to 1979 only. The guidelines have been developed to assist prospective employers and other interested parties in reviewing candidates' credentials. They represent what the Association considers to be reasonable education, training, and credentials for each decade prior to 1980. In and of themselves, the guidelines are not intended as an APA endorsement of a particular individual's educational credentials; nor are they intended to be restrictive, by excluding reference to other qualifications that may be of comparable merit in particular instances.

1. Doctoral degree obtained prior to 1950: (Note: APA began its accreditation of programs in 1948 with 36 accredited programs. Graduates in 1950 would have had to begin their studies prior to accreditation.)

a. doctoral degree from a regionally accredited institution, with a dissertation primarily psychological in nature; and,

b. (1) equivalent of a one-year supervised internship experience, pre- or post-doctoral; or (2) currently holds ABPP Diplomate status.

2. Doctoral degree awarded 1951-1960: (Note: In 1951 there were 38 APA-accredited doctoral programs; by 1955 there were 66 and by 1960 there were 82).

a. doctoral degree from a regionally-accredited institution, with a dissertation primarily psychological in nature; and,

b. equivalent of a one-year supervised internship experience, pre- or post-doctoral; and,

c. (1) the doctorate or internship was completed in an APA-accredited program; or (2) currently holds ABPP Diplomate status.

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\* In 1950, the APA membership voted to approve as policy the following statement: "When the American Psychological Association introduces new standards of training and experience in the field of psychology, it shall be the policy of the APA to protect the interests of established psychologists of demonstrated competence who might not meet the formal requirements of the new standards."

3. Doctoral degree awarded 1961-1978: (Note: In 1961 there were 82 APA-accredited doctoral programs and 45 accredited internship programs. By 1978 there were 140 accredited doctoral programs and 138 accredited internship programs).

a. doctoral degree from a regionally accredited institution, with a dissertation primarily psychological in nature; and,

b. equivalent of a one-year supervised internship experience in an APA-accredited program; in a Veterans Administration setting; or in a site specifically acceptable to the candidate's doctoral program; or

c. subsequent formal respecialization training, such as post-doctoral fellowship in an APA-accredited program setting; or currently holds ABPP Diplomate status.