

CoA Update

Commission on Accreditation Newsletter

May 2015

2015 Spring Program Review Meeting

The Commission on Accreditation (CoA) held its spring program review meeting March 19-22, 2015 in Washington, DC. A total of 69 doctoral, internship, and postdoctoral residency programs were reviewed for either initial or continued accreditation; 14 applicant programs were granted a site visit; and five program status requests were reviewed (e.g., “Accredited, inactive” status for a training year). As a result of these decisions, CoA is pleased to announce that it now has 1001 accredited programs. Decisions made at the meeting are available on the Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation (OPCA) [website](#). Complete listings of [accredited](#) and [applicant](#) programs were updated on April 22, 2015 to reflect the actions taken at the March Meeting.

During the March 2015 meeting, CoA reviewed Implementing Regulation (IR) C-6(b): Accreditation Status and CoA Contact Information to ensure compliance with revisions made to the Accreditation Operating Procedures (AOP) in 2012. The 2012 revisions introduced procedures for internship and postdoctoral residency programs to seek and obtain “accredited, on contingency” status. Since then, eight programs have been granted this accreditation status. The newly approved [IR C-6\(b\)](#) allows these programs and future “accredited, on contingency” programs to identify this status in their public material.

New SoA vs. G&P

The [Standards of Accreditation for Health Service Psychology](#) (SoA) will go into effect for all programs submitting a self-study on or after September 1, 2016, using the 2017 Self-Study Instructions. Program directors, site visitors, and other members of the public may be asking, “What major content areas are new in the SoA?” Much of the content contained within the *Guidelines and Principles for Accreditation* (G&P) appears in the SoA, although in different sections. The significant overlap between concepts in the G&P and the SoA will result in consistency across self-study instructions from 2016 to 2017. CoA is currently developing the 2017 Self-Study Instructions and these will be released to the public in early 2016.

Workshops on the new SoA will begin in early 2016. As the content of these workshops are finalized, CoA will be releasing a series of FAQs to help orient the public to new content within the SoA. The first [FAQ](#) will focus on major elements that are either new or modified within the SoA. Please contact the [OPCA](#) with any questions regarding the planned implementation of the SoA.

Debora J. Bell, PhD
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CoA Commission on
Accreditation

IR Phase I Public Comment Period Open

In February 2015, the APA Council of Representatives approved the SoA. The SoA will be implemented beginning with all self-studies due September 1, 2016. As stated during the development of the SoA, CoA must update existing IRs and create new IRs to further clarify information contained within the SoA and proposed revised AOP. In the Implementing Regulation (Phase I) period, CoA is seeking feedback on seven (7) IRs. Four IRs relate to the proposed AOP:

- Intent to Apply IR for Doctoral Programs
- “Accredited, on Contingency” IR for Doctoral Programs
- Site Visitor Nomination IR*
- Site Visitor Selection IR*

*Current IRs with proposed revisions

Three (3) IRs relate to the SoA:

- Direct Observation
- Discipline Specific Knowledge
- Profession-wide Competencies

In accordance with the APA “Policies for Accreditation Governance” and Department of Education regulations for notice and comment, CoA will make the proposed Implementing Regulations available for a period of public review and comment. In an effort to promote thoughtful discussion, CoA is providing an electronic-based comment form for public comment submission. Comments and other information, including the users’ identity, will be public. Email addresses used in the registration will be kept confidential. CoA will consider all comments received and make any appropriate revisions prior to approval of the final version of each IR.

The public comment period is scheduled to close on June 30, 2015. To provide public comment, please go to <http://apps.apa.org/accredcomment> and select Implementing Regulations (Phase I). A PDF of the Implementing Regulations out for public comment is to the right of this title.

Program Review

Programs Scheduled for 2016 Site Visits

Programs scheduled for periodic review in 2016 have been randomly assigned a review cycle. As a reminder, programs with [site visits in 2016](#) are required to submit an [online self-study](#). The periodic review will adhere to the current G&P and not the newly approved SoA. The Office of Program Consultation (OPCA) strongly encourages program directors to attend one of CoA’s workshops (as early in the self-study process as possible). As CoA begins to prepare for the implementation of the SoA, it is no longer offering G&P focused self-study workshops. Several site visitor [workshops](#) focused on the G&P are scheduled for 2015. These workshops provide a detailed review of the accreditation domains of the G&P, cover how the G&P is applied, and provide a forum for program/training directors to brush up on recent changes to any Implementing Regulations or for new directors to be exposed to the accreditation process. There is no cost to attend. For additional assistance on completing the self-study, please visit our [website](#) or contact OPCA at (202) 336-5979.

Important Accreditation Dates

July 16-19	Summer Program Review Meeting
September 1	Winter Cycle 2016 Self-Study Due Date
September 8	Third-Party Comment for Winter Cycle 2016 Self-Study Due
September 15	ARO Closes
October 22-25	Fall Program Review Meeting

Site Visitors and Visits

Become a Site Visitor

A significant strength of specialized accreditation is that it is indeed a peer review process requiring the professional knowledge of experts in the profession and discipline. Given the diversity of training models and program goals, it is vital that CoA has a robust cadre of site visitors to provide effective and appropriate observations. Recruitment is ongoing for new site visitors. All site visitors must attend a workshop. Please review the FAQ on Becoming an APA Site Visitor on the OPCA website or email OPCA for more information.

Site Visit Fee

Have you recently had an accreditation site visit or are you planning a site visit? The OPCA will send an invoice to the program at the end of the month in which the visit takes place. Please note that this invoice is due in 30 days of receipt.

New Travel Reimbursement Method

Direct deposit reimbursement is now available for site visitors. To receive your travel expense reimbursement via direct deposit, please complete the "Authorization for ACH Deposit of Vendor Payment" form and submit it to OPCA.

CoA Site Visitor Convention Ribbons

CoA invites all CoA Site Visitors to stop by the Education Directorate booth at the 2015 APA Annual Convention in Toronto, Canada. Representatives will be passing out CoA Site Visitor Ribbons for you to attach to your convention badge. The Education Directorate booth will be open throughout the convention.

Reminders for Accredited Programs

ARO Now Open

The Annual Report Online (ARO) is now open and will close on September 15, 2015. All accredited programs (including "accredited, on contingency" and Canadian programs) accredited on or before December 31, 2014 must complete the ARO. To facilitate the completion of the ARO, the Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation (OPCA) released new online tutorials designed to guide programs through each section of the ARO.

This year programs will have access to the "Program Profile Page" in the CoA Portal. It is important that programs update this page and its corresponding tabs when completing the ARO. The information provided automatically populates the programmatic information provided in the Online Search Tool. For additional assistance on completing the ARO, please visit contact the OPCA Research office at (202) 336-6016.

Annual Accreditation Fee

Consistent with the AOP, all accredited program must pay an annual accreditation fee. An invoice for the annual fee will be sent to each program over the summer (June 1st or August 1st). This invoice is due on December 31st. To pay by credit card, call 1-800-374-2721. Please contact OPCA if you have a question about fees.

Notify the CoA of Program Director Changes

Please remember to notify OPCA when there is a change in the program's training director, and provide the contact information (including the e-mail address) for that individual. If the new director was not previously involved with the program, his/her CV must also be provided for Office records. This is consistent with IR C-19, which requires programs to notify CoA in advance of any substantive changes.

Current Program Count

(as of April 22, 2015)

Programs (Level and Area)		<u>Accredited Programs</u>		<u>Applicant Programs Under Review</u>	
		PhD	PsyD	PhD	PsyD
Doctoral Programs	<i>Clinical</i>	175	65	1	2
	<i>Counseling</i>	66	5	2	1
	<i>School</i>	59	5	1	3
	<i>Combined</i>	7	3	0	1
	Total Doctoral	385		11	
Internship Programs	Total Internship	505		56	
Postdoctoral Residency Programs	<i>Traditional – Clinical</i>	65		11	
	<i>Specialty—Clinical Child Psychology</i>	7		1	
	<i>Specialty—Clinical Health Psychology</i>	9		2	
	<i>Specialty—Clinical Neuropsychology</i>	22		1	
	<i>Specialty—Forensic Psychology</i>	1		0	
	<i>Specialty-Geropsychology</i>	1		1	
	<i>Specialty—Rehabilitation Psychology</i>	6		0	
	Total Postdoctoral	111		16	
TOTAL		1001		83	

Note:

- Five internship programs and three postdoctoral programs in clinical psychology are “accredited, on contingency” and are listed as an accredited program.
- Three internship programs have met the requirements to be listed as “eligible” and are not listed among the accredited programs.

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