

BEA Master's Accreditation Task Force

Conference Call Minutes (FINAL)

August 24, 2018

Present on the call: Jim Lichtenberg, PhD, ABPP (Chair); Nadya Fouad, PhD, ABPP ; William Hathaway, PhD; Tammy Hughes, PhD, ABPP; Elizabeth Louis, MA; David Lutz, PhD; Celeste Malone, PhD; Jason Washburn, PhD, ABPP; Valene Whittaker, PhD.

Guests: Eric Rossen, PhD, NCSP (National Association of School Psychologists) and Patricia O'Connor, PhD (Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council).

Not present: Lynn Bufka, PhD

APA Staff: Jim Diaz-Granados, PhD; Cathi Grus, PhD; Jessica Andrade; Jackie Tyson.

Jim Lichtenberg provided an introduction and overview of the meeting agenda. Nadya was not able to join the July 28th call, so she provided a brief introduction to the group. Jim L. reminded the group that there would be two guests joining the call. The first guest was Eric Rossen who is the Director of Professional Development and Standards with the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP).

Dr. Rossen discussed the difference between Specialist-level and Master's level programs in school psychology. The Specialist-level program requires 60 credit hours to graduate, whereas the Master's level program requires less than 60 credit hours to graduate; typically, around 36 hours. The Specialist-level requires 60 hours whereas the Doctoral-level requires 90 hours. The NASP core competencies are the same for both levels but more breadth is expected at the doctoral level. He also discussed distinguishing the difference between approval/accreditation processes. The NASP approval process of programs grants national recognition to those programs who are deemed to meet the standards. Dr. Rossen also discussed NASP's long-standing relationship with the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) now the Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Preparation (CAEP) that accredits colleges, schools, or departments of education. Program approvals are for CAEP institutions. Accreditation applies to those programs outside of CAEP institutions. He also talked about NASP's process for program review, which included information about the program accreditation board structure, decision-making and the site visit structure. Dr. Rossen noted that while school psychology programs are often accredited/recognized by multiple entities the task force should consider the implications of APA now developing an additional accrediting organization for school psychology programs. He pointed out for consideration that NASP has a reciprocity of recognition process that streamlines approval of APA accredited doctoral school psychology programs.

Jim L. then introduced Patricia O'Connor, who is the Executive Director for the Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council. Dr. O'Connor shared the mission of the Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council (MPCAC), and the history of the MPCAC. MPCAC started accrediting psych programs in 1995/1996 to ensure quality master's education in psychology. In 2011, counseling was incorporated into MPCAC scope. MPCAC's standards are competency and outcome-focused and emphasize that programs be based in psychological science. MPCAC requires that programs be at least 48 credits but noted most require 60. Dr. O'Connor discussed the review procedures and practices, which include, the pre-application from a program, then the review (self-study and site visit), and lastly the decision-making process. MPCAC currently accredits 55 programs in 22 states. MPCAC does not accredit school psychology programs due to the emphasis in school psychology on training in assessment.

After Drs. Rossen and O'Connor spoke, Tammy expressed the need for additional communication between calls for the task force. Several members agreed, and Jim L. appreciated the feedback and told the group that he would follow-up regarding possible solutions. He also encouraged members to use the listserv to discuss any issues/questions/concerns they would like to share.

For our September 28th meeting, Jacquie Wall, PhD, from the APA Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation will join us.

Next Meeting

Friday, September 28th at noon (eastern)