

## SPECIALTY AND SUBSPECIALTY GUIDANCE

# Criterion IV: Distinctiveness

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance related to **Criterion IV: Distinctiveness**. Specialties and subspecialties have different challenges to meet this criterion.

**Specialties** will both differ and have overlap on matters of worldview, populations served, techniques (of inquiry, assessment or intervention), level of analysis and other dimensions. To demonstrate distinctiveness, it is important to discuss any areas of overlap with other specialties prior to identifying areas of distinctiveness within that overlap.

**Subspecialties** will need to demonstrate how they are distinct *within the specialty*. To demonstrate distinctiveness, it is important to discuss any areas of overlap with parent specialties and other relevant specialties and subspecialties prior to identifying areas of distinctiveness within that overlap.

QUESTION #	SPECIALTY - CRITERION IV	SUBSPECIALTY - CRITERION IV
1. Parameters of professional practice	<p><b>Brief description:</b> Responses to this should focus on populations, problems, procedures and techniques in relation to the specialty</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Identify similarities and differences between specialties and other specialties</p> <p><b>Guidance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure sufficient evidence is provided that articulates how your specialty overlaps and is distinct from other relevant specialties</li> <li>Where two specialties may work side-by-side in the same facilities, and/or with the same populations, clarify what distinguishes the work of each specialty (e.g., counseling and clinical psychologists working in a forensic setting)</li> <li>Include relevant, foundational, and up-to-date research (preferably within the last 5 years)</li> <li>Articulate the skills and procedures are central to your specialty</li> </ul>	<p><b>Brief description:</b> Responses to this should focus on populations, problems, procedures and techniques in relation to the subspecialty</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Identify similarities and differences with the parent specialty and other relevant specialties and subspecialties</p> <p><b>Guidance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure sufficient evidence is provided that articulates how your subspecialty overlaps and is distinct from the parent specialty and other relevant specialties and subspecialties</li> <li>Include relevant, foundational, and up-to-date research (preferably within the last 5 years)</li> <li>Articulate the skills and procedures are central to your subspecialty</li> </ul>
2. Theoretical and scientific knowledge required	<p><b>Brief description:</b> The specialty is grounded in a body of scientific knowledge that is cohesive and distinct from the knowledge that is foundational to general practice or to other specialties</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Establish the distinctness of the science base</p> <p><b>Guidance – Examples include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Journals or conferences that are dedicated to the specialty</li> <li>Ongoing research programs within the specialty</li> <li>Well-established facts or well supported theories within the domain of the specialty</li> </ul>	<p><b>Brief description:</b> The subspecialty is grounded in a body of scientific knowledge that is cohesive and distinct from the knowledge that is foundational to general practice or to other specialties and that extends above and beyond the knowledge base of the parent specialty</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Establish the distinctness of the science base, above what would be common to all members of the parent specialty.</p> <p><b>Guidance – Examples include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Journals or conferences that are dedicated to the subspecialty</li> <li>Ongoing research programs within the subspecialty</li> <li>Well-established facts or well supported theories within the domain of the subspecialty</li> <li>Tools or technology developed within the subspecialty</li> </ul>

3. Domains of professional practice activities	<p><b>Brief description:</b> Responses to this should focus on the domains of professional practice as relevant to your specialty (e.g., assessment, intervention, supervision, public interest).</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Identify similarities and differences between specialties and other specialties</p> <p><b>Guidance:</b></p> <p>While specialties may share the domains of professional practice, identify any differences in how those domains are reflected in the specialty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For example, while Specialty A and B may both use cognitive restructuring, the way that cognitive restructuring is used may be distinct how and why the intervention is used.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Brief description:</b> Responses to this should focus on the domains of professional practice as relevant to your subspecialty (e.g., assessment, intervention, supervision, public interest).</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Identify similarities and differences with the parent specialty and other relevant specialties and subspecialties</p> <p><b>Guidance:</b></p> <p>While specialties and subspecialties may share domains</p>
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## APPENDICES

### Specialty – Criterion IV: Distinctiveness

A specialty differs from other recognized specialties in its body of specialized scientific knowledge and professional application.

***Commentary:** While it is recognized that there will be overlap in the knowledge and skill among various specialties in psychology, the petitioning organizations must describe the specialty in detail to demonstrate that it is distinct from other recognized specialties in the knowledge and skills required, the need or population served, problems addressed, and procedures and techniques used.*

- Identify how the following parameters differentiate and where they might overlap with other specialties. Describe how these parameters define professional practice in the specialty.
  - populations
  - problems (psychological, biological, and/or social that are specific to this specialty):
  - procedures and techniques
- In addition to the professional practice domains described above, describe the theoretical and scientific knowledge required for the specialty and provide references for each domain as described below. For each of the following core professional practice domains, provide a brief description of the specialized knowledge that is required and provide the most current available published references in each area (e.g., books, chapters, articles in refereed journals, etc.) While reliance on some classic references is acceptable, the majority of references provided should be from the last five years and should provide scientific evidence for the theoretical and psychological knowledge required for the specialty.
  - assessment:
  - intervention:
  - consultation:
  - supervision
  - research and inquiry:
  - public interest:
  - continuing professional development

- h. any relevant additional core professional practice domains.
3. Identify professional practice activities associated with the specialty in each of the following domains and how they differentiate and where they might overlap with other specialties.
    - a. assessment:
    - b. intervention:
    - c. consultation:
    - d. supervision:
    - e. research and inquiry:
    - f. public interest:
    - g. continuing professional development:
    - h. any relevant additional core professional practice domains.

### **Subspecialty – Criterion IV: Distinctiveness**

A subspecialty is represented by concentrated areas of knowledge, skills, and attitudes that: (a) exist within at least one recognized {parent} specialty; (b) require additional education, training, and/or professional experiences; and (c) involve specific (1) problems, (2) populations, and/or (3) circumscribed approaches used in psychological assessment and/or treatment within which one develops competence. A subspecialty must demonstrate how it is distinct from the specialty.

**Commentary:** *A subspecialty typically reflects the development of competence in activities beyond broad and general doctoral training or internship training. Although it is recognized that there will be overlap among the knowledge, skill bases, and problems and populations of focus of subspecialties and their parent specialties, a subspecialty should involve a distinctive area or elaboration of expertise that can be understood as beyond basic specialty expertise.*

1. Identify how the following parameters differentiate and where they might overlap with other subspecialties. Describe how these parameters define professional practice in the subspecialty.
  - a. populations:
  - b. problems (psychological, biological, and/or social that are specific to this specialty):
  - c. procedures and techniques:
2. In addition to the professional practice domains described above, describe the theoretical and scientific knowledge required for the subspecialty and provide references for each domain as described below. For each of the following core professional practice domains, provide a brief description of the concentrated area of knowledge, skills and attitudes required and provide the most current available published references in each area (e.g., books, chapters, articles in refereed journals, etc.). While reliance on some classic references is acceptable, the majority of references provided should be from the last five years and should provide scientific evidence for the theoretical and psychological knowledge required for the subspecialty.
  - a. assessment:
  - b. intervention:
  - c. consultation:
  - d. supervision:
  - e. research and inquiry:

- f. public interest:
  - g. continuing professional development:
  - h. any relevant additional core professional practice domains:
3. Identify professional practice activities associated with the subspecialty in each of the following domains and how they involve specific (1) problems, (2) populations, and/or (3) circumscribed approaches different from the specialty.
- a. assessment:
  - b. intervention:
  - c. consultation:
  - d. supervision:
  - e. research and inquiry:
  - f. public interest:
  - g. continuing professional development:
  - h. any relevant additional core professional practice domains: