CoA Update

Commission on Accreditation Newsletter **March 2015**

2015 CoA Policy Meeting

The Commission on Accreditation (CoA) held its annual policy meeting February 12-15 in Washington, DC. This meeting was preceded by an orientation day for new members on February 11. For the fourth consecutive year, Commissioners participated in a "calibration" exercise designed to maximize consistency of decisions across reviewers. As is typical of the annual policy meeting, no programs were reviewed. Instead, CoA focused on a number of important policy issues including reviewing submitted public comment and approving the Introduction to the proposed *Standards of Accreditation* (SoA) and proposed revisions to the *Accreditation Operating Procedures* (AOP). The comments collected during the public comment period directed CoA's work and were incorporated into the Introduction or will be addressed in an Implementing Regulation or the Glossary. CoA also continued its work on a number of Implementing Regulations designed to supplement the SoA and AOP. These include clarifying:

- Doctoral Level Intent to Apply and "Accreditation, On Contingency"
- Doctoral Level Discipline Specific Knowledge
- Doctoral Level Faculty Qualifications
- Doctoral and Internship Level Profession-Wide Competencies
- Internship and Postdoctoral Level Internship/ Resident Disclosure Data
- Direct Observation (at all levels)
- Site Visitor Nomination (at all levels)
- Site Visitor Selection (at all levels)

Standards of Accreditation for Health Service Psychology Approved

APA Council of Representatives (Council) approved the Standards of Accreditation for Health Service Psychology (SoA) in February 2015, with 99% of Council voting in favor of the Standards. Comments from Council were largely positive, with many members highlighting how diversity is woven throughout the document. CoA would like to commend all those who worked on the process, including current and past CoA members, liaisons to CoA, and staff.

CoA will now focus on the development of Implementing Regulations to support the new SoA; creation of self-study instructions; and training programs and site visitors. A number of the revised and new Implementing Regulations will go out for a period of public comment during late Spring/Summer 2015. Communication on how to participate in the public comment periods will be provided in late March 2015.

Accredited programs with a site visit scheduled in 2016 will be reviewed under the G&P. Programs with a site visit scheduled in 2017 will be reviewed under the SoA.

Debora J. Bell, PhD
Chair

Stephen R. McCutcheon, PhD
Associate Chair, Program Review

Kathleen J. Bieschke, PhD
Associate Chair, Quality Assurance

CoA Commission on Accreditation

Update on Revisions to Accreditation Operating Procedures

Proposed *Accreditation Operating Procedures* (AOP) went out for public comment in Fall 2014. During this period, the public submitted 108 comments. The comments were generally supportive of the suggested revisions; however changes were made to clarify:

- the time frame for filing a complaint;
- that "intent to apply" is not an accredited status while "accredited, on contingency" is an accredited status; and
- the length of accreditation.

Other requests were made in public comment related to the site visit process and specialty terminology used in the postdoctoral residency section. These will be addressed through Implementing Regulations and a CoA Glossary. At the February policy meeting, the CoA reviewed the collected comment and approved a final version of the AOP to send to APA Governance for review in Spring 2015. CoA would like to thank all those who provided public comment. It is vital to the revision process.

CoA Welcomes Nine New Members

CoA welcomed nine newly appointed members during the Annual Policy Meeting and recognizes their dedication to quality assurance in psychology education and training.

- **Allison Abrahamson, MS**
- **Jan L. Culbertson, PhD**
- **James C. Denniston, PhD**
- **Kurt A. Freeman, PhD, ABPP**
- **Cindy L. Juntunen, PhD**
- **Ashley E. Maynard, PhD**
- **Gilbert H. Newman, PhD**
- **Daniel E. Olympia, PhD**
- **Dawn Vo-Jutabha, PhD**

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 *Guidelines and Principles for Accreditation* and not the newly approved SoA. The Office of Program Consultation (OPCA) strongly encourages program directors to attend one of CoA's self-study workshops (as early in the self-study process as possible). 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.

Self-study Workshops

CoA holds periodic self-study workshops throughout the year. These workshops are free and open to anyone who is interested in learning more about the G&P and how to complete a self-study. This is an excellent way for experienced program/training directors to brush up on recent changes to any Implementing Regulations or for new directors to be exposed to the self-study process. For a list of workshops, please click here. This list is updated periodically throughout the year.

Important Accreditation Dates

March 19-21	**Spring Program Review Meeting**
May 1	**Fall Cycle 2015 Self-Study Due Date**
May 8	**Third-Party Comment for Fall Cycle 2015 Self-Studies Due**
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**

Reminders for Accredited Programs

2015 C-20 Template

All accredited doctoral programs must update their Student Admissions, Outcomes, and Other Data information by **October 1, 2015**, consistent with Implementing Regulation (IR) C-20. The Excel workbook for 2015 is now posted on the Accreditation webpage. Please contact OPCA if you have any questions about the format or the content of this IR.

Annual Accreditation Fee

Consistent with the AOP, all accredited program must pay an annual accreditation fee. An invoice for the annual fee was 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. This will also ensure that the correct individual(s) for the program is listed in our database and receives all of CoA's correspondence.

Site Visitors and Visits

Become a Generalist Site Visitor

Generalist site visitors serve on doctoral site visits and represent areas of psychology which are outside the scope of accreditation. In October 2013, CoA revised the qualifications for generalist site visitors. To be a generalist site visitor one must:

- Have received a doctoral degree from a regionally accredited institution and have a minimum of seven years of professional experience;
- Have involvement as a faculty member in a department or school within a regionally accredited institution, with responsibility for delivering graduate psychology education that is not substantially online (or if retired, had such an association);
- Be considered to be concerned with, and knowledgeable about, educational, professional, and scientific issues in graduate psychology training; and
- Be active members of professional and/or research organizations within psychology.

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 (apaaccred@apa.org) 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.

Current Program Count

(as of February 28, 2015)

Programs (Level and Area)		Accredited Programs		Applicant Programs Under Review	
		PhD	PsyD	PhD	PsyD
Doctoral Programs	*Clinical*	174	65	2	2
	Counseling	66	5	2	1
	School	59	5	1	3
	Combined	7	3	0	1
	Total Doctoral	**384**		**12**	
Internship Programs	Total Internship	**495**		**64**	
Postdoctoral Residency Programs	*Traditional – Clinical*	61		11	
	Specialty—Clinical Child Psychology	7		1	
	Specialty—Clinical Health Psychology	9		2	
	Specialty—Clinical Neuropsychology	22		1	
	Specialty—Forensic Psychology	1		0	
	Specialty-Geropsychology	1		0	
	Specialty—Rehabilitation Psychology	6		0	
	Total Postdoctoral	**107**		**16**	
TOTAL		**986**		**92**	

Note:

- *Four internship programs and two 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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