

Board of Psychology Education for Psychological Practitioner Applicants

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 54.1-3606.3 and 18VAC125-57, an applicant for licensure as a psychological practitioner must have received a master's degree in clinical, counseling, or school psychology from a program accredited by the American Psychological Association ("APA"), from a program equivalent to those accredited by the APA as determined by the Board, or from a program accredited by another national accrediting body approved by the Board.

As of the effective date of this Guidance Document, the Board has not approved a national accrediting body for master's degree programs in clinical, counseling, or school psychology other than the APA.

Educational programs that meet the following guidelines are deemed equivalent to those accredited by the APA for master's degree programs in clinical, counseling, or school psychology.

1. The program offers a training which prepares individuals for practice as a psychological practitioner as defined in Virginia Code § 54.1-3600.
2. The program is within an institution of higher education accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or publicly recognized by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada as a member in good standing.
3. Graduates of programs that are not within the United States or Canada may provide documentation from a credential evaluation service that provides information that allows the board to determine if the program is comparable to those recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.
4. The program is an integrated, organized sequence of study with an identifiable program of study and psychology faculty and a psychologist directly responsible for the program and educates an identifiable body of students who are matriculated in that program for a degree. The faculty of the program provides professional role models and engages in actions that promotes students' acquisition of knowledge, skills, and competencies consistent with the program's training goals.
5. The program encompasses at least two academic years of full-time graduate study or the equivalent thereof.
6. The program requires that all students have acquired a general knowledge in the discipline of psychology prior to graduation in the knowledge areas listed below.

- a. Affective bases of behavior (e.g., the psychology of affect, emotion and mood including topics such as the neuroscience of emotion or emotional regulation);
 - b. Biological bases of behavior (e.g., physiological psychology, comparative psychology, neuropsychology, sensation and perception, health psychology, pharmacology, neuroanatomy);
 - c. Cognitive bases of behavior (e.g., learning theory, cognition, memory, decision making);
 - d. Developmental bases of behavior (e.g., the psychology of development across the life span with a focus on two or more distinct developmental periods); and
 - e. Social bases of behavior (e.g., social psychology, group processes, organizational and systems theory, discrimination multicultural issues).
7. The program requires the following knowledge areas are mastered at the graduate level prior to graduation.
- a. Research Methodology (e.g., research design, quantitative and qualitative methods, data analysis, sampling procedures sufficient to allow consumption and application of psychological research); and
 - b. Psychometrics (e.g., techniques of psychological measurement, issues of reliability and validity of psychological measures).
8. The program's clinical training requires the following master's level practice competencies:
- a. Integrating psychological science and practice;
 - b. Ethical practice;
 - c. Individual and cultural diversity;
 - d. Professional values and behavior;
 - e. Communication and interpersonal skills;
 - f. Psychological assessment;
 - g. Psychological intervention;
 - h. Knowledge of supervision approaches and theories; and

- i. Consultation and interprofessional skills.
9. The program requires students to complete supervised experiences providing direct psychological practice services to a diverse population of clients as part of an organized sequence of training and under the supervision of a trained and credentialed professional that has direct responsibility for the clients receiving the student's services. The program ensures these supervised experiences allow for students to demonstrate practice competencies described in this guidance document.