

PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS

LCB File No. R131-15

Request for changes and additions to NAC 641.

Change: NAC 641.061 Educational requirements for psychologists: Submission of proof that unaccredited program is equivalent to accredited program. (NRS 641.100, 641.110, 641.170)

1. An applicant for licensure as a psychologist who has completed a training program not accredited by the American Psychological Association must establish to the satisfaction of the Board that the program is equivalent to a program accredited by the Association.

2. The applicant must present to the Board:

(a) Transcripts, a description of the training program, letters from the directors of the departments of the institution where the program is conducted or other suitable documents showing that the program substantially complies with the accreditation standards of the American Psychological Association.

(b) Proof of doctoral training at an institution which is considered by the Board to be an accredited educational institution pursuant to subsection 3 of NAC 641.050.

(c) Proof that the primary purpose of the training program is the professional training of psychologists. Catalogs and brochures advertising the program must indicate that the program is intended to educate and train professional psychologists.

(d) Proof that the program:

(1) Is a recognizable, coherent organizational entity within the institution where the program is conducted.

(2) Is an integrated, organized sequence of study.

(3) Has an identifiable faculty composed primarily of psychologists and a psychologist who is responsible for the program.

(4) Has an identifiable body of students who are matriculated in the program for a degree.

(5) Includes supervised practical, internship, field or laboratory training appropriate to the practice of psychology.

(e) Proof that the curriculum encompasses at least 3 academic years of full-time graduate study, not including any internships. The Board will count only 12 semester hours or 18 quarter hours of preparation of a dissertation toward the 3 academic years of full-time graduate study.

(f) Proof that the program requires at least 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of credit in courses in substantive psychology. Dissertation hours may be counted toward the minimum hours required.

(g) Proof that the applicant, while in the program, completed the equivalent of courses consisting of 3 semester hours in the following areas:

(1) Scientific and professional ethics and standards.

(2) Research design and methodology.

(3) Statistics.

(4) Psychometrics.

(5) Biological bases of behavior, which may be satisfied by at least one of the following courses:

- (I) Physiological psychology;
- (II) Comparative psychology;
- (III) Neuropsychology;
- (IV) Psychopharmacology; or
- (V) Human sexuality.

(6) Cognitive-affective bases of behavior, which may be satisfied by at least one of the following courses:

- (I) Learning;
- (II) Memory;
- (III) Perception;
- (IV) Cognition;
- (V) Thinking;
- (VI) Motivation; or
- (VII) Emotion.

(7) Social bases of behavior, which may be satisfied by at least one of the following courses:

- (I) Social psychology;
- (II) Cultural, ethnic and group processes;
- (III) Sex roles; or
- (IV) Organizational and systems theory.

(8) Individual differences, which may be satisfied by at least one of the following courses:

- (I) Personality theory;
- (II) Human development;
- (III) Abnormal psychology; or
- (IV) Psychology of persons with disabilities.

(h) ~~[A description of each course completed pursuant to paragraph (g), accompanied by a statement which attests that the course is equivalent in content, focus and all other relevant standards to a similar course offered by a program accredited by the American Psychological Association. The statement must be submitted by the instructor of a substantially similar course or the chair of the department or program accredited by the American Psychological Association. If there is a program accredited by the American Psychological Association at the institution where the applicant's course is taken, the statements must come from appropriate members of the faculty of that institution. If there is no such program, the applicant must establish for the Board the basis upon which the attesting member of the faculty has knowledge upon which to judge the equivalency of the programs.]~~ *Additional course information pursuant to paragraph (g) may be requested when the course title does not lend itself to being easily identified as meeting one of the core course areas or if the reviewers pursuant to paragraph (i) question the content or learning objectives of a specific course.*

(i) To determine whether a course of study meets minimum standards, applicants shall have their educational credentials evaluated by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB; www.asppb.org) and approved by the Board. The Board shall consider, but is not bound by the recommendation of ASPPB when determining whether the course of study meets minimum standards

Addition:

1. "Pursuant to NRS 641.390, university or college faculty members whose teaching, research, or supervision roles involve direct delivery of psychological services must be licensed by the Board."

2. Psychologists seeking to change their specialty in order to be eligible to practice psychology per NRS 641.025 should take training in a program of the highest and, where appropriate, exemplified by the doctoral training programs and internships accredited by the American Psychological Association. With respect to subject matter and professional skills, psychologists taking such training must meet all requirements of doctoral training in the new psychological specialty, being given due credit for relevant course work or requirements they have previously satisfied. Merely taking an internship or acquiring experience in a practicum setting is not considered adequate preparation for becoming a psychologist when prior training has not been in the relevant area. Respecialization education and training for psychologists possessing the doctoral degree should be conducted by those academic units in regionally accredited universities and professional schools currently offering doctoral training in the relevant specialty, and in conjunction with regularly organized internship agencies where appropriate. Respecialization for purposes of the practice of psychology should be linked to relevant APA approved programs. A list of approved respecialization programs may be found on the American Psychological Association, Education Directorate website.