

**REVISED PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE BOARD OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS**

LCB File No. R131-15

April 7, 2016

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §§1, 2 and 4, NRS 641.100, 641.110, 641.170 and 641.390; §3, NRS 641.100, 641.110 and 641.170.

A REGULATION relating to psychologists; clarifying certain requirements concerning the licensure by the Board of Psychological Examiners of a person who is engaged in the teaching of psychology or in psychological research; revising certain requirements for applicants for licensure who have not earned a doctoral degree in psychology or who have completed a training program that is not accredited by the American Psychological Association; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law governing the practice of psychology specifies that a person is not prevented from engaging in the teaching of psychology or in psychological research without obtaining a license if the teaching or research does not involve the delivery or supervision of direct psychological services to a person. (NRS 641.390) **Section 2** of this regulation clarifies that a person who engages in the teaching of psychology or in psychological research that involves the delivery or supervision of direct psychological services to a person is required to obtain a license under the provisions of chapter 641 of NRS.

Existing regulations set forth the educational requirements for licensure as a psychologist. (NAC 641.061) **Section 3** of this regulation requires an applicant for licensure as a psychologist who has not earned a doctoral degree in psychology or completed equivalent doctoral-level training, but who has met some of the educational requirements for licensure as a psychologist through completion of doctoral-level training in a related field of study, to satisfy the remaining educational requirements by completing a program of respecialization accredited by the American Psychological Association or a program deemed equivalent by the Board of Psychological Examiners.

Existing regulations require an applicant for licensure as a psychologist who has completed a training program not accredited by the American Psychological Association to establish to the satisfaction of the Board that the program is equivalent to a program accredited by the Association. (NAC 641.061) **Section 4** of this regulation requires an applicant who completed study at an unaccredited program to submit his or her academic credentials to the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards for evaluation. **Section 4** also requires an

applicant to submit additional information to the Board of Psychological Examiners if the title of a course does not adequately describe its content.

Section 1. Chapter 641 of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this regulation.

Sec. 2. 1. *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a person who is engaged in the teaching of psychology or in psychological research is not required to obtain a license to practice as a psychologist pursuant to chapter 641 of NRS.*

2. A person who is engaged in the teaching of psychology or in psychological research that involves the delivery or supervision of direct psychological services to a person must obtain a license to practice as a psychologist pursuant to chapter 641 of NRS.

Sec. 3. *To meet the educational requirements for licensure as a psychologist set forth in NAC 641.061, an applicant who:*

1. Has not earned a doctoral degree in psychology from an accredited educational institution or completed doctoral-level training deemed equivalent by the Board in both subject matter and extent of training; and

2. Has met some of the educational requirements for licensure as a psychologist through completion of doctoral-level training in a related field of study,

↪ must satisfy the remaining educational requirements for licensure as a psychologist through the completion of a program of respecialization that is accredited by the American Psychological Association or a program deemed equivalent by the Board.

Sec. 4. NAC 641.061 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641.061 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.]~~

3. To determine whether the courses taken by an applicant are equivalent to the courses required by paragraph (g) of subsection 2, the applicant must have his or her academic credentials evaluated by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards and approved by the Board of Psychological Examiners. In determining whether to approve the academic credentials of an applicant, the Board will consider the recommendation of the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards.

4. If the title of any course submitted by an applicant pursuant to paragraph (g) of subsection 2 does not adequately describe its content, the Board of Psychological Examiners may require the applicant to submit additional information, including, without limitation, a syllabus, a university catalog description or a statement from the instructor regarding the contents of the course.