



American Psychological Association Commission on Accreditation

2018 Annual Report

Staff Liaison: Jacqueline Remondet Wall, PhD

Membership Composition and Diversity

The 2018 American Psychological Association (APA) Commission on Accreditation (CoA) was led by the following Commissioners: Stephen R. McCutcheon, PhD, CoA Chair; David A. Smith, PhD, ABPP, Associate Chair for Program Review; and Cindy Juntunen, PhD, Associate Chair for Quality Assurance. The CoA is comprised of 32 members who represent a balance of academic programs and institutions, practitioners of the profession, and the publics served by psychology, higher education, and accreditation. Appendix A presents a brief profile of each individual Commissioner and the group that submitted their nomination to the CoA.

In terms of individual and cultural / group diversity, representation on the 2018 CoA included half (50.0%) of the Commissioners identifying as female and 12.5% as a racial or ethnic minority. Geographic diversity was noted with 21 different states of residence represented by members of the Commission. Although other forms of diversity are present among the Commissioners, this information is not collected in a standard fashion and is therefore not provided.

In terms of diversity within the discipline, psychologists serving on the CoA represented 25 divisions of the APA; the proportional representation of all APA divisions for the 2018 Commission is 44.6%. APA Fellow status was held by 31.0% (9/29) of the psychologist Commissioners. Also, among the psychologists on the Commission, 17.2% (5/29) have reportedly attained certification by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP).

CoA Meeting Structure

The CoA met on the following dates during the calendar year 2018: February 7 (new member orientation); February 8-11 (policy); April 11-15 (program review and policy); July 18-22 (program review and policy); and October 24-28 (program review and policy). Commissioners were responsible for conducting program reviews and participating in both a “policy panel” and a “work group.” The policy panels and work groups serve as task forces for particular types of policy and procedural issues that the Commission elects to address throughout the course of the year. In 2018, the three policy panels were: doctoral, internship, and postdoctoral; and, the four work groups were: communication, complaints, research, and training.

Program Review Summary

During the 2018 program review meetings, the CoA reviewed submissions and made accreditation decisions on 301 programs. The following table provides a listing of the different accreditation program review decisions made by the CoA in 2018:

TABLE 1.

COA PROGRAM REVIEW DECISIONS, 2018

Decision	Number of programs*
Granted initial or continued full accreditation	169
Granted full accreditation from contingent accreditation	23
Granted accreditation on contingency	27
Deferred for information	42
Deferred for cause	35
Accredited on probation	5
Denial	0
Total	301
Intent to apply (non-accredited status)	6

* Note. Four (4) of the reviews occurred under the *Guidelines & Principles of Accreditation (G&P)*, while the other 297 reviews were conducted under the *Standards of Accreditation for Health Service Psychology (SoA)*.

In addition to conducting these full reviews, six (6) programs were reviewed and granted the non-accredited, “intent to apply” status in 2018 (previously termed “eligible” status). Plus, the CoA granted new or continuation requests for “accredited, inactive” status that were received from 23 programs, and accepted the voluntary withdrawal of accreditation from 3 accredited programs. The Commission also evaluated numerous interim reports (N=216) submitted by accredited programs. Lastly, the CoA conducted a review data submitted by accredited doctoral programs in the Annual Report Online (ARO). This review examines specific information against threshold values, as is prescribed in Implementing Regulations D. 4-7 b and c. Thirty-six (36) programs were noted to have submitted data that was incongruent with the threshold value and therefore subject to additional reporting to demonstrate consistency with the SoA. As part of the ARO, the Commission also examined program’s reporting change in fiscal status, as prescribed by accreditation standards and regulations.

At the conclusion of 2018, there were a total of 1,180 accredited programs. A detailed breakdown of the numbers and types of accredited programs is provided in Table 2 on page 3. Appendix B presents the growth in the number of accredited programs by decade between 1948 and 2018.

Throughout the year, the Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation (OPCA) staff provided logistic, clerical, financial, and administrative support to the Commission. For example, OPCA staff completed preliminary or administrative reviews of self-studies submitted by 80 applicant programs and 154 accredited programs seeking continued accreditation. OPCA staff also coordinated the 212 site visits made to programs during 2018. Lastly, staff provided consultative guidance to programs and constituent groups on accreditation matters.

TABLE 2.

NUMBER AND TYPE OF APA ACCREDITED PROGRAMS, 2018

Programs (Level and Area)		Number of Accredited Programs*				
	Area	PhD		PsyD		
		Full	Cont.	Full	Cont.	
Doctoral Programs	Clinical	173	1	70	3	
	Counseling	67	0	9	0	
	School	61	0	8	1	
	Combined	7	1	4	1	
	Total Doctoral Programs	406				
	Internship Programs					
			Full	Contingent		
		593	37			
	Total Internship Programs	630				
Postdoctoral Residency Programs						
	Area	Full	Contingent			
	<i>Traditional – Clinical</i>	81	5			
	<i>Specialty - Clinical Child Psychology</i>	7	0			
	<i>Specialty - Clinical Health Psychology</i>	9	0			
	<i>Specialty - Clinical Neuropsychology</i>	27	5			
	<i>Specialty - Forensic Psychology</i>	1	0			
	<i>Specialty – Geropsychology</i>	2	0			
	<i>Specialty - Rehabilitation Psychology</i>	7	0			
	Total Postdoctoral Residency Programs	144				
Total		1,180				

*As of November 28, 2018.

Policy Changes and Public Comment

During 2018, the CoA dedicated time at each of their meetings to creating policy and procedures for the continued transition and implementation of the SoA. (Approved in February 2015, the SoA became effective on January 1, 2017.) In 2018, a total of 13 Implementing Regulations (IR) were reviewed and modified or prepared by, the CoA policy groups. These IRs were then published for a period of public comment and, further review by the CoA, led to revisions in 8 IRs. The CoA continues to examine policies and procedures, and in so doing, receives comments from the publics served by accreditation.

Communications Work Group

Among a number of activities, the CoA Communications work group prepared content for four issues of the *CoA Update*. The *CoA Update* is published on the APA accreditation [website](#).

Complaints Work Group

The Complaints work group received, reviewed and made recommendation on 11 complaints that were filed against accredited programs. The CoA reviewed, discussed and decided on the recommendations in these matters.

Training Work Group

The Commission conducted workshops at multiple training council meetings and at the APA Convention. These workshops were focused on the training of site visitors and providing information on how to complete a self-study. The number of attendees at the 2018 site visitor workshops was 229, while there were 249 attendees at the self-study workshops. In addition, the CoA, with the support of staff in the OPCA, continued developing a series of online learning modules. These online modules are focused on the SoA and are to be used by programs completing a self-study or for those with questions about the SoA. These modules are currently available on the OPCA [website](#).

Research Work Group

With support from OPCA staff, the CoA conducted research activities in 2018. Some activities included, an analysis of program outcomes in accord with the data thresholds established to monitor student achievement and compliance with accreditation standards, as noted in the program review summary. In addition, the research work group reviewed and made recommendations to the CoA, to approve two requests for use of accreditation data in accord with procedures (i.e., IR E.1-3[a] *Use of Data and Research Personnel Resources*). *These requests allowed for the release of the results from specific analyses completed by the CoA / OPCA and are available on the OPCA [website](#).*

USDE Recognition

The U.S. Department of Education (USDE) has recognized the APA as a programmatic accrediting agency, with accreditation actions completed by the CoA. As part of the recognition process, a petition to have its recognition by the USDE renewed, was submitted in 2016. The petition was continued, with compliance issues noted. The compliance issues were subject to a report in 2018. The National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) recommended, and the USDE Undersecretary of Education concurred, that the APA CoA was compliant with the issues noted. Correspondence from the Undersecretary noting recognition was received in September 2018. In accordance with regulations, the APA CoA will submit their next report in three years (2021).

CHEA Recognition

The CoA is recognized as an accrediting body by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). The CoA submitted an Interim Report in December 2018. This report will be reviewed in 2019.

APPENDIX A

2018 CoA MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

REPRESENTING THE BREATH OF THE SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINE OF PSYCHOLOGY

Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology (COGDOP) [<http://www.cogdop.org/>]

Cindy I. Carlson, Ph.D., University of Texas, Austin. APA Fellow (Divs.16, 43). Member (Div.53), Ph.D., School Psychology, 1982, Indiana University.

Matthew D. Johnson, Ph.D., Binghamton University, State University of New York. APA Member. Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 1999, University of California, Los Angeles.

David Marcus, Ph.D., Washington State University. APA Fellow (Div. 49). APA Member, (Divs.12, 41). Ph.D., Cultural Psychology, 1999, University of California, Los Angeles.

Cami McBride, Ph.D., Roosevelt University. APA Member, (Div. 2, 12). Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 1999, University of Miami.

APA Board of Scientific Affairs (BSA) [<http://www.apa.org/science/leadership/bsa/index.aspx>]

Douglas A. Behrend, Ph.D., University of Arkansas. Ph.D., Child Psychology, 1986, University of Minnesota.

REPRESENTING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN PSYCHOLOGY

Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) [<http://www.appic.org/>]

Eugene J. D'Angelo, Ph.D., Boston Children's Hospital. APA Member (Divs. 19, 31, 53, 54). Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 1980, University of Michigan.

Emil Rodolfa, Ph.D., California School of Professional Psychology, Alliant International University, Sacramento Campus. APA Fellow (Divs.17, 45). Ph.D., Counseling Psychology, 1981, Texas A&M University.

Jason D. Williams, Psy.D., University of Colorado. Psy.D., Clinical Psychology, 1996, California School of Professional Psychology.

Council of Counseling Psychology Training Programs (CCPTP) [<http://www.ccptp.org/>]

Aaron P. Jackson, Ph.D., Brigham Young University. APA Member (Divs.17, 44). Ph.D., Counseling Psychology, 1993, University of Missouri-Columbia.

Cindy L. Juntunen, Ph.D., University of North Dakota. APA Fellow (Div.17). Ph.D., Counseling Psychology, 1994, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Council of Directors of School Psychology Programs (CDSPP) [<http://www.cdspp.net/>]

Carlen Henington, Ph.D., Mississippi State University. APA Member (Div.16). Ph.D., School Psychology, 1996, Texas A&M University.

Daniel E. Olympia, Ph.D., University of Utah. APA Member (Div.16). Ph.D., School Psychology, 1992, University of Utah.

Council of University Directors of Clinical Psychology (CUDCP) [<http://cudcp.us>]

Ellen Koch, Ph.D., Eastern Michigan University. Ph.D., Adult Clinical Psychology, 2001, Western Michigan University.

Paula K. Shear, Ph.D., University of Cincinnati. APA Fellow (Div.40). Ph.D., Clinical Neuropsychology, 1991, San Diego State University/University of California, San Diego Joint Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology.

National Council of Schools and Programs of Professional Psychology (NCSPP) [<http://ncspp.net/>]

Clark D. Campbell, Ph.D., Rosemead School of Psychology, Biola University. APA Member (Divs.12, 36, 55). ABPP (Clinical). Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 1983, Western Seminary, Portland, OR.

William L. Hathaway, Ph.D., Regent University. APA Member (Divs. 6, 12, 24, 36, 53). Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 1992, Bowling Green State University.

APA Board of Educational Affairs (BEA) [<https://www.apa.org/ed/index.aspx>] and *National Council of Schools and Programs of Professional Psychology (NCSPP)* [<http://www.ncspp.info/>]

Gilbert H. Newman, Ph.D., The Wright Institute. APA Member (Divs.12, 29, 31, 38, 42). Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 1996, The Wright Institute.

Academy of Psychological Clinical Science (APCS) [<https://www.acadpsychclinicalscience.org/>]

David A. Smith, PhD., University of Notre Dame. APA Fellow (Div.12). ABPP (Cognitive and Behavioral Psychology). Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 1991, SUNY at Stony Brook.

APPIC-Training Communities CoA Nominations Committee (ATCCNC) [<https://www.appic.org/>]

Other Internship Groups

Mary Jan Murphy, Ph.D., University of California, Santa Cruz. APA Member (Div.17). Ph.D., Counseling Psychology, 1989, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Dawn Vo-Jutabha, Ph.D., The Guidance Center-Long Beach. APA Member. Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 2005, Clark University.

Postdoctoral Training Groups

Stephen R. McCutcheon, Ph.D., VA Puget Sound. APA Member (Div.18). Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 1985, University of Washington.

REPRESENTING PRACTITIONERS OF THE PROFESSION

APA Board of Professional Affairs (BPA) [<http://www.apa.org/science/leadership/bsa/index.aspx>] and APA Committee for Advancement of Professional Practice (CAPP) [<http://www.apa.org/practice/leadership/capp/index.aspx>]

Independent Practice

Cathy McDaniels Wilson, Ph.D., Capital University. APA Fellow (Div. 31), Member (Div. 45). ABPP (Clinical Psychology). Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 1998, University of Cincinnati.

Jack B Schaffer, Ph.D., Independent Practice, St. Paul, MN. APA Member (Div. 38). ABPP (Health Psychology). Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 1977, University of North Dakota.

Institutional Practice

Monica Kurylo, Ph.D., University of Kansas Medical Center. APA Member (Divs. 12, 22, 31, 35, 38, 40). ABPP (Rehabilitation Psychology). Ph.D., Health/Rehabilitation Psychology, 1997, University of Kansas, Lawrence.

Judith E. Patterson, Ph.D., Independent Practice, Leland, NC. APA Fellow (Divs.18, 42), Member (Divs. 31, 56). Ph.D., Counseling Psychology, 1991, New York University.

Specialized Practice (*Council of Specialties [CoS]*) [<http://www.cospp.org/>]

Mary A. Norfleet, Ph.D., Stanford University School of Medicine. APA Fellow (Divs.12, 29, 38, 42). ABPP (Clinical Psychology). Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 1969, University of Oregon.

REPRESENTING THE PUBLIC INTEREST

General Public

Greg E. Manship, D.Be. OSF Healthcare. D.Be, Clinical Ethics Consultation, 2014, Loyola University.

Teresa D. O'Donnell, MA, Linguistics, Speech & Drama, University of Colorado, Boulder.

APA Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI) [<http://www.apa.org/pi/governance/bappi/>]

Individual and Cultural Diversity

Maria D. "Delores" Cimini, Ph.D., University of Albany, SUNY. APA Member (Div.12). Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 1986, State University of New York at Albany.

REPRESENTING GRADUATE STUDENT CONSUMERS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

American Psychological Association of Graduate Students (APAGS) [<http://www.apa.org/apags/>]

Elizabeth Louis, MA, Mental Health Counseling, 2014, Boston College.

COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION (COA) OPEN SEATS

APA Commission on Accreditation (CoA) [<https://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/index.aspx>]

Georita Frierson, Ph.D., Rowan University. Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 2003, The Ohio State University.

Aaron Joyce, Ph.D., New Mexico Veterans Affairs Medical Center. APA Member. Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, 2009, Saint Louis University.

APPENDIX B

GROWTH OF ACCREDITED PROGRAMS BY DECADE

Year	Doctoral	Internship	Postdoctoral	Total
1948	36	---	---	36
1958	78	62	---	140
1968	97	102	---	199
1978	140	138	---	278
1988	246	347	---	593
1998	312	450	2	764
2008	374	469	48	891
2018	406	630	144	1180