



**AMERICAN
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ASSOCIATION**

We want to update you regarding the APA Commission on Accreditation's March 13, 2025, decision to temporarily suspend evaluation of programs for compliance with accreditation standards related to diversity in recruitment, admission/selection, and/or retention efforts. [See COA website](#). The Commission took this action in response to the new Administration's interpretation of the 2023 Supreme Court decision in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* and the recent federal appellate court decision allowing enforcement of the "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity" Executive Order (issued January 21, 2025) while legal challenges are pending. As the Commission on Accreditation (COA) is a federal contractor, this Executive Order is legally binding on COA, necessitating compliance.

It is important to know that the COA is operationally independent from all of APA's elected governance, including both the APA Board of Directors and Council, and that is a requirement for maintaining COA's U.S. Department of Education accreditation status. While the APA Council of Representatives does approve APA Accreditation Standards, the implementation of these standards and all accreditation decisions regarding professional education and training programs in psychology are solely the responsibility of the COA.

We want to highlight that the COA has explained in their public communication how they are handling diversity standards at this time, with [details available here](#). Please note that COA remains committed to excellence in health service psychology and the imperative of integrating individual and cultural diversity in clinical care and training. APA shares those values.

APA recognizes that navigating this evolving legal landscape presents challenges for COA's accredited programs – many of which must adhere to their own institution's compliance with changing state and federal policies while maintaining their accreditation. The COA has taken a pragmatic approach to ensure the accreditation system can continue to function effectively within current legal constraints, while maintaining its commitment to the principles and values that have long undergirded training in health service psychology.

APA continues to monitor developments in this area and will keep the APA community informed.

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