

## Guidelines for Acceptable Graduate Degrees in Psychology

### January 1, 2019

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1. Applicants for registration as psychologists will be required to show that they have obtained a master's, doctoral or equivalent degree in a program of studies which is psychological in nature and from an educational institution approved by the NLPB. See point 3 below for further detail.
2. The applicant's graduate level training must include adequate knowledge of psychological theory as well as adequate professional experience that, together, meets the competencies outlined in the *Guidelines for the Evaluation of Applicants for Registration* section on p. 7.
3. With regard to an applicant's program of graduate studies, the applicant will be required to show that the program meets the following criteria:
  - i. It is offered in a recognized degree-granting institution in Canada, a regionally accredited institution of higher education in the United States or – if outside of Canada or the United States – a university that has been approved by the NLPB.
  - ii. The program, wherever it may be administratively housed, must be clearly identified, and labelled as a psychology program. This means that pertinent institutional catalogs and brochures must specify the program's intent to be the education and training of psychologists. Completion of coursework as described in the *Guidelines for the Evaluation of Applicants for Registration* section on p. 7 is required in order to satisfy this requirement.
  - iii. The program must stand alone as a recognizable, coherent, and organizational entity within the institution.
  - iv. The program must provide an integrated and organized sequence of study.
  - v. The majority of the faculty members in the program must be registered psychologists and must be responsible for the teaching that occurs within the program.
  - vi. The faculty of the program must have clear authority and primary responsibility for the core and specialty areas of study, whether or not the program cuts across administrative lines.
  - vii. The program must have an identifiable cohort of students for any given academic year.
  - viii. The program must require the attainment of professional experience through such means as supervised practica, an internship, fieldwork, and laboratory training as appropriate to the practice of psychology.
  - ix. The program curriculum shall encompass a minimum of one academic year of full-time graduate study for a master's degree, and a minimum of two additional years of full-time graduate study for a doctoral degree.
    - a. Acceptable programs must have a minimum of a one-year period of full-time 'in-person' academic residence that is defined as one continuous academic year or two academic semesters taken in succession. Practicum and internship are not counted toward the academic residence requirement.
    - b. Programs delivered entirely via technology are not accepted for registration.
    - c. Some training via technology may be acceptable; however, such training can only be for non-applied theoretical courses and will need to be approved by the Board.