

## **APA-CoA/OPCA Update – Spring / Summer 2023**

Includes selected articles from the [April and July 2023 Commission on Accreditation \(CoA\) Update](#), which is available on the website of the American Psychological Association, CoA / Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation (OPCA).

## Table of Contents

<b>2023 CoA Meetings .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2023 CoA Program Review Summary .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Update.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>COVID-19 Update .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Self-Study Workshops and Site Visit Training .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Thank you to 2022 Site Visitors .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Welcome to CoA Members .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Public Comment and Notice of CoA Policies, Procedures, and Processes .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Master’s Accreditation Update.....</b>	<b>13</b>

### **2023 CoA Meetings**

The Commission on Accreditation (CoA) met on the following dates during calendar year 2023 thus far: February 2-3 (policy development); March 29-April 1 (spring program review and policy); and July 12-15 (summer program review and policy). Commissioners are responsible for conducting program reviews and participating in both a “policy panel” and a “work group”; these groups serve to work on policy and procedural issues that the CoA has determined warrant examination. All meetings in 2023 were held in a remote or hybrid fashion.

### **2023 CoA Program Review Summary**

In the CoA’s review of programs during their Spring and Summer 2023 meetings, decisions were made on more than 130 programs. In addition to 130 program decisions, reviews included 14 applicant programs that were awarded an initial accredited status.

The most recent commission meeting was held in July 2023, where more than 70 programs were reviewed. This included seven applicant programs that were awarded an initial accredited status.

Decisions from the [Spring and Summer 2023 program review meetings](#) are available on the OPCA's website. Please see the following table for the number of accredited programs by educational level and area of study as of July 15, 2023:

Table 1. Number and Type of APA Accredited Programs\*

Programs (Level and Area)				Number of Accredited Programs	
Doctoral programs	Area	PhD		PsyD	
		Full	Cont.	Full	Cont.
	Clinical	175	3	67	11
	Counseling	64	0	9	3
	School	58	4	9	2
	Combined	7	0	6	2
	Total doctoral programs	420			
Internship programs		Full		Contingent	
		649		12	
	Total internship programs	661			
Postdoctoral residency programs	Area	Full		Contingent	
	Traditional - Clinical	94		2	
	Specialty - Clinical Child Psychology	10		0	
	Specialty - Clinical Health Psychology	12		0	
	Specialty - Clinical Neuropsychology	38		7	
	Specialty – Forensic Psychology	1		0	
	Specialty - Geropsychology	3		0	
	Specialty – Rehabilitation Psychology	10		1	
	Total postdoctoral programs	178			
	Total		1,259		

Note. Cont. = Contingent.

\*As of July 15, 2023

### **Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Update**

The APA-CoA is accredited by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) as a programmatic accrediting body. The CoA petition for continued recognition was reviewed by the CHEA Committee on Recognition (CoR) in March 2023, following which a recommendation was made to the CHEA Board of Directors (BoD). The CHEA BoD reviewed the recommendation and approved continuing the recognition of the APA-CoA as an accrediting body.

See below the public statement from CHEA regarding recognition for the APA-CoA:

“At its meeting on May 1, 2023, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Board of Directors reviewed the recommendation of the CHEA Committee on Recognition regarding the recognition application submitted by the American Psychological Association Commission on Accreditation (APA-CoA). The Board of Directors accepted the Committee recommendation and recognized APA-CoA for the following recognized scope of accreditation:

The pre-accreditation and accreditation in the United States of doctoral programs in clinical, counseling, school psychology, (and combinations of 2 or more of these practice areas); doctoral internship programs in health service psychology; and postdoctoral residency programs in health service psychology. (2016)”

### **COVID-19 Update**

On April 4, 2023, President Biden signed a resolution that ended the national emergency created by COVID-19. To maintain program operations in a manner consistent with the rescinding of the emergency mandate, programs are advised to follow the guidance offered by their institutional administration, as well as that from the World Health Organization, the US Center for Disease Control, federal law, state law, and state and local health departments. In addition, programs are encouraged to follow any guidance offered by the US Department of Education’s Office of Postsecondary Education.

The Commission is aware that time is needed to transition back to pre-COVID procedures and practices. The CoA will allow time of up to 180 days for programs to resume pre-pandemic operations following the date when the COVID-19 mandate was rescinded (April 11, 2023). The CoA is currently examining its policies and procedures specifically related to telesupervision and distance education.

### **Self-Study Workshops and Site Visit Training**

The Commission on Accreditation (CoA) is actively recruiting individuals to serve as APA accreditation site visitors. As the “eyes and ears” of the CoA, site visitors play an essential role in collecting information about a program’s adherence to the Standards of Accreditation. Site visitor service is not only a meaningful way to give back to the profession but also a great experiential learning opportunity.

Per the Accreditation Operating Procedures, site visitors are recruited as either health service psychologists who are trained and qualified within the scope of accreditation or as generalist psychologists who are trained and qualified in areas of psychology outside the scope of accreditation. More information about the qualifications for each type of site visitor can be found on the [site visitor section](#) of our website.

The CoA is continuing to accept registrants for a virtual training (via Zoom) on September 15, 2023, that is geared towards those interested in contributing to the profession by conducting psychology accreditation site visits. It is important to maintain a sufficiently large pool of highly qualified and available site visitors. By conducting a site visit, not only will you be playing an important service role to the profession, but you will also have the opportunity to work with a team and develop interesting ideas for your own program while earning 25 CE credits or a free journal subscription in each year that you complete a site visit.

Additional details regarding these training sessions, including how you can register, can be found on the [workshop webpage](#).

If you have attended a site visitor training and have not been called for service, please contact the office at [apasitevisit@apa.org](mailto:apasitevisit@apa.org).

### **Thank you to 2022 Site Visitors**

The Commission on Accreditation and the Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation would like to thank the following individuals as they contributed to the work of the Commission by serving on site visit teams during the 2022 calendar year. Throughout COVID-19, these site visitors were flexible and willing to continue to play this crucial role during the pandemic:

Adeirdre Stribling Riley, PhD	Henry Buchtel, PhD	Maureen McCarthy, PhD
Aida Jimenez, PhD	Irina Gelman, PsyD	Michael Jay Manalo, PhD
Allison Dempsey, PhD	Irma Barron, PhD	Michael McCloskey, PhD
Allison Thompson, PhD	J. Chris Sheldon, PhD	Michael Nadorff, PhD
Amanda Ferrier-Auerbach, PhD	Jacqueline Carmicheal, PsyD	Michael O'Hara, PhD
Amie Paradine, PsyD	Jade Wolfman-Charles, PhD	Michele Willingham, PsyD
Amy Ellis, PhD	James Bartee, PhD	Mirelis Peraza, PsyD
Amy Young, PsyD	James Sexton, PhD	Monique Germone, PhD
Andrea Bischoff, PsyD	Jamie Griffin, PhD	Nadine Cole, PhD
Andrea Zartman, PhD	Jenna Glover, PhD	Neil Stafford, PsyD
Angela Enlow, PhD	Jennifer Bonds-Raacke, PhD	Nydia Ortiz, PhD
Angela Kuemmel, PhD	Jennifer Whitford, PhD	Olga Belik, PhD
Anika Fields, PhD	Jeremy Crostley, PhD	Patrice Shanahan, PhD
April Fugett, PhD	Jerome Kogan, PsyD	Patrick Metoyer, PhD
Ari Rabkin, PhD	Jerry Kernes, PsyD	Paul Gore, PhD
Arnold Abels, PhD	Jessica Kinkela, PhD	Paula Shear, PhD
Astrid Reina, PhD	Jina Yoon, PhD	Peggy Hicks, EdD
Ayşe Çiftçi, PhD	Joanna McCormick, PhD	Peter Mezo, PhD
B. Hunter McIntyre, PhD	John Beauvais, PhD	Priscilla Dass-Brailsford, EdD
Barbara Winstead, PhD	John Linton, PhD	Rachel Navarro, PhD
Barry Ardolf, PsyD	Joseph Bascuas, PhD	Rachel Schein, PsyD
Bernadette Heckman, PhD	Joseph Comaty, PhD	Ralph Cash, PhD
Bernadette Pasquale, PhD	Joseph Scardapane, PhD	Renee Hawkins, PhD
Bill Ray, PhD	Joyce Illfelder-Kaye, PhD	Richard Gontang, PhD
Brian Poncy, PhD	Judy Pelham, PhD	Richard Robinson, PhD
Britt Nielsen, PsyD	Karen Christoff, PhD	Rita Wood, PsyD
Bruce Poulsen, PhD	Karin McCoy, PhD	Robert Horn, PhD
Bruce Shore, PhD	Kasey Odell, PsyD	Robert Kayne, PsyD
Bryn Harris, PsyD	Kasey Schultz-Saindon, PhD	Robert Zeiss, PhD
Carlen Henington, PhD	Kathleen Lemanek, PhD	Robyn Hess, PhD
Carol Brooks, PhD	Kathryn Gerken, PhD	Rodger Bufford, PhD
Catherine Fiorello, PhD	Keith Beard, PsyD	Ruth Roa-Navarrete, PsyD
Catherine Vieira-Baker, PhD	Kelley McKeever, PsyD	Ryan Dix, PsyD
Chris Carden, PhD	Kelly Gerhardstein, PsyD	Saneya Tawfik, PhD
Christopher Chuick, PhD	Kevin Osten-Garner, PsyD	Sara Whitcomb, PhD
Christopher Martell, PhD	Kevin Tsang, PsyD	Scott Bowen, PhD
Christopher Watson, PhD	Kimberlee DeRushia, PsyD	Scott Cardin, PhD

Christy Walcott, PhD	Kimberly Klein, PhD	Seth Green, PhD
Cindy Bruns, PhD	Kimberly Miller, PhD	Shamaila Khan, PhD
Claudia Jacova Chenoweth, PhD	Krista Freece, PhD	Shannon Couture O'Flinn, PhD
Dalia Ducker, PhD	Kristine Kingsley, PsyD	Shannon Fussell, PhD
Daniel Olympia, PhD	LaPearl Winfrey, PhD	Shannon Lynch, PhD
Danielle Rynczak, PsyD	Laurie Lindamer, PhD	Shannon Scott, PhD
David Lee, PhD	Lawrence Pick, PhD	Shavonne Moore-Lobban, PsyD
David Susman, PhD	Lawrence Vitulano, PhD	Shiloh Jordan, PhD
Debra Crisp, PhD	Linda Baker, PhD	Stacy Belkonen, PhD
Deirdra Frum, PsyD	Linda Beckman, PhD	Steven Lucero, PhD
Dodie Gillett, PhD	Lisa Matero, PhD	Steven Smith, PhD
Edgar Villarreal, PhD	Loring Ingraham, PsyD	Summer Scott, PsyD
Efrat Eichenbaum, PhD	Lorna London, PsyD	Tania Czarnecki Wismar, PsyD
Elisabeth Ploran, PhD	Lucas Shaw, PhD	Ted Stachowiak, PhD
Elizabeth Tyner, PhD	Mack Bowers, PhD	Thomas Campbell, PhD
Ellen Resch, PhD	Mari Clements, PhD	Thomas Huberty, PhD
Emily Stafford, PhD	Marissa Feldman, PhD	Thomas Quinlan, PhD
Eugene D'Angelo, PhD	Mark Sanstead, PhD	Wallace Dixon, PhD
Evelyn Sandeen, PhD	Mark Shermis, PhD	Wayne Siegel, PhD
Gilbert Newman, PhD	Mark Terjesen, PsyD	William Faustman, PhD
Glenace Edwall, PsyD	Mark Zentner, PhD	William Strein, EdD
Greg Lamberty, PhD	Marsheena Murray, PhD	Yadira Sanchez, PsyD
Heather Goldstein Frost, PhD	Mary Jan Murphy, PhD	Yvonne Wells, PhD
Heather Yardley, PhD	Mary Shea, PhD	

Interested in becoming an accreditation site visitor? Contact [APA Accreditation](#) via email or visit the [site visitor webpage](#).



## **Welcome to CoA Members**

The Commission on Accreditation (CoA) is pleased to welcome thirteen new and returning Commissioners who were appointed in 2023:

**Madeleine Byrne, PsyD, LCSW, LSOTP**, joins the CoA in a seat nominated by the APA Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI). She is currently the Clinical Director in the Dallas County Juvenile Department, where she has also developed a psychology internship program. She completed her PsyD in Clinical Psychology at Argosy University Dallas. Dr. Byrne's appointment is to replace the seat held by M. Delores Cimini, PhD, who served on the CoA between 2017 and 2022.

**Arthur L. Cantos, PhD**, joins the CoA in a seat nominated by the Council of University Directors of Clinical Psychology (CUDCP). He is a professor at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in Edinburg, Texas, where he serves as the Director of Clinical Training for a doctoral program (PhD) in Clinical Psychology. He is replacing Jorge Varela, PhD, who served as a member from January 2020 to December 2022.

**Karl Gauby, PhD, JD**, joins the CoA in a seat representing the General Public. He completed his PhD in Education and a Juris Doctorate at Arizona State University. He is replacing Greg Manship, DBE, who served as a member from January 2017 to December 2022.

**Cathy McDaniels Wilson, PhD, ABPP**, rejoins the CoA in a special appointments seat. She is currently a clinical psychologist at the Adena Regional Medical Center. She completed her PhD in Clinical Psychology at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Wilson served as a commissioner previously from January 2016 to December 2018.

**Suzanne Nortier Hollman, PhD, PsyD**, joins the CoA in a seat nominated by the National Council of Schools and Programs of Professional Psychology (NCSP). She currently resides in Washington, DC, where she is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology at the George Washington University. She is also Dean Emeritus at the Institute for Psychological Sciences in Sterling, VA. She is replacing William Hathaway, PhD, who served as a Commissioner from January 2017 to December 2022.

**Robin Oatis-Ballew, PhD**, joins the CoA in a seat nominated by the Council of Counseling Psychology Training Programs (CCPTP). She is currently a Professor at Tennessee State University. She completed her PhD and MS in Clinical Psychology at Howard University. Her appointment follows that of Aaron Jackson, PhD, who served as a Commissioner between January 2017 and December 2022.

**Sree Saroj Sainath (Sreenath) Panchagnula**, rejoins the CoA in a seat nominated by the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students (APAGS). He is currently an APAGS student member and is completing his doctoral degree in clinical psychology at Jackson State University. Mr. Panchagnula served as a commissioner previously from January 2022 to December 2022.

**Sofia Pham, PhD**, joins the CoA in a special appointments seat. She is currently an assistant professor at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. She completed her PhD in School Psychology at Temple University.

**Dinelia Rosa, PhD**, rejoins the CoA in a seat nominated by the APA Board of Professional Affairs (BPA) representing practitioners in independent practice. She has a private practice and is also the director of the Dean-Hope Center for Educational and Psychological Services at Teachers College, Columbia University. She was an APA [featured psychologist](#) in 2018. Dr. Rosa completed her PhD in clinical psychology from Adelphi University. Dr. Rosa served as a commissioner previously from January 2020 to December 2022.

**Danielle Rynczak, JD, PsyD, ABPP**, joins the CoA in a seat nominated by the Council of Specialties (CoS). She is currently an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. She completed her PsyD in Clinical Psychology at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology and received her JD at the Florida State University College of Law. She is replacing Adam Lewin, PhD, ABPP, who served on the Commission between January 2021 and December 2022.

**Rita R. Sandidge, PhD, LP**, joins the CoA in a seat nominated by the APA Board of Professional Affairs (BPA). She currently resides in Minneapolis, MN and serves as the Director of Training at the Natalis Psychology and Counseling Solutions psychology internship program. She completed her PhD in Counseling and Student Personnel Psychology, Educational Psychology at the University of Minnesota. The seat that she has been appointed to was previously held by Kalyani Gopal, PhD, who served on the CoA in 2022.

**Jack B. Schaffer, PhD, ABPP**, rejoins the CoA in a seat nominated by the APA Board of Professional Affairs (BPA). He currently resides in St. Paul, MN. He completed his PhD in Clinical Psychology at the University of North Dakota. Dr. Schaffer served as a commissioner previously from January 2014 to December 2016. He is replacing Judith Patterson, PhD, who served as a member from January 2017 to December 2022.

**Michele Willingham, PsyD**, joins the CoA in a seat nominated by the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). She is currently at the Rosemead School of Psychology at Biola University where she directs internship training. She completed her PsyD at the California School of Professional Psychology. She is replacing Jason Williams, PsyD, who served as a member from January 2017 to December 2022.

The CoA is excited to welcome these new and returning members!

The CoA is comprised of at least 32 members. Care is taken to maintain a diverse balance between academic institutions and programs, practitioners, and the publics served by accreditation. For more information about the composition of the CoA, please review

Implementing Regulation (IR) A-1., [Policies for Accreditation Governance](#). Also, see a [complete listing](#) of all current CoA members on the [accreditation website](#).

### **Public Comment and Notice of CoA Policies, Procedures, and Processes**

The CoA has continued to review Implementing Regulations (IR) for the Standards of Accreditation (SoA) (Section C) and has also reviewed regulations for the Accreditation Operating Procedures (Section D) and those for self-governance (Section E) of the Commission. Information from IR modifications with 2023 effective dates follows:

### **Self-Governance (Section E) IRs**

**IR E.3.2 Conflict of the Interest Policy for Site Visitors:** This IR was revised for public comment in July 2022. Clarification on possible conflicts of interest has been provided in this policy change. This IR was voted by the CoA to be adopted into the Section E IR book in the spring of 2023 with an immediate effective date.

### **Doctoral**

**IR C-30 D Partnership/Consortium:** This IR was reviewed and revised following public comment. The changes are for accredited doctoral level consortium programs undergoing formation, modification or dissolution and include specifics for the development of a consortium if one or more members are currently accredited as an independent program. The IR became effective starting January 1, 2023; it can be found in the IR [Section C booklet](#).

### **Internship**

**C-26 I Accredited, on Contingency:** The revision to this IR describes the data submission process to move from contingent to full accreditation, including the number of years of proximal and distal data that are needed. The CoA approved this IR with an effective date of January 1, 2023, it may be found in the IR Section C booklet [here](#).

### **Postdoctoral**

**IR C-22 P Accredited, on Contingency:** The revision to this IR describes the data submission process to move from contingent to full accreditation, including the number of years of proximal and distal data that are needed. The CoA approved this IR with an effective date of January 1, 2023; the IR can be found in the IR Section C booklet [here](#).

### **Recent Policy Changes**

At the 2023 Spring meeting, the CoA voted to approve a number of documents for public review, notice and/or comment. These documents were provided to the public on May 1, 2023 and are either still available for comment or are in the process of further review by the Commission. Information received in this comment period will be reviewed by the

CoA in the near future and further information will be made available to accreditation stakeholder groups. These documents are comprised of the following:

### **Standards of Accreditation**

The revisions included clarifying the CoA's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion as well as explaining how specialty postdoctoral practice areas become CoA-recognized. This document was available for public comment from May 1, 2023 through July 30, 2023.

### **IR C-11 D Distance and Electronically Mediated Education in Doctoral Programs**

The revisions allow for doctoral practicum experiences be conducted using telehealth methods and was made available for public comment from May 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023.

### **Telesupervision IRs**

IRs C-13 D, C-15 I, and C-15 P, which focus on telesupervision at the doctoral, internship, and postdoctoral residency levels, respectively, were available for public comment from May 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023.

### **IR D.4-7(b) Thresholds for Student Achievement Outcomes in Doctoral Programs**

This IR outlines the thresholds for student achievement outcomes in doctoral programs. In accord with CoA procedures, the criterion levels for three of the threshold indicators, i.e., Attrition Rate, Time to Degree average (mean and median), and Student to Core Faculty Ratio, were statistically examined. Using a three-year average, the criterion placing a program within the lowest 5% of reviewed programs was examined and revisions were made if warranted. The revised criteria were provided for a 30-day period of public notice, which closed on June 30, 2023.

### **Master's Accreditation Update**

The CoA Master's Accreditation Work Group (MAWG) has been making progress on policy documents and developing procedures and processes for the accreditation of master's programs. In December of 2022, Implementing Regulation (IR) C-7 M was put out for a 60-day period of public comment. This IR provides specifications to the discipline-specific knowledge categories of basic content areas in scientific knowledge and research and psychometrics in the SoA-M's Standard II.B.1.a. It was approved in April 2023 and is included in the Section C IR book for master's programs.

In December of 2022, the MAWG also put out a call for master's degree programs in Health Service Psychology practice areas to apply for accreditation as part of a limited initial master's accreditation review process starting in 2023. Additionally, the work group put out a call for volunteer consultants who will provide expertise that will inform the Commission during the initial process of master's degree program accreditation. Both applicant programs and consultants have been selected. In April of 2023, the MAWG also hosted a self-study training for the volunteer master's programs and review

consultants that were selected to participate in the implementation of initial accreditation review.

At the Spring 2023 program review meeting, the CoA voted to put out Implementing Regulation (IR) C-19 M for a 30-day round of public comment. This IR expands on its requirement to provide data on licensure and/or credentialing to also include employment rates. The document was placed for public comment in May 2023 and is currently being reviewed by the CoA.

The Master's Work Group and the Commission on Accreditation are pleased to present the [Master's Accreditation webpage](#) on the APA Accreditation website. This page provides access to the *Standards of Accreditation for Master's Programs in Health Service Psychology* and the *Accrediting Operating Procedures*. Plus, the *Implementing Regulations (IR)* that have been approved by CoA for master's programs, including those published as Section C: *IRs Related to the Standards of Accreditation* and Section E: *Self-Governance and Regulation* are available on the Master's Accreditation webpage. This page also contains an overview of the CoA plans to begin to accredit master's programs and provides answers to some frequently asked questions about the accreditation of master's degree programs in health service psychology.