

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

**LCB File No. R114-19**

February 26, 2020

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

AUTHORITY: §§1-8, NRS 641.100, 641.110 and 641.170.

A REGULATION relating to psychology; establishing requirements for applications for licensure as a psychologist submitted by an applicant who has completed a training program outside the United States that is not accredited by the American Psychological Association; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

Existing law requires each application for licensure as a psychologist to be accompanied by evidence that the applicant has earned a doctorate in psychology from an accredited educational institution approved by the Board of Psychological Examiners, or has other doctorate-level training from an accredited educational institution deemed equivalent by the Board in both subject matter and extent of training. (NRS 641.170) 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, 641.062)

**Section 2** of this regulation establishes the criteria to determine whether a training program is completed within the United States for the purposes of this regulation.

**Section 4** of this regulation establishes a separate process for an applicant who has completed a training program outside the United States that is not accredited by the Association to establish that the program is equivalent to a program accredited by the Association. **Section 4** requires such an applicant to submit certain documentation to the Board and to obtain an evaluation of his or her academic credentials from the National Register of Health Service Psychologists, unless the evaluation requirement is waived by the Board. The Board is not bound by any recommendation resulting from the evaluation. **Sections 5-8** of this regulation make conforming changes.

Existing law requires each application for licensure as a psychologist to be accompanied by certain evidence of the applicant’s qualifications. (NRS 641.170) **Section 3** of this regulation requires an applicant for licensure who has completed a training program outside the United States that is not accredited by the Association to submit to the Board certain additional evidence of his or her qualifications, including three letters of professional reference. **Section 3** also

authorizes the Board to require such an applicant to appear before the Board to demonstrate his or her moral character, current fitness to practice psychology and intent to practice psychology in a manner consistent with his or her education, training and experience.

**Section 1.** Chapter 641 of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2, 3 and 4 of this regulation.

**Sec. 2.** *For the purposes of this chapter, a training program is completed within the United States if the program is completed within the geographic boundaries of the United States, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.*

**Sec. 3. 1.** *The Board may issue a license to practice as a psychologist to an applicant who has completed a training program outside the United States that is not accredited by the American Psychological Association if the applicant:*

*(a) Submits to the Board with his or her application evidence satisfactory to the Board that the applicant:*

- (1) Meets the requirements of subsection 1 of NRS 641.170;*
- (2) If the training program completed by the applicant was not conducted in English, has obtained a score of not less than 80 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language, internet-Based Test, administered by the Educational Testing Service;*
- (3) Has not been convicted of a felony;*
- (4) Has not been subject to disciplinary action in another jurisdiction;*
- (5) Does not have any outstanding complaints or charges pending against him or her in another jurisdiction;*
- (6) Has not previously been denied licensure by the Board;*

*(7) Has passed the state examination administered by the Board pursuant to NAC 641.112; and*

*(8) Has passed the national examination required by NRS 641.180;*

*(b) Submits to the Board with his or her application three letters of professional reference that attest without reservation to the professional competence, moral character and current fitness to practice of the applicant;*

*(c) Submits to the Board with his or her application evidence satisfactory to the Board that the applicant has complied with section 4 of this regulation and that the Board has determined that the training program completed by the applicant is equivalent to a program accredited by the American Psychological Association; and*

*(d) Complies with subsection 1 of NRS 641.160 by submitting:*

*(1) A complete set of the applicant's fingerprints to the Board with written permission authorizing the Board to forward the fingerprints to the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History for submission to the Federal Bureau of Investigation; or*

*(2) Verification to the Board that the applicant's fingerprints were so forwarded by the law enforcement agency or other authorized entity taking fingerprints.*

*2. The Board may require an applicant pursuant to this section to appear before the Board to demonstrate the applicant's:*

*(a) Moral character;*

*(b) Current fitness to practice psychology; and*

*(c) Intent to practice psychology in a manner consistent with his or her education, training and experience.*

*Sec. 4. 1. An applicant for licensure as a psychologist who has completed a training program outside the United States that is 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 submit to the Board:*

*(a) An original diploma or other certificate of graduation from the training program, which will be returned to the applicant, and a photocopy of the document, which will be retained by the Board.*

*(b) A transcript or other appropriate document of all coursework completed in the training program.*

*(c) Satisfactory evidence of the completion of the supervised and documented experience required by NAC 641.080.*

*(d) A statement, based on the documents listed in this subsection, that describes the chronological sequence of studies, training and research engaged in by the applicant. This statement must be comparable to and communicate the same information as a transcript issued by a university in the United States and must highlight how the education and doctoral internship experience of the applicant conforms to the educational requirements set forth in this section.*

*(e) Suitable documents showing that the training program completed by the applicant substantially complies with the accreditation standards for doctoral programs in the Standards of Accreditation for Health Service Psychology of the American Psychological Association, which is available, free of charge, at the Internet address <http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/index.aspx>, and Section C of the Implementing*

*Regulations of the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association,*  
*which is available, free of charge, at the Internet address*

*<http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/index.aspx>*

*(f) A certified translation of any documents submitted pursuant to this subsection which is written in a language other than English.*

*(g) The evaluation of the academic credentials of the applicant conducted pursuant to subsection 4, except as otherwise provided in subsection 5.*

*3. For the purposes of paragraph (e) of subsection 2, a training program “substantially complies with the accreditation standards for doctoral programs” if the applicant submits to the Board, without limitation, proof:*

*(a) Of doctoral training at an institution which is considered by the Board to be an accredited educational institution pursuant to paragraph (b) or (c) of subsection 3 of NAC 641.050.*

*(b) That the primary purpose of the training program is to provide broad and general training in scientific psychology and in the foundations of practice in health service psychology. The program materials must demonstrate:*

- (1) The integration of empirical evidence and practice;*
- (2) That the training is sequential, cumulative, graded in complexity and designed to prepare students for practice or further organized training; and*
- (3) That the program requires respect for and understanding of cultural and individual differences and diversity.*

*(c) 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 stable leadership provided by one or more designated doctoral-level psychologists who:*

*(I) Are members of an identifiable core faculty of the program; and*

*(II) Together with other core faculty of the program have primary responsibility for the program's design, implementation, evaluation and quality.*

*(4) Has an identifiable body of students who are matriculated in the program for the purpose of earning a degree.*

*(5) Includes supervised practicums which must include, without limitation:*

*(I) Supervised experience working with diverse persons who display a variety of presenting problems, diagnoses and issues;*

*(II) Supervised experience in settings committed to training and providing experiences consistent with health service psychology competencies, including, without limitation, those competencies listed in paragraphs (e) and (f);*

*(III) Supervision provided by appropriately trained and credentialed persons; and*

*(IV) Practicum evaluations which are based, at least in part, on direct observation, which may occur in person or via electronic means.*

*(d) That the program requires a student to complete successfully at least 3 academic years, or the equivalent, of full-time graduate study which includes at least 2 years, or the equivalent, of academic training and at least 1 year, or the equivalent, in full-time residence. A person seeking to satisfy the requirement for 1 year in full-time residence based on equivalent*

*experience must demonstrate that the experience achieved all the purposes of the requirement, including, without limitation, mentoring, supervision and evaluation regarding the development of professional competence. Experience in a program that was conducted entirely through electronic means may not be used to satisfy the requirements of this paragraph.*

*(e) That the applicant, while in the program, acquired and demonstrated substantial graduate-level understanding and competence in discipline-specific knowledge in the following areas:*

- (1) The history and systems of psychology.*
- (2) Affective aspects of behavior.*
- (3) Biological aspects of behavior.*
- (4) Cognitive aspects of behavior.*
- (5) Social aspects of behavior.*
- (6) Developmental aspects of behavior across the lifespan.*
- (7) Advanced integrative knowledge in scientific psychology.*
- (8) Research methods.*
- (9) Quantitative methods.*
- (10) Psychometrics.*

*(f) That the applicant, while in the program, achieved and demonstrated profession-wide competency in the following areas:*

- (1) Research.*
- (2) Ethical and legal standards.*
- (3) Individual and cultural diversity.*
- (4) Professional values, attitudes and behaviors.*

- (5) Communication and interpersonal skills.*
- (6) Assessment.*
- (7) Intervention.*
- (8) Supervision.*
- (9) Consultation, interprofessional and interdisciplinary skills.*

*4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, to determine whether the training program completed by an applicant is equivalent to a program accredited by the American Psychological Association pursuant to subsection 1, the applicant must have his or her academic credentials, including, without limitation, the required curriculum, evaluated by the National Register of Health Service Psychologists. Information regarding obtaining a review is available, free of charge, at the Internet address*

*<https://www.nationalregister.org/apply/credentialing-requirements/national-register-doctoral-degree-guidelines/>. Upon completion of the evaluation the applicant shall cause the National Register of Health Service Psychologists to submit the evaluation directly to the Board. The Board will review the evaluation and determine whether the program completed by the applicant is equivalent to a program that is accredited by the Association.*

*5. The Board may, upon written request, waive the requirement for an applicant to obtain an evaluation of his or her academic credentials pursuant to subsection 4 if the applicant graduated from a doctoral program that is accredited by the accreditation panel of the Canadian Psychological Association.*

*6. The Board may establish a subcommittee to review the academic credentials of an applicant and present a recommendation to the Board. In determining whether to approve the academic credentials of an applicant pursuant to subsection 4 or 5, the Board will consider*

*any recommendation from the National Register of Health Service Psychologists and the recommendation of the subcommittee, if any, but is not bound to follow such recommendations.*

*7. If the Board finds that the training program completed by an applicant pursuant to this section is not equivalent to a program accredited by the American Psychological Association, the applicant may petition the Board for reconsideration. A decision of the Board upon reconsideration, or a decision of the Board to deny such a petition, is a final decision for the purposes of chapter 233B of NRS.*

*8. The applicant is responsible for paying all fees and costs incurred to obtain an evaluation or translation of his or her academic records.*

*9. It is the responsibility of the applicant to sufficiently demonstrate that the training program completed by the applicant is equivalent to a program accredited by the American Psychological Association.*

**Sec. 5.** NAC 641.061 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641.061 1. An applicant for licensure as a psychologist who, before January 1, 2018, has completed a training program *within the United States that is* 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 *paragraph (a) of* 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) The evaluation of the academic credentials of the applicant conducted pursuant to subsection 3 or 4.

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, to determine whether the content of the courses and the supervised practical, internship, field or laboratory training taken by an applicant are equivalent to a program accredited by the American Psychological Association pursuant to subsection 1, the applicant must have his or her academic credentials, including, without limitation, the required curriculum, evaluated by:

(a) The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards; or

(b) The director of clinical training of a doctoral program that is accredited by the American Psychological Association and approved by the Board of Psychological Examiners.

4. An applicant who is unable to obtain an evaluation as required in subsection 3 may, upon the approval of the Board, have his or her academic credentials evaluated by a designee of the director of clinical training of a doctoral program that is accredited by the American Psychological Association.

5. The Board may establish a subcommittee to review the academic credentials of an applicant and present a recommendation to the Board. In determining whether to approve the

academic credentials of an applicant pursuant to subsection 3 or 4, the Board will consider any recommendation from the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, the director of clinical training of a doctoral program that is accredited by the American Psychological Association, or a designee of the director of clinical training of a doctoral program that is accredited by the American Psychological Association, as applicable, and the recommendation of the subcommittee, if any, but is not bound to follow such recommendations.

6. 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 or subcommittee, as applicable, may require the applicant to submit additional information regarding the contents of the course, including, without limitation, a syllabus, a university catalog description or a statement from the instructor of the course.

7. If the Board finds that the training program completed by an applicant pursuant to this section is not equivalent to a program accredited by the American Psychological Association, the applicant may petition the Board for reconsideration. A decision of the Board upon reconsideration, or a decision of the Board to deny such a petition, is a final decision for the purposes of chapter 233B of NRS.

**Sec. 6.** NAC 641.062 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641.062 1. An applicant for licensure as a psychologist who, on or after January 1, 2018, has completed a training program *within the United States* that is 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 submit to the Board:

(a) Transcripts, syllabi, university catalog descriptions, a description of the training program, professional competency evaluations conducted of the applicant while in the 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 for doctoral programs in the *Standards of Accreditation for Health Service Psychology* of the American Psychological Association, which is available, free of charge, at the Internet address <http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/index.aspx>, and Section C of the *Implementing Regulations* of the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association, which is available, free of charge, at the Internet address ~~<http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/section-c-soa.pdf>~~; <http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/index.aspx>; and

(b) The evaluation of the academic credentials of the applicant conducted pursuant to subsection 4 or 5.

3. For the purposes of paragraph (a) of subsection 2, a training program “substantially complies with the accreditation standards for doctoral programs” if the applicant submits to the Board, without limitation, proof:

(a) Of doctoral training at an institution which is considered by the Board to be an accredited educational institution pursuant to *paragraph (a) of* subsection 3 of NAC 641.050.

(b) That the primary purpose of the training program is to provide broad and general training in scientific psychology and in the foundations of practice in health service psychology. The program materials must demonstrate:

(1) The integration of empirical evidence and practice;

(2) That the training is sequential, cumulative, graded in complexity and designed to prepare students for practice or further organized training; and

(3) That the program requires respect for and understanding of cultural and individual differences and diversity.

(c) 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 stable leadership provided by one or more designated doctoral-level psychologists who:

(I) Are members of an identifiable core faculty of the program; and

(II) Together with other core faculty of the program have primary responsibility for the program's design, implementation, evaluation and quality.

(4) Has an identifiable body of students who are matriculated in the program for the purpose of earning a degree.

(5) Includes supervised practicums which must include, without limitation:

(I) Supervised experience working with diverse persons who display a variety of presenting problems, diagnoses and issues;

(II) Supervised experience in settings committed to training and providing experiences consistent with health service psychology competencies, including, without limitation, those competencies listed in paragraphs (e) and (f);

(III) Supervision provided by appropriately trained and credentialed persons; and

(IV) Practicum evaluations which are based, at least in part, on direct observation, which may occur in person or via electronic means.

(d) That the program requires a student to complete successfully at least 3 academic years, or the equivalent, of full-time graduate study which includes at least 2 years, or the equivalent, of academic training and at least 1 year, or the equivalent, in full-time residence. A person seeking to satisfy the requirement for 1 year in full-time residence based on equivalent experience must demonstrate that the experience achieved all the purposes of the requirement, including, without limitation, mentoring, supervision and evaluation regarding the development of professional competence. Experience in a program that was conducted entirely through electronic means may not be used to satisfy the requirements of this paragraph.

(e) That the applicant, while in the program, acquired and demonstrated substantial graduate-level understanding and competence in discipline-specific knowledge in the following areas:

- (1) The history and systems of psychology.
- (2) Affective aspects of behavior.
- (3) Biological aspects of behavior.
- (4) Cognitive aspects of behavior.
- (5) Social aspects of behavior.
- (6) Developmental aspects of behavior across the lifespan.
- (7) Advanced integrative knowledge in scientific psychology.
- (8) Research methods.
- (9) Quantitative methods.
- (10) Psychometrics.

(f) That the applicant, while in the program, achieved and demonstrated profession-wide competency in the following areas:

- (1) Research.
- (2) Ethical and legal standards.
- (3) Individual and cultural diversity.
- (4) Professional values, attitudes and behaviors.
- (5) Communication and interpersonal skills.
- (6) Assessment.
- (7) Intervention.
- (8) Supervision.
- (9) Consultation, interprofessional and interdisciplinary skills.

4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, to determine whether the training program completed by an applicant is equivalent to a program accredited by the American Psychological Association pursuant to subsection 1, the applicant must have his or her academic credentials, including, without limitation, the required curriculum, evaluated by:

- (a) The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards; or
- (b) The director of clinical training of a doctoral program that is accredited by the American Psychological Association and approved by the Board of Psychological Examiners.

5. An applicant who is unable to obtain an evaluation as required in subsection 4 may, upon the approval of the Board, have his or her academic credentials evaluated by a designee of the director of clinical training of a doctoral program that is accredited by the American Psychological Association.

6. The Board may establish a subcommittee to review the academic credentials of an applicant and present a recommendation to the Board. In determining whether to approve the academic credentials of an applicant pursuant to subsection 4 or 5, the Board will consider any recommendation from the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, the director of clinical training of a doctoral program that is accredited by the American Psychological Association, or a designee of the director of clinical training of a doctoral program that is accredited by the American Psychological Association, as applicable, and the recommendation of the subcommittee, if any, but is not bound to follow such recommendations.

7. If the Board finds that the training program completed by an applicant pursuant to this section is not equivalent to a program accredited by the American Psychological Association, the applicant may petition the Board for reconsideration. A decision of the Board upon reconsideration, or a decision of the Board to deny such a petition, is a final decision for the purposes of chapter 233B of NRS.

**Sec. 7.** NAC 641.0625 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641.0625 To meet the educational requirements for licensure as a psychologist set forth in NAC 641.061 or 641.062, *or section 4 of this regulation*, as applicable, an applicant who:

1. Has not earned a doctoral degree in psychology from an accredited educational institution approved by the Board or completed doctoral-level training from an accredited educational institution 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 the 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. 8.** NAC 641.120 is hereby amended to read as follows:

641.120 1. The national examination constitutes one portion of the examination for licensure as a psychologist.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, an applicant for a license may take the national examination after the applicant has graduated with a doctoral degree from:

(a) A training program which is accredited by the American Psychological Association or a program which meets the requirements of:

(1) NAC 641.061 if the applicant graduated *from a program within the United States* before January 1, 2018; ~~for~~

(2) NAC 641.062 if the applicant graduated *from a program within the United States* on or after January 1, 2018; or

*(3) Section 4 of this regulation if the applicant graduated from a program completed outside the United States; or*

(b) An institution which meets the requirements of subsection 3 of NAC 641.050.

3. An applicant who fails the national examination:

(a) Once or twice may retake the examination.

(b) Three times may not retake the examination unless the applicant requests permission and obtains approval from the Board to retake the examination for a fourth time. The applicant must submit to the Board a written request to retake the examination and a written plan explaining the steps the applicant will take to pass the examination. The Board will approve the request to

retake the examination if the Board determines that the written plan submitted by the applicant is likely to result in the applicant passing the examination.

(c) Four or more times may not retake the examination except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, and his or her application for licensure pursuant to NRS 641.160 or NAC 641.062 ~~or~~ *or section 4 of this regulation*, as applicable, is deemed denied. A person whose application is deemed denied pursuant to this paragraph may, not earlier than 18 months after the date on which he or she notified the Board that he or she failed the examination for the immediately preceding time, request permission in writing from the Board to reapply for licensure and retake the examination. The Board will, if good cause is shown, approve the request.