

Canadian Psychological Association

Accreditation Update

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From CPA's Registrar

As we wrap up another Psychology Month, it is always so reaffirming to see the myriad ways in which psychologists and students contribute to advancing the role of psychology across the country. This second issue of the Accreditation Update newsletter fittingly highlights some of the formal opportunities for involvement in accreditation, as a key means of advancing and supporting professional psychology. As always, please feel free to contact me, Dr. Melissa Tiessen, Director, Education Directorate & Registrar, Accreditation, with any questions or comments about accreditation, by phone at 613-237-2144 extension 333 or by email at: accreditation@cpa.ca

2015 CPA Convention Preview

As many of you are aware, the next CPA Annual Convention will take place on June 4 to 6, 2015, in Ottawa, ON. It will be an exciting time as the CPA welcomes delegates to the home town of headquarters! The Accreditation Panel is planning a number of activities for the benefit of training programs. To help with your conference registration and travel planning, here is a preview of what we have in store:

- ***NEW*** Developing a CPA Accredited Programme: Effectively Moving Along the Path – a joint session with CCPPP, intended to help clarify the accreditation standards, overall process, and preparation of a self-study. Individuals from new and existing programs, particularly those due for re-accreditation, as well as site visitors are welcome to attend.
- ***NEW*** Site Visitor Conversation Session – an opportunity for site visitors and the Panel to discuss best practices in the site visit process.
- Site Visitor Workshop – to be held in the evening at the CPA Head Office. Come join us not only to learn about the important role of serving as a site visitor, but also to receive a private tour of CPA headquarters!
- Accreditation Panel Conversation Session – the traditional opportunity for programs and the Panel to have an informal dialogue about accreditation and training issues.

Please stay tuned in the coming months for confirmation of dates and times.

The Accreditation Panel Wants You!

The CPA Accreditation Panel is currently seeking new members. Ideally, one new member is needed for the Panel's next meeting, scheduled for May 1-3, 2015 in Ottawa, with two additional members needed for the Panel's Fall 2015 meeting (and more in the future). Please read on for further details about this opportunity.

The Panel in Recent Years

Top to bottom:

2014

2008

2006



What does the Panel do?

The members of the Accreditation Panel have a responsibility to monitor and uphold the standards for professional psychology training programs across the country. To assess programs' compliance with the accreditation standards, Panel members are actively involved throughout the year in reviewing programs' self-study documentation. Twice a year, the Panel comes together in person in Ottawa to discuss and deliberate on program accreditation decisions. The Panel is also involved in reviewing programs' annual reports, providing site visitor training, addressing inquiries from programs, and liaising with stakeholders, including regulatory bodies, CCPPP, APPIC, and APA.

Why should I volunteer to join the Panel?

In the spirit of full transparency, here are the pros and cons of joining the Panel:

The Downsides

- Lots of documentation to review – no way around this!
- No financial remuneration for your time
- Three year commitment required

The Benefits

- The opportunity to contribute to the maintenance of high standards for professional psychology training
- A wealth of learning about the myriad ways in which good training can be conducted
- Networking with other like-minded professionals
- 2 'all-expenses-paid' trips to Ottawa each year (spring and fall)
- Great food and stimulating conversation!

I'm sold! How can I join?

The Panel would be thrilled to review your application. The Panel does particularly need individuals affiliated with accredited doctoral programs, and/or those who can speak French; however, anyone from a CPA accredited training program is welcome to apply. Please forward a cover letter expressing your interest and a recent copy of your CV to the Registrar, Dr. Melissa Tiessen, at accreditation@cpa.ca. Please indicate in your cover letter whether you wish to be considered for immediate appointment to the Panel (for the May 2015 meeting), or for appointment at the Fall 2015 meeting (date TBD). Please also feel free to nominate a colleague. To assist with next steps, please submit all applications by **Monday, March 16, 2015**.

We hope that many of you will consider taking on this important role!

Notes from the Field

*This section of the newsletter is intended as a forum to highlight diverse perspectives on the important work of accreditation. This issue's column has been written by **Brian Mainland**, currently completing his doctoral internship at London Health Sciences, and past student member of the Panel from 2011/12 through 2013/14.*

As a graduate student in psychology, I've learned the value of exploring beyond the classroom to seek out educational opportunities that offer unique perspectives on the roles that psychologists can play in fostering the growth of our profession. During my three years on the CPA Accreditation Panel, I was amazed by the dedication that Canadian program directors and Accreditation Panel members have for ensuring high quality development and implementation of doctoral programs and internships in psychology. As the student member, I had the opportunity to see behind the scenes of program planning and contribute my own input on some of the challenges facing Canadian psychology programs. Part of my role involved attendance at biannual Panel meetings in Ottawa and CPA Conventions in Vancouver, Québec City and Halifax. Through these meetings, I gained an appreciation of the crucial role that accreditation plays in the growth of psychology and had many opportunities to work closely with Canadian program leaders. I also had the chance to gain mentorship from other Panel members, which was a unique addition to my graduate training experience. As I am approaching the midway point of my internship year in an accredited Canadian program, I certainly value my time spent on the Panel and the fantastic training opportunities that the accreditation process helps develop for Canadian psychology graduate students. My advice to other graduate students — and to professional psychologists — is to seek out opportunities to contribute your own thoughts on the role of psychology in Canada, as it is a rapidly changing and expanding profession that welcomes new ideas.



Brian Mainland

ACPRO Adoption of National Standard

Courtesy of Dr. Rick Morris, Chair of ACPRO

At its meeting in November 2014, the Board of Directors of the Association of Canadian Psychology Regulatory Organizations (ACPRO) adopted a Position Statement confirming the doctoral level as the national standard for entry to practice in psychology. This Position Statement marks the culmination of over three years work directed toward establishing a consistent, pan-Canadian standard for entry into the profession, and identifies graduation from a doctoral program in psychology accredited by the CPA as this National Standard. The Statement recognizes that some individuals, both from within Canada as well as internationally educated, may be trained in non-CPA accredited programs and specifies the knowledge, skills and abilities deemed to be substantially equivalent to a graduate of a CPA accredited program. ACPRO recognizes that different jurisdictions are currently exploring models to regulate Master's level practitioners, and intends to review these models for possible commonalities going forward. Since regulation of psychology is a provincial/territorial responsibility the National Standard must be adopted by each jurisdiction. Recognizing this, ACPRO encourages member jurisdictions to work toward harmonizing their licensure standards with the ACPRO National Standard.

Read the full Position Statement on the ACPRO website:

www.acpro-aocrp.ca

Exciting Site Visit Developments

Site visitors are integral to the accreditation process. The Panel greatly appreciates the time and expertise that site visitors contribute, and is continuously looking for ways to best support site visitors in their important role. Please read on for some highlights of the Panel's current initiatives, and consider contacting us for a site visitor workshop!

Join us for a site visitor workshop!

Workshops are routinely held at the annual CPA Convention.

The Panel is also happy to organize a workshop at your location— simply gather at least 6 interested colleagues and we will do the rest!

Participants can be from both doctoral and internship programs.

Lunch, CE credits, and a valuable learning experience are provided!

Contact
accreditation@cpa.ca
for more details.

Site Visitor Survey

As a key means of supporting site visitors, the Panel is planning to offer some new training resources which will be relevant to what site visitors need 'in the trenches'. For phase one, the Panel has developed a survey asking site visitors to reflect on their initial site visitor training and preferences for ongoing training. An invitation to take part in the survey has been sent to all individuals currently on the Site Visitor Roster, but please feel free to take part even if you did not receive a direct invite. The survey is open until **March 31, 2015** and can be accessed online at: <http://web2.cpa.ca/membersurveys/index.php?sid=19372>

New Site Visit Scheduling System

Any training director who has scheduled a site visit in the past knows that the process unfortunately takes some time! The Panel and the Accreditation Office have been considering ways to minimize the time burden involved, and consequently we are currently trialling a new process for scheduling site visits. Once authorized for a site visit, programs will be invited to indicate their preferred visit dates, and to review a list of potential site visitors for any perceived or real conflicts of interest. Then, our Office will use a new online scheduling system to contact each vetted site visitor to inquire about their availability. The aim is to confirm a site visit team within 1 to 2 weeks of contacting potential site visitors. To enhance the chances of confirming a team quickly, programs are encouraged to identify a range of dates for their site visit (i.e., dates spanning a few different weeks, versus one specific week). Feedback on the new process from programs and site visitors is welcome!

Self-Study Submission Periods

Finally, as shared at the 2014 CPA Convention, the Panel has set three specific self-study submission periods for all programs due for re-accreditation in a given year:

- May-June (prior to academic year due)—for a fall site visit
- November-December—for a spring site visit
- January-February—for a summer site visit (internship programs only)

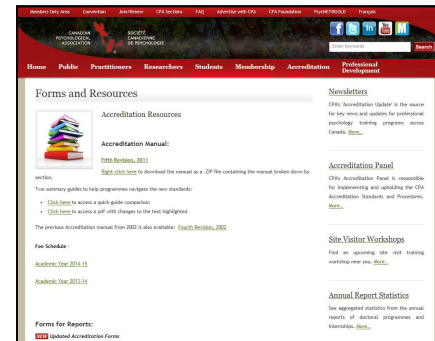
All programs due in 2015-16 have been notified of their assigned submission period. Programs due in 2016-17 can expect to receive notification before the fall of 2015. New programs are encouraged as well to submit their self-study during one of these submission periods. The hope is that by designating set submission periods, this will help to balance the workload for Panel members and meetings, better space out the supply and demand for site visitors, and give programs a deadline to work towards.

Website Resources

The Panel is always striving to make information about accreditation easily accessible to programs, students, and the general public. Please ensure to bookmark the CPA Accreditation Forms and Resources page so that you can return to it often: <http://www.cpa.ca/accreditation/resources/>

On this page you will find:

- Accreditation standards manual
- Fee guide
- All necessary self-study and annual report templates
- Slides from recent accreditation-related presentations
- Links to related organizations
- Links to information about the Panel and becoming a Site Visitor
- Links to statistics from program annual reports—recently updated with data from the **2013/14 training year**
- Links to the most frequently asked questions about accreditation—for both students and programs



Accredited Programs as of January 2015

	Doctoral Programs	Internship Programs
Clinical Psychology	25	27
Counselling Psychology	5	3
School/Clinical Psychology	2	0
Clinical Neuropsychology	1	3
TOTAL	33	33

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