

*Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies*

TITLE 20. Professional & Occupational Licensing, Certification

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*Agency*

**Department of Public Health**

*Subject*

**Psychology Licensing Requirements**

*Inclusive Sections*

**§§ 20-188-1—20-188-4**

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**Psychology Licensing Requirements**

**Sec. 20-188-1. Definitions**

(a) “Accreditation by the American Psychological Association” shall mean that:

(1) the program held provisional accreditation status or full accreditation status throughout the period of the applicant’s enrollment, provided said provisional status subsequently progressed without interruption to full accreditation; or

(2) the program held probationary accreditation status during the applicant’s enrollment and, upon termination of said probationary status, subsequently achieved full accreditation.

(b) “Recognized regional accrediting body” shall mean one of the following accrediting bodies: New England Association of Schools and Colleges; Middle States Commission on Higher Education; North Central Association of Colleges and Schools; Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities; Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; and Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

(c) “Accreditation by a recognized regional accrediting body” shall mean that: (1) the institution held accreditation status or candidacy for accreditation throughout the period of the applicant’s enrollment, provided said candidacy status subsequently progressed without interruption to full accreditation; or (2) the institution held accreditation status under probation or show-cause order during the applicant’s enrollment and, upon termination of said probation or show-cause order, accreditation status was maintained without interruption.

(d) “Acceptable documentation” shall mean published institutional documents contemporaneous with the applicant’s enrollment. In the absence of such published documents, “acceptable documentation” may be satisfied by appropriate certifications, based on institutional records, by the institution’s Chief Academic officer.

(e) “Acceptable evidence of professional identification” shall mean: member or fellow status in the American Psychological Association; or Diplomate status with the American Board of Professional Psychology; or state psychology licensure or certification; or receipt of the doctoral degree based in part upon a psychological dissertation, or the doctoral degree based on other evidence of proficiency in psychological scholarship from a program primarily psychological in content and conferred by a graduate or professional school that is regionally accredited, or that has achieved such accreditation within five years of the year the doctoral degree was granted, or one of equivalent standing outside the United States.

(f) “Acceptable evidence of applicant coursework” shall mean official transcript records of coursework completed with a passing grade, such records to be supplemented, where necessary to validate course content, with course catalogue descriptions, course outlines or syllabi, and/or student plans of study from official institutional files contemporaneous with the applicant’s enrollment.

(g) “Closely related” shall mean related as a spouse, child, grandchild, child’s or grandchild’s spouse, parent, grandparent, brother, or sister.

(h) “Department” shall mean the Department of Public Health.

(i) “Board” shall mean the Board of Examiners of Psychologists, as established by

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Connecticut General Statutes, Section 20-186.

(j) “Employ on a full-time basis” shall mean to employ an individual for a minimum of thirty (30) hours per week.

(Effective April 2, 1991; Amended August 17, 2009)

**Sec. 20-188-2. Doctoral educational standards for Connecticut psychology licensure**

(a) A program holding accreditation by the American Psychological Association shall constitute an approved doctoral educational program in psychology for Connecticut psychology licensure, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Sections 20-188 and 20-189.

(b) A program, in which the applicant completed the doctoral degree prior to July 1, 1989, and which does not hold accreditation by the American Psychological Association shall be an approved doctoral educational program in psychology for Connecticut psychology licensure, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Section 20-188 and 20-189, when the Department has determined, with the advice and assistance of the Board, that the program was in compliance with recognized written national standards for the preparation of psychologists which were in effect at the time of the applicant’s matriculation in such program. These standards shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, those contained within the following publications: The American Psychological Association’s “accreditation procedures and criteria” in effect at the time of the applicant’s matriculation in the program; and for an applicant matriculating in such program in and after 1977, the national register of health service providers in psychology’s “guidelines for defining doctoral degrees in psychology.”

(c) A program located within the United States or its territories, in which the applicant completed the doctoral degree on or after July 1, 1989, which does not hold accreditation by the American Psychological Association shall be an approved doctoral educational program in psychology for Connecticut psychology licensure, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 20-188 and 20-189, when all of the criteria specified below are satisfied:

(1) The program shall be offered in an institution of higher education holding accreditation by a recognized regional accrediting body. The institution which granted the applicant’s doctoral degree shall hold accreditation by a recognized regional accrediting body to grant degrees at the doctoral level. Any other institution at which the applicant completed graduate-level coursework in psychology shall have held accreditation by a recognized regional accrediting body to grant degrees at the graduate level.

(2) The program, wherever it may be administratively housed, shall be clearly identified and labeled as a psychology program. Acceptable documentation shall clearly identify the program as a psychology program with the intent to educate and train professional psychologists.

(3) The program shall stand as a recognizable, coherent organizational entity within the institution. Acceptable documentation shall clearly demonstrate that the institution has

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recognized and established an organizational structure, curriculum, administration, and faculty for the psychology program.

(4) Psychologists shall have clear authority and primary responsibility for the core and specialty areas within the program. Acceptable documentation shall clearly identify a psychologist or psychologists responsible for core and specialty areas within the program. When the professional identification of the responsible individual(s) is in question, acceptable evidence of professional identification shall be required.

(5) The program shall be an organized, integrated sequence of required study designed and predominately taught by the psychology faculty responsible for the doctoral program. Acceptable documentation shall clearly identify specific educational objectives and an organized, sequenced plan for meeting these objectives through required coursework, elective study, and related training experiences. Said objectives and plan must be designed and predominately taught by faculty of the program. The requirements of this subsection shall not be satisfied when a program permits educational objectives to be met solely by the completion of a specified number of course credits, examinations, independent study experiences, and/or hours of work experience.

(6) The program shall have an identifiable core of full-time psychology faculty. Acceptable documentation shall clearly identify a core of psychologists serving as full-time faculty for the program. When the professional identification of the responsible individual(s) is in question, acceptable evidence of professional identification shall be required.

(7) The program shall have an identifiable body of students who are matriculated in that program for a doctoral degree. Acceptable documentation shall clearly demonstrate that the program has an identifiable body of doctoral students matriculated in that program.

(8) The applicant shall complete a course of studies which encompasses a minimum of three academic years, or its equivalent, of full-time graduate study, of which a minimum of one academic year, or its equivalent, of full-time academic graduate study in psychology must be completed in residence at the institution granting the doctoral degree. Acceptable evidence of applicant coursework shall document completion of the specified minimum lengths of full-time graduate study and study in residence. The requirement for study in residence shall be satisfied by full-time registration, attendance at, and participation in didactic coursework at the physical site of the institution granting the doctoral degree. Such requirement shall not be satisfied solely by the accumulation of contact hours with faculty or supervisors remote from the physical site of the institution granting the doctoral degree, nor solely by the completion of a specified number of course credits, independent study experiences, examinations, and/or hours of work experience.

(9) The applicant shall complete a course of studies which encompasses instruction in scientific methods in psychology and which shall include instruction in research design and methodology, statistics, and psychometrics. Acceptable evidence of applicant coursework shall document satisfactory completion of a minimum of six graduate semester hours, or ten graduate trimester hours, of study in scientific methods of psychology, including the study of research design and methodology, statistics, and psychometrics. Not less than three

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graduate semester hours, or five graduate trimester hours, of the applicant's study in scientific methods of psychology shall be in research design, methodology, and statistics.

(10) The applicant shall demonstrate that the content of his doctoral program was primarily psychological by completion of classroom instruction in the following four substantive basic science areas:

(A) BIOLOGICAL BASES OF BEHAVIOR, for example, physiological psychology, comparative psychology, neuro-psychology, sensation-and perception, psychopharmacology.

(B) COGNITIVE-AFFECTIVE BASES OF BEHAVIOR, for example, learning, thinking, motivation, emotion.

(C) SOCIAL BASES OF BEHAVIOR, for example, social psychology, group processes, organizational and systems theory.

(D) INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES, for example, personality theory, human development, abnormal psychology. Acceptable evidence of applicant coursework shall document satisfactory completion of a total of at least twenty-one graduate semester hours, or thirty-five graduate trimester hours, of classroom instruction encompassing the four substantive content areas specified in this subsection. The requirements of this subsection shall not be satisfied by any course which had a predominately applied or clinical focus.

(11) The applicant shall complete a course of studies which includes a formal practicum, internship, or field training, which is supervised by program faculty, which is appropriate to the practice of psychology, and which is a minimum of one academic year in duration. Acceptable evidence of applicant coursework shall document satisfactory completion of a formal supervised practicum, internship, or field training in psychology. The requirements of this section shall not be satisfied by dissertation work alone.

(12) An applicant who has received a doctoral degree in psychology that does not meet the requirements of this subsection or subsections (a) or (b) of this section may remediate the required course work post-doctorally. Such supplemental course work shall consist of formal doctoral level course work meeting the requirements of subdivisions (9), (10) and (11) of this subsection and shall be completed in a program that meets the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

(13) An applicant who has received a doctoral degree in a non applied or non clinical area of psychology shall meet the requirements of this subsection provided the applicant has completed a respecialization program in an applied psychology program accredited by the American Psychological Association.

(d) A program located outside the United States or its territories which does not hold accreditation by the American Psychological Association shall be an approved doctoral educational program in psychology for Connecticut licensure, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Sections 20-188 and 20-189, when all of the criteria specified below are satisfied:

(1) The program shall be offered by an institution of higher education approved to grant degrees at the doctoral level by the appropriate governmental or government-recognized

body of the jurisdiction in which it is located. The applicant shall be required to demonstrate that the degree granted is equivalent in level and content to a doctoral degree in psychology as granted by an approved United States program, as defined by these regulations. The applicant shall be responsible for providing official documentation of educational program, translations of any non-English language documentation, and professional evaluations of educational credentials by a credentials evaluation service designated by the Department.

(2) The program and applicant shall be required to meet the criteria of subsections (c)(2) through (c)(11) of this section.

(Effective April 2, 1991; Amended August 17, 2009)

**Sec. 20-188-3. Work experience standards for Connecticut psychology licensure**

Work experience initiated on or after April 1, 1988, shall be satisfactory for Connecticut Psychology Licensure, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Section 20-188, when all of the criteria specified below are satisfied.

(a) The work experience shall consist of at least one year at the pre-doctoral or post-doctoral level and does not include an internship completed as part of the requirements of completing a doctoral degree.

(1) The work experience shall consist of either:

(A) no less than thirty-five hours per week for no less than forty-six weeks within twelve consecutive months, or

(B) no less than 1800 hours within twenty-four consecutive months. No more than forty hours per week shall be credited toward the required experience.

(2) The completion date of such experience shall be no later than eight weeks prior to the scheduled date of administration of the licensure examination to which the applicant is seeking admission.

(b) The work experience shall be supervised in accordance with this subsection and subsection (d) of this section by one or more doctoral-level psychologist(s) licensed in the state where the experience was completed and supervised. A doctoral-level licensed psychologist shall have either directly supervised the applicant, or consulted with the applicant under contract to the employment setting. For each 40 hours of work experience, such supervision or consultation shall consist of at least three hours, of which no less than one hour shall be individual, direct, face-to-face supervision or consultation. The supervisor shall not be closely related to the supervisee nor have such other relationship to the supervisee that may reasonably be seen to compromise the objectivity of the supervisor. The supervisor shall not concurrently supervise more than a total of three individuals completing the work experience.

(c) The work experience shall be within an area for which the applicant is qualified by the applicant's doctoral education and shall be appropriate to the applicant's intended area of practice. The duties the applicant shall be performing, as documented by the supervisor, shall be within an area for which the applicant has completed a directly related sequence of graduate coursework and a supervised pre-doctoral internship, practicum, field training or



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laboratory training. Acceptable evidence of applicant coursework shall be required.

(d) The work experience shall be within an acceptable employment setting as defined in this subsection.

(1) An acceptable employment setting shall:

(A) employ on a full-time basis or contract or otherwise provide for the services of a doctoral-level licensed psychologist engaged in work in an area for which the applicant is qualified by the applicant's doctoral education in accordance with subsection (c) of this section;

(B) provide the applicant an opportunity for regularly occurring professional interaction and collaboration with other disciplines, an opportunity to utilize a variety of techniques and interventions, and an opportunity to work with a broad range of populations and conditions; and

(C) ensure that the licensed doctoral-level psychologist has direct and continuing administrative control of, as well as full professional responsibility and accountability for, the activities performed and services provided by the applicant and shall certify to the applicant's satisfactory completion of the work experience in accordance with subsection (e) of this section.

(2) The requirements of this subsection shall not be satisfied when the experience is completed within an applicant's independent practice setting, or when the applicant receives direct client fees or variable compensation based upon client fees generated.

(3) Documentation from the employment setting shall establish that the setting provides supervision for the applicant and meets all of the requirements of this subsection.

(e) The work experience shall be certified as satisfactorily completed by the licensed doctoral level psychologist who directly supervised the applicant.

(f) When such experience is to be completed in Connecticut, the applicant may file a supervised work experience plan with the Department on forms prescribed by the Department. Written approval of the plan of supervised work experience may be obtained from the Department prior to the applicant's beginning such experience, based upon compliance of the plan with the requirements of this section.

(1) In order to obtain such approval, the applicant shall:

(A) satisfy the Department that the applicant has completed or is enrolled in a doctoral education program in psychology approved for Connecticut psychology licensure; and

(B) submit an acceptable plan for supervised work experience to the Department.

(2) Prior to licensure and during the period of time devoted to completing the work experience in Connecticut under the terms of an approved plan, the applicant shall be permitted to use the description "psychology resident" solely in the conduct of such applicant's approved work experience plan. Outside of an applicant's employment under the terms of a plan approved pursuant to subsection (f)(1) of this section, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, Section 20-187(a), applicants shall refrain from using any title employing the terms "psychologist", "psychology", or "psychological" to describe their services offered to the public, or to any public or private organization for a fee or other

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remuneration. Activities exempt from this provision are set forth in Connecticut General Statutes Section 20-195.

(Effective April 2, 1991; Amended August 17, 2009)

**Sec. 20-188-4. Repealed**

Repealed April 2, 1991.