Oregon Board of Psychologist Examiners

2013 OBPE Education Summit: A Conversation on APA Accreditation
Goal for the Summit:

Shall graduation from an APA accredited school be required for psychology licensure in Oregon?
Process

Brief presentations by Board:

- History that led up to this Summit
- Summary of Research
- Impact: The Other Side

Public Comments
Open Discussion
Next Steps & Closing
History of APA Accreditation

1945:
- VA and Public Health Service charged APA with compiling a list of programs that train “competent clinicians”

1947:
- APA Commission on Training in Clinical Psychology created identifying 5 core principles of training

1973:
- APA “spun off” Council on Accreditation and developed first set of guidelines
  - became accredited by National Commission on Accrediting & Department of Education

1993:
- Accredited programs increase 20-fold (36 in 1948 to 714 in 1993)

2005:
- Ratifies use of “self-study” as centerpiece of accreditation

2013:
- Alternative accreditation by National Register disbands; Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (14 members)
Organizations Supporting APA Accreditation

† National Council of Schools and Programs of Professional Psychology (Torrey Wilson, president NCSPP (2013), personal communication)

† Association of Psychology of Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (http://www.appic.org/AboutAPPIC/APPICPolicies/DPAPolicy.aspx)

† Health Services Psychology Education Collaborative

† Department of Veterans Affair (http://www.psychologytraining.va.gov/eligibility.asp)

† American Psychological Association of Graduate Students (APAGS (2013) Response to APA Commission on Accreditation)
Empirical Data Regarding APA Accreditation

Schaeffer et al (2012)
- Examined the EPPP performance of 7,402 applicants over a 2 year period
- Significant difference among pass rates (78% of accredited program applicants passed vs 58% of non-accredited $p<.001$)

Parent & Williamson (2010)
- Examined APPIC match rates from 2000-2006
- 15 programs accounted for 30% of unmatched students (14 APA-accredited; 13 were PsyD programs)
- BUT...did not include programs that graduated fewer than 5 students per year or did not send students through the match. 2010-2012 data accounts for more unaccredited programs with a paper in press (Parent (2013), personal communication)
Benefits of APA Accreditation

Licensees

- Nationally accepted education standard for ease of license and mobility
- Access to the APPIC match system to obtain a required predoctoral internship
- Access to certain federal training and employment opportunities

Public

- Knowledge their clinician meets a nationally accepted standard of competency
- Access to information of a program’s outcomes in terms of internship match rate, student retention, program disciplinary actions
References


The Other Side:

Some schools will not qualify for APA accreditation

APA does not accredit terminal masters programs

Limits Choice of Schools for Oregonians