



School of Psychological Science

Oregon State University
2950 SW Jefferson Way
Reed Lodge, Corvallis, Oregon 97331
541-737-2311

Dear Oregon Board of Psychologist Examiners,

Please accept our strong letter of support for amending OAR 858-010-0010 to allow a doctoral degree in psychology that is programmatically accredited by the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS) to satisfy the educational requirements for licensure as a psychologist in Oregon.

The School of Psychological Science at Oregon State University has a well-established Ph.D. program in psychology, in which students use psychological research to solve practical problems. Within this existing framework, our first class of Clinical Science Ph.D. students started in fall 2024. Clinical Science students engage in the same rigorous research training undertaken by all our Ph.D. students, and in addition receive high-quality clinical training. Graduates of this program will be prepared for careers in clinical research, teaching and supervision, public health policy, clinical practice careers that include leadership and administration, and industry.

Because of our strong identification with clinical science, our program applied to PCSAS for preliminary accreditation in August 2024. We hope to join the nearly 50 other clinical psychology programs accredited by PCSAS, most of which (42) are ranked in the top 50 clinical psychology programs by *U.S. News and World Report*. We have confidence in the PCSAS accreditation process, as it is nationally recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), the body that serves as the gold standard for evaluating accreditors. To quote the CHEA website, CHEA is the “primary national voice for quality assurance to the U.S. Congress, U.S. Department of Education, the general public, opinion leaders, students, and families.” We note that CHEA is the same body that recognizes the American Psychological Association (APA).

Once we are accredited by PCSAS, graduates of our program will be eligible for licensure in a growing number of states, but not Oregon. They will be eligible for employment with federal agencies such as the US Department of Veterans Affairs, but will not be eligible for employment for most psychologist jobs in Oregon. Our graduates will be highly skilled clinicians who have the potential to serve in leadership roles in clinical settings, and support the widespread dissemination of science-backed clinical interventions, but not in Oregon. Without licensure parity for PCSAS programs, our graduates may not be able to stay in Oregon, and support the mental health of Oregonians.



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Amending OAR 858-010-0010 to grant the PCSAS parity with the APA and Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) for purposes of application for licensure as a psychologist aligns with the state's commitment to workforce development in mental health fields. We urge the Board to adopt this amendment to ensure Oregon remains a leader in preparing psychologists to meet the evolving needs of our communities.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Bridget Klest

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Bridget Klest, Ph.D.

Director of Clinical Training & Clinical Associate Professor
School of Psychological Science
Oregon State University

DocuSigned by:

Kathryn Becker-Blease

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Kathryn Becker Blease, Ph.D.

Director of the School of Psychological Science & Professor
Oregon State University