



NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & FISCAL IMPACT

CHAPTER 858 MENTAL HEALTH REGULATORY AGENCY OREGON BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

FILED

07/11/2025 3:45 PM
ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE

FILING CAPTION: Amends psychologist educational requirements to accept programs accredited by the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System.

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY: 08/27/2025 5:00 PM

The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.

A public rulemaking hearing may be requested in writing by 10 or more people, or by a group with 10 or more members, within 21 days following the publication of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Oregon Bulletin or 28 days from the date the Notice was sent to people on the agency mailing list, whichever is later. If sufficient hearing requests are received, the notice of the date and time of the rulemaking hearing must be published in the Oregon Bulletin at least 14 days before the hearing.

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NEED FOR THE RULE(S)

The Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System sets strong standards for rigorous scientific training, evidence-based assessment and intervention, and research-informed practice. It requires clear outcomes showing graduate success. This proposal is endorsed by leadership at all four of the Oregon universities that currently offer psychology Ph.D. programs.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE

OAR Chapter 858 and ORS Chapter 675 are available on the OBOP website at <https://www.oregon.gov/Psychology/Pages/LawsRules.aspx>. Information about the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System can be found at <https://pcsas.org/>.

STATEMENT IDENTIFYING HOW ADOPTION OF RULE(S) WILL AFFECT RACIAL EQUITY IN THIS STATE

This rule amendment may have a positive effect on racial equity in the state because it creates an additional pathway to licensure as a psychologist, which may reduce barriers and allow greater access to high-quality mental health professionals for Oregonians. This may help fill gaps in culturally competent care, particularly in underserved communities. The Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System's standards include "a demonstrated commitment to Diversity (broadly construed), Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice (DEIJ) in both the research and application areas" as a critical hallmark standard, requiring programs to integrate DEIJ into all aspects of their program.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:

Clinical psychology Ph.D. programs may choose to forego accreditation by the American Psychological Association as more states begin to accept Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System accreditation.

COST OF COMPLIANCE:

(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).

None. Businesses are not subject to this rule. The Board will absorb any minimal costs required to implement these changes within its current staffing levels and budgeted resources.

DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):

Small businesses were not explicitly involved.

WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? NO IF NOT, WHY NOT?

The proposed rule amendments/adoption were openly discussed during the July 11, 2025 public session board meeting where members of the public were invited to address the Board during a public forum. The rule language is uncomplicated. The Board did not determine that an additional committee beyond the nine-member Board and its staff was necessary to develop the rules.

AMEND: 858-010-0010

RULE SUMMARY: Sets forth that possession of a doctoral degree in psychology that is programmatically accredited by the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System satisfies the educational requirements for licensure as a psychologist in Oregon.

CHANGES TO RULE:

858-010-0010

Education Requirements - Psychologist ¶

To meet the education requirement of ORS 675.030(1), applicants for licensure must possess a doctoral degree in psychology from an approved doctoral program in psychology, as set forth below:¶

(1) A program accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) or the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) as of the date the degree was conferred;¶

(2) A program accredited by the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS) as of the date the degree was conferred; or¶

~~(23)~~ A program at an institution of higher learning that was ~~accredited by a regionally accrediting agency~~ as of the date the degree was conferred, if the program submitted an application to the APA or CPA for accreditation prior to the date the degree was conferred and has been granted a site visit by the APA or CPA. The program must not have withdrawn its APA or CPA accreditation application or have been denied accreditation as of the date the licensure applicant enrolled in the program; or¶

~~(34)~~ A foreign program where APA or CPA accreditation is not available. The applicant must have their program evaluated by a credentialing body recognized by the Board. Submission of foreign degree evaluation and cost of the foreign degree qualification determination are the responsibility of the applicant. The applicant must show that their graduate program in psychology meets all of the following requirements:¶

(a) A minimum of three academic years of full-time graduate study.¶

(b) A minimum of one continuous year in-residence at the institution from which the degree is granted.¶

(A) One continuous year means two consecutive semesters or three consecutive quarters.¶

(B) In-residence means physical presence, in person, at an educational institution or training facility in a manner that facilitates acculturation into the profession, the full participation and integration of the individual in the educational and training experience, and includes faculty and student interaction.¶

(C) The doctoral program may include distance education, but a minimum of one continuous year of the program shall be in-residence. Programs that use physical presence, including face-to-face contact for durations of less than one continuous year, (e.g., multiple long weekends and/or summer intensive sessions) or that use video conferencing or other electronic means as a substitute for physical presence at the institution do not meet the

in-residence requirement.¶

(c) The program, wherever it may be administratively housed, must be clearly identified and labeled as a program in psychology. Such a program must specify in pertinent institutional catalogues and brochures its intent to educate and train professional psychologists.¶

(d) The psychology program must stand as a recognizable, coherent organizational entity within the institution.¶

(e) There must be a clear authority and primary responsibility for the core and specialty areas, whether or not the program cuts across administrative lines.¶

(f) The program must be an integrated, organized sequence of study.¶

(g) There must be an identifiable psychology faculty sufficient in size and breadth to carry out its responsibilities and a psychologist responsible for the program.¶

(h) The program must have an identifiable body of students who are matriculated in that program for a degree.¶

(i) The program must include a coordinated, sequential and supervised practicum appropriate to the practice of psychology as described in OAR 858-010-0012.¶

(j) The program must include a coordinated, sequential and supervised internship, field or laboratory training appropriate to the practice of psychology as described in OAR 858-010-0013.¶

(k) The curriculum of the program must:¶

(A) Encompass a minimum of three academic years of full time graduate study, including a minimum of one continuous year in residence at the educational institution granting the doctoral degree;¶

(B) Require an original dissertation or equivalent that was psychological in nature that meets the requirement for an approved doctoral program; and¶

(C) Include at least 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours of credit in graded (not "pass-no pass") courses.¶

(l) The core program shall include a minimum of three graduate semester hours or 4.5 or more graduate quarter hours (when an academic term is other than a semester, credit hours will be evaluated on the basis of 15 hours of classroom instruction per semester hour) in each of the following substantive content areas:¶

(A) Scientific and professional ethics and standards;¶

(B) Research design and methodology;¶

(C) Statistics;¶

(D) Psychometric theory;¶

(E) Biological bases of behavior such as physiological psychology, comparative psychology, neuropsychology, sensation and perception, physical ergonomics, or psychopharmacology;¶

(F) Cognitive-affective bases of behavior such as learning, thinking, motivation, emotion, memory, cognitive information processing, or social cognition;¶

(G) Social bases of behavior such as social psychology, group processes, organizational and systems theory; and¶

(H) Individual differences in behavior such as personality theory, human development, personnel psychology or abnormal psychology.¶

(m) All professional education programs in psychology must include course requirements in developed practice areas/specialties.¶

(n) The program must demonstrate that it provides training relevant to the development of competence to practice in a diverse and multicultural society.¶

(o) Demonstration of competence in clinical psychology shall be met by a minimum of 18 graduate semester hours or 27 graduate quarter hours in the following areas: personality and intellectual assessment, diagnosis, therapeutic intervention, and evaluating the efficacy of intervention.¶

(p) If the program does not meet the core and/or clinical coursework requirements of (l) and (o), the applicant for licensure may remedy a deficiency of up to 6 semester hours or 9 quarter hours by completing graduate level coursework in the deficient content area(s) at a regionally accredited institution.¶

(45) Applicants must provide syllabi or other documentation regarding course content upon the Board's request.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 675.030, ORS 675.110

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 675.030(1)(b)(c)