

Call for Nominations

The Board of Educational Affairs (BEA)/Board of Professional Affairs (BPA) Task Force on Doctoral Competencies in Health Service Psychology (HSP)

Mission and Charge

The Task Force shall be charged to revise and update the competencies expected from graduates of doctoral programs in health service areas (clinical, counseling, school) of psychology. Specifically, the charge of the Task Force will include:

- Reviewing and updating the Health Service Psychology Education Collaborative (HSPEC) competencies document, which was prepared by the HSPEC and approved as policy by APA Council in 2013 with a specific focus on distinguishing doctoral competencies from the expected competencies of graduates of master's degree programs in health service psychology.
- Proposing other actions APA may need to take to adequately distinguish doctoral-level training in HSP from master's level training in HSP beyond the ongoing efforts by BEA, BPA, and the APA Commission on Accreditation (CoA).

As this effort is inextricably linked to ongoing efforts to develop APA policy for master's level competencies in HSP, the Task Force will work closely with the BEA/BPA Task Force to Delineate Competencies for Students Completing Master's Level Programs in HSP, which has drafted proposed competencies for graduates of master's programs in HSP. The Task Force will also be expected to closely monitor the CoA effort to develop implementing regulations for the accreditation of master's programs in HSP as well as the planned BPA activities to recommend an appropriate title and scope of practice for providers who graduate with a terminal master's degree in HSP and review APA's current Model Act for State Licensure of Psychologists (Model Act) to identify necessary changes and additions related to the distinction between master's and doctoral-level practice in HSP.

Once the Task Force membership is approved, work is planned to begin immediately and not to exceed 1.5 years. Work will be conducted via virtual meetings in Zoom and e-mail. The Working Group will also meet during the Summit on the Future of Education and Practice that is scheduled to start the evening of October 21, 2021 and meet most of the day on the 22nd and 23rd.

Background, History and Need for Task Force

In 2019, the BEA and BPA agreed to convene a Task Force to delineate competencies for individuals trained at the master's level in HSP and to delineate those competencies from individuals trained at the doctoral-level. That Task Force has developed a draft document that has been reviewed several times by BEA and BPA and subsequently revised. While the Task Force attempted to delineate the differences between the two levels of training, they concluded that the doctoral competencies that were approved in 2013 did not seem to reflect the current or anticipated competencies for a doctoral-trained health service psychologist. Accordingly, the Task Force recommended to BEA and BPA that a new Task Force be convened to update the doctoral competencies with the expectation that doing so would then delineate the difference between those with a doctoral degree and those with a master's degree in psychology.

The work of this Task Force is one of several efforts undertaken following a March 2018 vote by the APA Council of Representatives to approve pursuing accreditation of master's level programs in areas where APA already accredits (clinical, counseling, school).

Areas of Expertise Needed

BEA and BPA will appoint 8 members (including a Chair and one individual who is also serving on the BEA/BPA Task Force to Delineate Competencies for Students Completing Master's Level Programs in HSP), to the Task Force from those that apply. The Task Force shall represent individuals with the following areas of expertise:

- Graduate education at the doctoral-level with at least one representative from a clinical, counseling, and a school psychology program
- Accreditation of doctoral programs in health service psychology
- Leadership role(s) specific to the professional practice of psychology at the doctoral-level
- Academic leadership (department chair or higher) associated with a department, college, or school offering doctoral degree in psychology
- Licensed and actively engaged in the practice of psychology at the doctoral-level
- Current student in a doctoral program in health service psychology

Individuals with multiple areas of experience and expertise will receive precedence and are strongly encouraged to apply. BEA and BPA will also respect the core principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion in reviewing nominations and seeks nominees who will enhance the diversity of the Task Force broadly defined and through their racial/ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, disability status, economic background, areas of clinical expertise, experience with special populations, geographic location, and practice settings. Self-nominations are expected.

Nominees from a wide range of practice settings, populations, and professional roles as well as diverse perspectives and insights, including early career candidates, those new to APA governance, psychologists practicing in rural areas, and individuals from culturally diverse backgrounds are encouraged.

Those interested in serving on the Task Force should submit:

- A curriculum vitae (CV) or resume documenting experience and knowledge related to the charge of this Task Force
- A one-page (maximum) summary specifically articulating how qualifications relate to the areas of expertise outlined above and any aspects of diversity that you represent and choose to make known.
- Matrix for the BEA/BPA Task Force on Doctoral Competencies in Health Service Psychology (which will be provided only upon receipt of candidate's CV and summary statement)

Deadline for Submitting Materials: Friday, September 3, 2021.

Questions and nomination materials should be emailed to rwalsh@apa.org with attention to: Bob Walsh, Senior Director, Administration and Governance.