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ASPPB/National Register Designation Project



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April 19, 2013

Dear Doctoral Program Director:

The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) and the National Register of Health Service Psychologists (National Register) have jointly administered the ASPPB/National Register Designation Project since 1987. At the Joint Designation Committee's March 28-30, 2013 meeting, ASPPB and the National Register announced that they have signed an agreement to terminate the activities of the Joint Designation Project by September 2019. This letter provides historical information about the Designation Project and the timeline for terminating activities.

The National Register and ASPPB both adopted the designation criteria in the late 1970's to identify doctoral programs in psychology because of the uncertainties within both the academic training community and licensing boards around what constituted acceptable academic preparation for licensure and credentialing in psychology. In 1981, the National Register began publishing a list of programs that met the "Guidelines for Defining a 'Doctoral Degree in Psychology'". ASPPB joined the National Register in jointly funding and operating the Designation Project in 1987. The published list of designated doctoral programs in psychology is comprised of those doctoral degree programs that have earned accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation (COA) and the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) and have earned designation as doctoral programs in psychology by the ASPPB/NR Designation Project. Psychology licensing boards throughout the United States and Canada use the designation program list to identify appropriately trained individuals for purposes of licensure. The National Register uses the list of approved doctoral programs for purposes of credentialing individual graduates.

Over the past several years, the number of COA and CPA accredited programs appearing on the designation list has greatly exceeded the number of programs with the designation only status. At the same time, many professional organizations in the psychology community and federal funding agencies requested that organized psychology require graduation from an accredited program as the standard for recognition in professional psychology like other health care professions. These factors have contributed to ASPPB and the National Register's decision to terminate the activities of the Designation Project. The ASPPB/National Register Designation Project will no longer jointly review doctoral programs in psychology after the Joint Designation Committee's meeting in April 2014. **Please refer to the following time lines.**

Currently Designated Programs

The designation status of programs currently listed with the ASPPB/National Register "designation only" status **will end June 1, 2018**. During this five-year time period, the designated programs will continue to pay their annual Internet Hosting/Maintenance fee and will submit their triennial review applications to ensure that their programs continue to meet the designation criteria. Members of the JDC committee will review those programs to determine compliance with the criteria.

Designated Programs with the Designated/Inactive Status

Designated programs with the designated/inactive status will continue to submit their annual monitoring plan and fee. The designation status of the designated/inactive programs **will end when all students have completed the approved plan or on June 1, 2018, whichever occurs first.**

The list of currently designated doctoral programs in psychology is available at http://www.nationalregister.org/desig_about.html.

2014 Program Applicants

The JDC will review program applications at its final meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 3,-Saturday, April 5, 2014. Programs interested in submitting program applications for the 2014 review should submit the \$1,000 application fee and online application request beginning September 1, 2013. **The deadline for submitting the online 2014 application materials is Friday, January 31, 2014. The designation status of programs approved in 2014 will expire June 1, 2019.**

Terminating the activities of the Joint Designation Project has been a difficult decision for both parties. We have committed these additional years of approval to the Designation Project so that currently designated programs will have sufficient time to make program changes resulting from the expiration of their designation status and hopefully achieve accreditation status. If you have any questions or comments, **please submit them via email to both Dr. Judy Hall (judy@nationalregister.org), Executive Officer of the National Register of Health Service Psychologists, and Dr. Stephen DeMers (sdemers@asppb.org), Executive Officer of the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards.**

Sincerely,
Jacqueline B. Horn, Ph.D.
President, Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards

Rudy V. Nydegger, Ph.D.
Chairperson, National Register of Health Service Psychologists Board of Directors