

LICENSE APPLICANTS WITH NON-U.S. DOCTORAL DEGREES

State law, administrative rules, and Board policy guide the application review process for applicants with a doctoral degree from an educational institution outside of the U.S.

Applicants must be aware of the following and should be prepared for a potentially lengthy process whereby the Board determines whether a non-U.S. degree is equivalent to a doctoral degree in psychology or school psychology from an accredited institution of higher education in the U.S.:

- 1) The institution shall be listed in either the *International Handbook of Universities* or the *Commonwealth Universities Yearbook*.
- 2) The applicant must have the education reviewed for equivalence by an academic review company that is a member of "NACES," as described at www.naces.org. This review is done at the applicant's expense.
- 3) If the education is determined by a NACES-member company to be equivalent to a doctoral degree from a U.S. institution, then the applicant shall request from the Board a review of the transcript and education for a determination as to whether the Board's rules for equivalence are satisfied. If not found to be equivalent by a member of NACES, then the application shall be denied.
- 4) A determination of equivalence by a member of NACES is not sufficient for admission to examination, as the applicant must send the review and other requested documents (including at a minimum the dissertation abstract and evidence that a psychologist was a member of the committee) to the Board Entrance Examiner for review pursuant to Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 4732-9-01 (A) (2).

Relevant references to OAC:

4732-9-01 Requirements for admission to the examination for a psychologist license.

The requirements for admission to the examination for a psychologist license, which are generally set forth under division (B) of section 4732.10 of the Revised Code, include that the applicant be at least twenty-one years of age and of good moral character. In addition, he/she shall have received from an accredited (see paragraphs (E) and (F) of rule 4732-3-01 of the Administrative Code) educational institution an earned doctoral degree in psychology or school psychology or a doctoral degree deemed by the board to be the equivalent thereof. He/she shall have had at least two years of supervised professional experience in psychological work of a type satisfactory to the board, at least one year of which shall be postdoctoral. With regard to such requirements, the board hereby further prescribes that:

(A) In order for a doctoral degree completed after September 1, 1982, but before July 15, 2002, in a field other than psychology or school psychology from an educational institution holding full accreditation status at the time the degree was awarded to be deemed equivalent to a doctoral degree in psychology from such an educational institution, such degree shall include only graduate coursework completed prior to award of the doctorate and, in addition, shall:

(1) Be from a program accredited by the "American Psychological Association, Committee on Accreditation" or listed in the directory *Doctoral Psychology Programs Meeting Designation Criteria* published and/or made available to the public at www.nationalregister.org under the auspices of the "Association of State and provincial Psychology Boards"; or

(2) Comply with the following indicia of equivalence:

(a) The applicant supplies the board with his/her dissertation title, abstract, bibliography and the names and professional qualifications of the dissertation committee members, at least one of whom must be a psychologist or other qualified faculty member according to criteria available from the board office. The board examiner shall determine whether the dissertation is psychological in nature; and

(b) The curriculum shall encompass a minimum of the university's standard of full-time graduate study for three academic years or the equivalent. This curriculum shall involve at least one academic year of full-time enrollment in residence at the university from which the degree was granted. The curriculum shall include credit for at least sixty-three quarter hours or forty-two semester hours of formal graduate study, excluding thesis, dissertation and internship credit, relevant to the study of psychology. At least fourteen quarter hours or nine semester hours shall be taken in the psychology department of the educational institution granting the doctoral degree. Acceptable academic work shall include examination and grading procedures designed to evaluate the degree of mastery of the subject matter by the student. The curriculum shall include instruction in paragraphs (A)(2)(b)(i) to (A)(2)(b)(iv) of this rule, and the applicant's transcript(s) shall include a minimum of five graduate quarter hours or three graduate semester hours in foundation courses providing a broad base of knowledge in each of four of the five substantive content areas named in paragraphs (A)(2)(b)(v) to (A)(2)(b)(ix) of this rule. For courses taken after July 15, 2002, the applicant's transcript(s) shall include five graduate quarter hours or three graduate semester hours in each of the content areas named in paragraphs (A)(2)(b)(i) to

(A)(2)(b)(iv) of this rule and must also include five graduate quarter hours or three semester graduate semester hours in each of four of the five substantive content areas named in paragraphs (A)(2)(b)(v) to (A)(2)(b)(ix) of this rule.

- (i) Scientific and professional ethics and standards of psychology
- (ii) History and systems of psychology
- (iii) Research design and methodology
- (iv) Statistics and psychometrics
- (v) Biological bases of behavior, e.g., physiological psychology, comparative psychology, neuropsychology, sensation and perception, psychopharmacology
- (vi) Cognitive-affective bases of behavior, e.g., learning, thinking, motivation, emotion, and related higher intellectual functions
- (vii) Social bases of behavior, e.g., social psychology, theory of group processes, socio-moral development
- (viii) Individual differences, e.g., personality theory, human development, abnormal psychology, assessment methodology
- (ix) Industrial/organizational behavior, e.g., personnel training/selection, labor relations, consumer behavior, work motivation, organizational and systems theory; and

(c) The doctoral program shall include training and experience in applied professional psychology:

(i) The training shall include didactic and practica experiences in skills related to the professional work such as psychological assessment (use of group and individual psychological tests) and interventional procedures which may include, but not be limited to, counseling and psychotherapy, behavior modification, and psychological consultation. Appropriate training experiences may be considered toward meeting requirements of paragraph (H) of this rule; and

(ii) The psychological services offered in these training experiences shall be consistent with guidelines such as those proposed in the "General Guidelines for Providers of Psychological Services" as adopted and published by the "American Psychological Association"; and

(d) Coursework taken in a department other than the psychology department shall be evaluated by the board examiner to determine whether it is psychological in nature, using the following criteria in such evaluation:

(i) The content of the course was psychological in nature as evidenced by the course syllabi including textbook(s) with authors, a notarized statement from the professor verifying course content, or a written statement from the professor verifying course content, or a written statement, verifying the psychological content of the course, from the university or college offering the course; and

(ii) The instructor of the course was a licensed psychologist or licensed school psychologist, or possessed a diploma from the "American Board of Professional Psychology," or held a doctoral degree from the psychology department or in a school psychology program of an accredited educational institution or could otherwise demonstrate competency in the subject area of the course; or

(3) Be from a program approved by this board as a specific degree program that is recognized as meeting academic requirements for admission to the examination for a psychologist license. (Information about such programs is available by writing or calling the board office.)...

(C) A doctoral degree in psychology or any other field from an educational institution in the United States holding "candidate for accreditation status at the time the degree was awarded shall be evaluated for equivalence to a doctoral degree in psychology from an educational institution holding full accreditation status. A doctoral degree in psychology or any other field from an educational institution outside the United States shall be evaluated for equivalence to a doctoral degree in psychology from a fully accredited educational institution in the United States. In either case, in order to be deemed equivalent, the doctoral degree shall include only graduate coursework, excluding thesis, dissertation and internship credit, completed prior to award of the doctorate.

(1) In the case of a doctoral degree from an educational institution in the United States, any consideration under this paragraph shall be limited to a doctoral degree awarded within six years after the date on which the educational institution achieved "candidate for accreditation" status.

(2) In the case of a doctoral degree from an educational institution outside the United States, the educational institution must be included in one of the following:

(a) "International Handbook of Universities published for the "International Association of Universities," by Stockton Press, 345 Park Avenue South – 10TH floor, New York NY 10010-1707)

(b) "Commonwealth Universities Yearbook," published for "The Association of Commonwealth Universities," by John Foster House, 36 Gordon Square, London England WC1H 0PF

(3) In any case, in order to be deemed equivalent, the doctoral degree shall include only graduate course work completed prior to award of the doctorate and, in addition, shall comply with:

(a) The same indicia of equivalence as described in paragraph (A)(2) of this rule if the doctoral degree was completed after September 1, 1982; or

(b) The same indicia of equivalence as described in paragraph (B)(2) of this rule if the doctoral degree was completed on or before September 1, 1982.

Thank you for your careful attention to this process.

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