

Guidelines for Evaluating Training and Supervised Experience of Master's Degree Applicants for Psychological Associate

The following guidelines are offered for evaluation of Psychology Master's Degree Training Requirements for those applicants seeking a Psychological Associate level of registration with PAM:

As stated in By-Law 2 Sec. 3(a):

“The applicant must have obtained a master's degree from a program of study in psychology approved by Council from an educational institution that is also approved by Council.”

To assist PAM in assessing whether master's programs in departments of psychology in recognized universities in Canada or in other countries would meet the requirements, the following factors will be considered:

1. The degree must be at the master's level.
2. The degree must be issued through a program of studies at a regionally accredited degree-granting institution in Canada, or a recognized university in a foreign country.
3. The program, wherever it may be administratively housed, must be publicly identified and labeled as a psychology program.
4. A degree that is not accepted by PAM as a master's degree from a psychology program cannot be augmented by the candidate, after having obtained the degree, into the equivalent of a degree acceptable to PAM. Therefore, in order to become eligible for registration as a P.A. (IP), an applicant must complete another master's degree that is recognized by Council as a Psychology Master's Degree, as required in the Guidelines published by PAM.
5. The program must stand as a recognizable, coherent, organizational entity within the institution, and must specify in pertinent institutional catalogues and brochures its intent to train professional providers of psychological services.
6. The program must be an integrated, organized sequence of in-depth study and training in psychology.
7. A majority of the faculty and supervisors responsible for delivering the program must be registered or licensed to practice the profession of psychology.
8. The program must have a body of resident students who are enrolled in the program for a master's degree. This residency requirement ensures a pattern of direct, consistent and sustained academic and interpersonal interactions among the students and faculty of the program. In-person mentoring of students as well as peer interactions are considered crucial to professional training in psychology.
9. Applicants must have completed a minimum of one academic year of continuous full-time resident graduate study and training at the university where the degree is granted. Resident study and training consists of in-person participation in courses, seminars, practica and/or internships with face-to-face contact with faculty and other students. Resident study and training is essential to the development of assessment, therapy and interpersonal skills which require direct observation, by faculty, of the interactions the trainee has with clients, other trainees and supervisors and the opportunity for in-person, face-to-face supervision of the trainee by faculty.

10. Applicants must have completed the following courses and training at the graduate level (i.e. as part of the master's program which forms the basis for registration):

a) Courses in each of:

- i. psychological assessment
- ii. psychological intervention
- iii. professional ethics and standards
- iv. research design/methodology/statistics.

b) Training through:

supervised practica or internship appropriate to the practice of psychology. Supervisors of this training must be registered or licensed to practice the profession of psychology.

11. At either the graduate or the undergraduate level, applicants must have completed the following foundational coursework:

- a minimum of one full course in psychology (of approximately 72 hours duration) or two half courses in psychology (of approximately 36 hours duration) in at least **two** of the following foundational knowledge areas, and a minimum of a half course in psychology (of approximately 36 hours duration) in **each** two remaining foundational knowledge areas:

- i. *Biological Bases of Behaviour* (e.g. physiological psychology, comparative psychology, neuropsychology, sensation and perception, psychopharmacology)
- ii. *Cognitive-affective Bases of Behaviour* (e.g. learning, thinking, cognition, motivation, emotion)
- iii. *Social Bases of Behaviour* (e.g. social psychology, group processes, organizations & systems, community psychology, environmental psychology, cultural issues)
- iv. *Psychology of the Individual* (e.g. personality theory, human development, abnormal psychology, psychopathology, individual differences);

In order to be accepted as a foundational knowledge course, the course must have substantial coverage of that foundational knowledge area. Introductory psychology courses will not be accepted.

12. Applicants must have completed a four-year undergraduate degree in psychology or substantially equivalent study. Substantially equivalent study is considered to be at least 10 full undergraduate courses (of approximately 72 hours duration) in psychology. Graduate level courses may be used to fulfill this requirement only if they were not required as part of the graduate degree program.

