

Psychological Associate (Independent Practice)

Registration Guidelines

There are currently two classes of Psychological Associate registration with PAM: Psychological Associate – Supervised Practice (P.A. (SP)) and Psychological Associate – Independent Practice (P.A. (IP)). Those members who are registered at the P.A. (SP) level must have all of their work of a Psychological nature supervised by a Registered Psychologist. On the other hand, those who are registered at the P.A. (IP) level may practice autonomously with a scope of practice identical to those members with a C. Psych. (Registered Psychologist) designation. As PAM currently has no one registered at the P.A. (IP) level, all current P.A.s are to be considered P.A. (SP)s. **However, as we anticipate registering the first few P.A. (IP)s over the next several months, those P.A.s who continue to require supervision of their work, will be asked to use the P.A. (SP) designation, to provide clarity to the public and thereby accurately designate their PAM registration status.**

The following guidelines have been passed by PAM Executive Council and provide information relevant to those Psychological Associate Candidates or Psychological Associates (Supervised Practice) who wish to obtain independent practice privileges. The following guidelines only apply to those P.A.s who wish to practice independently (i.e., not under the supervision of a Registered Psychologist).

Under current PAM by-laws, in order for a P.A. (Cand.) or P.A. (SP) to obtain independent practice privileges, the following is required:

1. A total of four years of supervised practice (under the supervision of a Registered Psychologist), to be accrued after registration as a P.A. (Cand.) with PAM. One year of practice is equivalent to 1500 hours of professional experience, and 100 hours of individual, face to face supervision is required per year. Group supervision is acceptable, on a 2 to 1 ratio basis (i.e., 1 hour of group supervision = .5 hour of individual supervision). For current P.A. (SP)s, an additional two years of supervised experience is required to satisfy this measure.
2. In addition to passing the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) with a standard score of 500 (equivalent to 70%), successful completion of an oral examination and written jurisprudence examination are required. These are the same requirements as are in place for those doctoral candidates for Registered Psychologist status. These requirements are equivalent, as the scope of practice for a Psychological Associate (IP), is equivalent to that of a Registered Psychologist (C. Psych.).

Given that the by-laws permitting the P.A. (IP) level of licensure are relatively new, PAM Executive Council has voted to provide the following two grand-parenting opportunities:

1. For the next two (2) years, PAM Council will consider prior supervised experience (pre-PAM registration) towards a portion of the four years of supervised experience required (no more than three of the four years) to gain P.A. (IP) status. This supervision must have been obtained within the past 10 years, documented on a Record of Supervision form (located at the end of the P.A. Application Form) and have been provided by a Registered Psychologist.
2. In some cases (to be decided on a case by case basis) PAM Council will also consider prior work experience (obtained in the last 10 years) in lieu of some (no more than 3) years of supervised experience. At the discretion of Council (and on the recommendations of the Registration and Membership Committee), several years of work experience may be substituted for one year of supervision. No more than three of the four required years of supervision may be obtained in this fashion. In deciding how many years of supervised experience to grant (based on an applicant's prior work experience), factors such as the setting in which the work took place, the nature of the work, and the type of supervision provided, will be considered.

In all cases, supervisors must be competent in the areas in which they are providing supervision to P.A Candidates, (or P.A. (SP)s) and must be registered, certified, licensed, or chartered to practice independently in the jurisdiction in which the supervision is taking place.

For those current P.A.(SP)s wishing to progress to IP status, only one of the required two extra years of supervised experience may be obtained through either of these grand-parenting provisions. In other words, at least one of the years of supervised experience must have taken place after becoming registered with PAM. Supervision in a private practice is eligible for inclusion under these grand-parenting provisions.

Once this period of grand-parenting has concluded (April 30, 2011), all supervised experience to be counted towards PAM registration as a P.A. (IP) must be accrued after registration as a P.A. (Candidate), or P.A. (SP). As well, after April 2011, prior work experience can no longer be counted in lieu of supervised experience.

Please feel free to contact the PAM Registrar (pam@mts.net) with any questions you may have regarding these guidelines or grand-parenting provisions.

The Registrar

Revised: May 3, 2009