



ACCREDITATION PANEL FOR DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES AND INTERNSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Dr. Santa Ono
University of British Columbia
Office of the President 7th Floor, Walter C. Koerner Library
1958 Main Mall, University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z2

November 30, 2016

Dear Dr. Santa Ono,

The Accreditation Panel for Doctoral Programmes and Internships in Professional Psychology met on November 4, 5, and 6 2016 and made all pending accreditation and re-accreditation decisions. I was pleased to communicate with Dr. Richard Young following the April meeting to inform him that the Panel voted to re-accredit the Doctoral Programme in Counselling Psychology at the University of British Columbia for a period of **5** years. This letter will serve as formal notification and congratulations on this accreditation achievement!

The programme's term of re-accreditation dates from the site visit in 2015-16 until 2020-2021, the academic year during which the next re-accreditation site visit of your programme must take place. In the interim, the programme will be required to complete and submit annual reports in a timely fashion – the forms for which are available on the CPA Accreditation website, and sent out to the Director of Training from our Accreditation Office normally in the late spring of each year.

In making the re-accreditation decision, the Panel noted the programme's many strengths. These include the following:

- The Panel would like to begin by commending the programme on its efforts to more fully develop their scientist-practitioner model of training, as well as their responsiveness to the 2010 site visit recommendations. (Standard II & X)
- The Panel commends the programme on its strong commitment to diversity in recruitment, retention and training. (Standard III)
- The Panel commends the programme on size and productivity of its staff, as well as the university's commitment to quickly filling vacant faculty positions as they arise. (Standard IV)

- The Panel commends the programme on its collaboration with faculty and staff from other departments, centres and disciplines, particularly from the school psychology programme and Measurement, Evaluation, and Research Methods Centre. (Standard IV.G & VI)
- The Panel also commends the programme on its efforts to reduce the number of students working outside the programme. (Standard IV.F & V.E)

Even for programmes such as yours with clear strengths, there are some Standard-based items about which the Panel may need clarification and/or sees fit to specifically monitor through programmes' annual reports. In your programme's case, these items include:

- The Panel noted a relative weakness in students' training in assessment, and that many students seek out additional training opportunities to be more competitive in the APPIC match process. Please update the Panel on any steps the programme is taking to ensure adequate didactic and practical training in assessment skills. (Standard II.F)
- The Panel noted that while students' TA funding had been threatened recently, though the Dean confirmed a commitment to continued student funding. Please update the Panel on any developments with respect to the stability of student funding. (Standard V)
- The Panel noted some difficulty in assessing the number of practicum hours based on the programme's self-study and subsequent site visit report. The Panel indicated particular concern about total number of direct contact and supervision hours required by the programme, as well as the ratio of group to individual supervision provided to practicum students. Please inform the Panel of any steps taken by the programme to improve the tracking of practicum hours. Please also indicate how the programme meets the minimum number of direct service and supervision hours, and maintains the 3:1 individual:group supervision ratio. (Standard VIII.A)
- In line with the above, data collection with respect to student activity and programme outcomes was noted as a relative weakness by the site visit team and the Panel. Please update the Panel on any efforts or improvements made with respect to data collection, and any uses of this data in quality improvement and programme evaluation initiatives. (Standard IX)
- The Panel noted that a relatively small proportion of the programme's students attend accredited internship. Though they are aware of the challenges faced by counselling psychology students with respect to competing for the few accredited counselling psychology internships in Canada, please update the Panel on the ways in which the

programme is encouraging and supporting students in obtaining accredited internship positions. (Standard VIII.B)

- Please update the Panel on the impact on student training of any changes made to the New Westminster Counseling Centre. (Standard VIII.A)
- The Panel indicated some confusion with respect to faculty listings on the programme's website. They noted that some core faculty did not appear to have academic appointments, other had little-to-no research productivity, and that some were not licensed to provide psychological services in BC. Please clarify for the Panel which faculty members constitute the core, complementary, and adjunct faculty, and ensure to provide updated CVs for faculty members. (Standard IV)
- Finally, the Panel was concerned with the sharp drop in applications to the programme during the 2014-15 academic year. Please update the Panel on future application and admission numbers, and clarify any factors that may have been responsible for this decrease. (Standard V)
- The Panel noted that a relatively small proportion of programme graduates become licensed to practice, with various data showing this range to be between 35-62%. Please update the Panel on the programme's efforts to encourage and support student licensure, and any information on why so many of the programme's students do not pursue it. In line with this, please also clarify for the Panel the career paths of recent graduates. For example, according to Table 14, 13 of 29 recent graduates were employed in academic teaching positions; does this mean that almost 50% of recent graduates pursued academic careers? (Standard VII.A)

In closing, the Panel takes this opportunity to congratulate you on this accreditation achievement. Thanks are due, as well, to Dr. Young for his leadership in coordinating the programme's development, in completing a thorough and comprehensive self-study application, in being responsive to the site visitor report, and in guiding the programme through the accreditation process.

As mentioned, the Panel will look forward to updates on the Standard-based items detailed above when the programme completes and submits its next annual report. If Dr. Young or any of the programme's officials have any accreditation-related questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the CPA Accreditation Office at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Dr. Stewart Madon, C.Psych.
Registrar, Accreditation & Ethics Officer
Canadian Psychological Association

Cc: Dr. Blye Frank, University of British Columbia
Dr. Lee Gunderson, University of British Columbia
Dr. Richard Young, University of British Columbia
Dr. Bruce Shore, Site Visit Team Chair
Dr. Sheryl Green, Site Visitor
Dr. Hal Wallbridge, Site Visitor
Dr. Ada Sinacore, PhD, Chair, CPA Accreditation
Panel