



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
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z2

November 9, 2017

Dear Dr. Santa Ono,

The Accreditation Panel for Doctoral Programmes and Internships in Professional Psychology met on October 13, 14, and 15 2017 and made all pending accreditation and re-accreditation decisions. I was pleased to communicate with Dr. Sterett Mercer following the April meeting to inform him that the Panel voted to reinstate the accreditation status of the Doctoral Program in School Psychology at the University of British Columbia, and to re-accredit the programme for a period of 4 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 2016-17 until 2020-2021, the academic year during which the next re-accreditation site visit of your programme must take place. Please note that the programme should be ready to submit their next self-study between May and June of 2020. 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 their core faculty's ongoing efforts to build and maintain a strong training programme despite the current concerns around staffing and the programme's limited resources. (Standard I.A.2 & IV)
- The Panel commends the programme on their clear developmental approach to training, as well as their positive trajectory in terms of refining procedures to ensure strong training and time to completion. The Panel noted that the programme had done a remarkable job of attending to quality improvement given their current staffing shortage, and appeared very self-reflective about functioning and potential curriculum changes. (Standard II)

- The Panel commends the programme on their proactive and clear remediation plans, including its dedication to closely monitoring students in their 6th year of the programme and beyond. (Standard II.J)
- The Panel commends the programme on their attention to diversity issues, as evidenced by their focus on diversity throughout the curriculum. (Standard III)
- The Panel commends the programme on their efforts to improve student time-to-completion, including their yearly progress reviews conducted with each student and their commitment to ensuring that dissertation proposals and data collection are completed prior to beginning internships. (Standard IV.F & V.E)
- The Panel commends the programme on the quality of their students, the satisfaction of their students with the programme, and the programme's focus on increasing student research productivity. (Standard V)
- The Panel commends the programme on their efforts to reduce the number of students working more than 20 hours per week outside the programme, including its efforts to increase student assistantships. (Standard V.F)
- Finally, the Panel commends the programme on the breadth of their practicum training opportunities. (Standard VIII.A)

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 that despite the programme's efforts to maintain operations, unforeseen staffing changes and a recent hiring freeze have significantly increased faculty workload, and delayed the programme's self-study submission by one year, which led to the programme being placed on probationary status with respect to their accreditation. The programme reported that they had already reduced intake to the programme, and were exploring other avenues to further normalize workload for core programme faculty (e.g. engaging complementary faculty to supervise student research). The Panel is concerned that despite these proposed changes, the workload for current faculty is unsustainable in the long-term due to a lack of adequate faculty resources. Please clarify for the Panel how the programme's recent staffing shortages have affected the distribution of labour for the programme's faculty, particularly with respect to course offerings at the PhD level, clinical supervision, and research supervision. Please also update the Panel on any steps taken by the programme to ensure the sustainability of staffing levels in the long-term, particularly in the event of other unforeseen leaves of absence. (Standard I.A.2 & IV.E)

- The Panel noted that while some improvements have been made with respect to student funding, please clarify for the Panel the level of funding that is guaranteed for students in the first four years of the programme. (Standard I.A.2)
- Please update the Panel on the impact of the programme's proposed curriculum changes. (Standard II)
- The Panel noted in the programme's self-study that certain foundational content areas (e.g. biological bases of behaviour) were "met by an undergraduate course". The Panel noted that it was unclear what type of undergraduate course was acceptable in meeting programme requirements. Please clarify for the Panel the programme's processes for assessing the equivalency of undergraduate courses, and how those processes adhere to the accreditation Standards (i.e. that only full-year, senior undergraduate courses are assessed to meet foundational requirements). (Standard II.E)
- The Panel noted that the programme's test supply budget appeared barely adequate to meet the needs of their students. Please update the Panel on any steps taken by the programme to ensure appropriate access to current measures needed for student training, and please also clarify for the Panel any impact this lack of supplies has had on student training. (Standard VI)
- Please also update the Panel on any steps taken by the programme to increase student research and office space. (Standard VI)
- Please update the Panel on the programme's progress in increasing the consistency of documentation of students' practicum hours. Please also ensure to report these hours during the programme's next annual report. (Standard VII)
- Please clarify for the Panel whether all clinical supervision is being provided by licensed psychologists. (Standard VIII.A)
- The Panel noted that the programme's process for assessing the equivalence of non-accredited internships was not available for review, and the Panel further noted that the onus appeared to be on the students to provide this information to the Director of Training and Internship coordinator. Please clarify for the Panel the process used to assess equivalency of non-accredited internships, and please provide the details of this process during the programme's next annual report. (Standard VIII.B)
- Please also report on any changes that have taken place in 2017-2018, or which are anticipated for 2018-2019, with respect to the Accreditation Standards.

In closing, the Panel takes this opportunity to congratulate you on this accreditation achievement. Thanks are due, as well, to Dr. Mercer and Dr. Laurie Ford for their 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. Mercer 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,



Stewart Madon, PhD, C.Psych.
Registrar, Accreditation
Canadian Psychological Association

Cc: Dr. Blye Frank, University of British Columbia
Dr. Shelley Hymel, ECPS Department Head, University of British Columbia
Dr. Sterett Mercer, University of British Columbia
Dr. Keith Dobson, Site Visit Team Chair
Dr. Ester Cole, Site Visitor
Dr. Sharon Guger, Site Visitor
Dr. Stewart Madon, Registrar, Accreditation & Ethics Officer
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