The Distinctiveness of the HSP Doctoral Degree

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Saturday, March 06, 2021 | Practice Leadership Conference
Why now?

**Unmet societal needs**
- Significant untreated and undertreated mental/behavioral health concerns
- COVID-19 pandemic
- Health inequities

**Psychology workforce must be prepared to lead**
- Improve population health
- Advance psychological science
- Develop EDI foundation for psychology discipline & profession

**Align education/training models to evolution of the profession**

**Clarify roles and value of doctoral psychologists in changing conditions**
- Independent of and in relation to other providers, including HSP masters’ graduates
Process

- 7-member steering committee representing practice, education, students, and licensing boards
- Tri-Chairs: Education, Practice, Future
- Weekly planning meetings to define purpose and structure of Assembly
- Steering committee identified participants for Assembly
- Assembly
  - 34 participants including steering committee
  - 16 observers from various interested entities
  - 5 key staff, 5 other staff and APA leaders
Attendees

Tri-Chairs: Mary Fernandes, Nadya Fouad, Michael Hendricks


Guests: Jennifer Kelly


APA Staff: Maysa Akbar, Lynn Bufka^, Amanda Clinton, Arthur Evans, Cathi Grus^, Zelka Macrua, Greg Neimeyer^, Sarah Rose^, Jared Skillings^

^ Key APA staff
Practice/Education Steering Committee member
Questions

• How is the doctoral degree/license in psychology distinctive and add value to our multi-tiered profession, beyond the master’s degree?

• What are psychology’s contributions to population health and society vis-à-vis other mental health professions?

• How will/should psychology education and practice be different in the future to address emerging demands?
The doctoral degree/license adds significant value within our multi-tiered profession.

- Evaluation, specialty practice, leadership, interprofessional teamwork
- Areas that include and go beyond direct service provision
- Multiple tiers within the profession may be important to advance population health, wherein doctoral psychologists' practice with a scope of greatest complexity in both breadth and depth.

Science characterizes and distinguishes psychology, and it undergirds all education and practice.

- Doctoral professionals are adept at understanding and utilizing science to make complex decisions to improve the health of the people and communities we serve.

Equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) is foundational to psychology and effective health care.

- The psychology workforce must diversify and reflect the U.S. population.
- Developing and maintaining competence in EDI is essential across the professional lifespan of the psychology practitioner.
### Additional considerations

| Consistent delineation of the multiple tiers of psychology practice across settings and jurisdictions |
| Sufficiently distinguishing doctoral practice in regulations and the marketplace |
| Increase the cohesiveness of professional identity as psychologists |
| - Consistency among training programs |
| - Preparation and credentialing for specialization |
| - Tracking workforce data |
| Recognition/expansion of the doctoral scope of practice |
Next steps to a Summit

Gather additional ideas and feedback from colleagues across psychology
- Governance leaders, state associations, training councils, regulatory representatives, divisions, students, and others

Summit on the Future of Education and Practice to be held later in 2021
- Diversify the workforce
- Licensing and scope of practice
- Technology
- Access and levels of care
- Implications for education and psychology practice in the future
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<th>Accreditation</th>
<th>Scope of Practice and Title</th>
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<td></td>
<td>• Council approved master’s HSP accreditation standards</td>
<td>• Develop suggested master’s scope &amp; title</td>
<td>• BEA/BPA task force continue work on competencies for HSP</td>
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<td>• Review doctoral scope. Ensure doctoral scope is more complex in breadth &amp; depth.</td>
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<td>• Update doctoral HSP competencies</td>
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<td>• Ensure competencies are tiered and aligned with efforts</td>
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• 1st Floor “Continuing the Discussion”
• Seat yourself at a table
• Establish a scribe to take notes on the questions:
  • How is the doctoral degree/license in psychology distinctive and add value to our multi-tiered profession, beyond the master’s degree?
  • What are psychology’s contributions to population health and society vis-à-vis other mental health professions?
  • How will/should psychology education and practice be different in the future to address emerging demands?
• Send notes to optq@apa.org by March 14, 2021