BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

Notice to Students Attending Unaccredited Schools

The Board of Psychology (Board) is providing this information to help students make an informed decision before enrolling in a doctoral program in Psychology from a state approved school.

The Board will accept a qualifying doctoral degree from one of these unaccredited or state approved schools as they meet the provisions of Section 2914(g) of the Business and Professions Code. This section provides that an applicant with a doctoral degree in psychology from a state approved institution is deemed to meet the degree requirement if:

(1) The approved institution offered a doctoral degree in psychology designed to prepare students for a license to practice psychology and was approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education on or before July 1, 1999.
(2) The approved institution has not, since July 1, 1999, had a new location, as described in Section 94721 of the Education Code.
(3) The approved institution is not a franchise institution, as defined in Section 94729.3 of the Education Code."

The Board strongly encourages students, who are considering study at a state approved school, to seek answers to the following issues before enrolling in a doctoral program at an approve school:

Does the approved school meet the definition of Section 2914(g)? A school may be approved by the newly operative Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE) (successor agency to the former BPPVE), but unless it meets the Board's law, the degree will not qualify the student for licensure by the Board.

What are the school's statistical data on graduates? Although state approved schools are no longer required to make certain disclosures to psychology students required by the BPPVE, all

schools approved by the BPPE are required to maintain and to provide to prospective students a School Performance Fact Sheet containing pertinent data including but not limited to: completion rates; placement rates; license exam passage rates; and salary or wage information, if they make express or imply claims about salary. A prospective student might want to ask specifically about:

- The number of graduates of the school who have taken the psychology licensing examinations in the preceding four years;
- The number of graduates of the school who have passed the psychology licensing examinations in the preceding four years (the Board publishes pass rates by school on its website);
- The number of graduates who have become licensed California psychologists in the preceding four years.
- How students in the approved school program completes the supervised professional experience requirements since students from approved schools are not allowed to participate in psychology's national match coordinated by the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers.

Will you be limited in your practice? Students of approved schools should also be aware of possible limitations or restrictions if you receive a degree from an educational institution that is not regionally or nationally accredited. These possible limitations or restrictions include:

- The degree will not qualify for licensure as a psychologist in any other state. Check with each state's website for licensure requirements.
- Graduates from state approved schools will not be eligible to work at the Veteran's Administration Medical Centers as they only allow graduates from APA accredited training programs.
- Exclusion from membership or eligibility of credentialing by some professional organizations. For specific requirements of the following professional organizations please visit their websites:
    - American Psychological Association (APA). http://www.apa.org/membership/member/index.aspx

- American Board of Professional Psychology. (ABPP) http://www.abpp.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3297
- National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology (NRHSPP) http://www.nationalregister.org/criteriaforhspp.html
- Certificate of Professional Qualification (CPQ) from the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards http://www.asppb.net/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3454

- In some cases, graduates from approved schools may not be eligible for third party insurance reimbursement.