

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HEALTH REGULATION AND LICENSING ADMINISTRATION**

BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY
AUTHORITY FOR GUIDANCE

April 6, 2017
DATE OF POLICY

17-001
POLICY NO.

POLICY STATEMENT

**PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATE REGISTRATION
&
ACCRUAL OF PRACTICE EXPERIENCE**

To qualify for a license to practice psychology in the District, an applicant is required to have graduated from an APA-accredited doctoral program and completed at least 4,000 hours of psychological practice experience (“PPE”). 17 DCMR § 6902.1. The four thousand hours of PPE may be accrued through: a) Up to 2,000 hours prior to graduation from a doctoral program and the remainder in a postdoctoral practice; or b) All 4,000 hours after graduation from a doctoral program.

Since a candidate for a psychology license must begin the practice of psychology under supervision before he or she qualifies for the license, the period of PPE may be authorized either through a registration as a psychology associate or through an express authorization from the Board of Psychology (“Board”) in accordance with 17 DCMR § 6911.

Based on a thorough review of the administrative process and resources, the Board has determined that all persons seeking to accrue PPE will be required to register as psychology associates unless the PPE is being obtained in an APA- or APPIC-approved internship or postdoctoral program.

To qualify for registration as a psychology associate, an applicant must have graduated with at least a master’s degree in psychology. Details pertaining to the requirements for supervision, continuing education, and standard of conduct may be found in Chapter 86 of Title 17 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR).

However, all psychology associates who seek to rely on their practice as psychology associates to meet the PPE requirement must ensure that the practice also complies with 17 DCMR §§ 6902.5 and 6911, as well as other relevant provisions under both Chapter 69 (Psychology) and Chapter 86 (Psychology Associates) of Title 17 of the DCMR.

Board of Psychology
Policy Statement 17-001: Psychology Associate Registration and Accrual of Practice
Experience
April 6, 2017

The Board is currently initiating its periodic review of the regulations, which will reflect this policy decision and clarify any necessary areas. Licensees, registrants, and interested parties are welcome to attend meeting of the Board, which is held on a quarterly basis on the second Thursday of each quarter. The notice of the Board's meeting schedule for 2017 may be viewed at D.C. Register Vol. 63 – No. 54 and at <http://dcregs.dc.gov/Gateway/NoticeHome.aspx?noticeid=6331595>.

All inquiries pertaining to the practice of psychology, including the CE requirements, may be directed to the Board's Health Licensing Specialist, Ms. Fatima Abby, at 202-724-8826 or fatima.abby@dc.gov.