

## **BEA Task Force to Develop a Blueprint for APA Accreditation of Master's Programs in Health Service Psychology**

### **Frequently Asked Questions September 2018**

#### **What will be the focus of the task force?**

The task force has been charged to develop a plan, a blueprint, which outlines a process by which APA could pursue accreditation of master's programs in areas where APA already accredits, that is, clinical, counseling, school, and combinations thereof. The blueprint will include a recommendation about the scope of accreditation, considerations as to whether this is best done as a new entity within APA or to expand the current doctoral accreditation system to have a subunit focused on accreditation of master's programs. The blueprint will also recommend the types of expertise needed to establish accreditation standards and make decisions about accreditation. This task force is **not** developing standards for accreditation.

#### **What is the timeline for the work of the task force?**

The task force has been meeting monthly via conference calls since July 2018, and has formed subgroups to begin to deliberate the various components of their charge. The task force is scheduled to meet in person November 30<sup>th</sup> to December 3<sup>rd</sup>, and expects to have a final report for the Council of Representatives' February 2019 meeting. Council will then determine next steps to pursue accreditation of master's programs in psychology. It is estimated that at a minimum, developing and implementing an accreditation system will take approximately two years.

#### **What about other accreditors/approvers of psychology programs at the master's level?**

The task force has reached out to groups such as the Master's in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council (MPCAC), with a message of wanting to collaborate and to leverage the considerable expertise that organization represents. The task force has also in in contact with the National Association of School Psychologists to exchange information.

#### **Why are there not more individuals with experience in education and training programs at the master's level on the task force?**

Members of the task force were chosen to ensure that specific areas of expertise considered central to developing the structure for an accreditation system was represented. While some members do have expertise in education and training at the master's level, a broader range of expertise, including significant experience as a member or leader of relevant accrediting bodies, was deemed necessary to ensure the task force was able to fulfill its charge.

#### **Will there be opportunities for me to get involved?**

Yes, the work of this task force is one of the many steps that will be needed to develop all the components for APA to accredit master's programs. It is likely that other work groups will be convened to develop other needed components such as the standards for accreditation. In addition, any proposed standards will undergo a period of comment during which individuals will be able to provide their input. Please visit our [website](#) for updates on the work of the task force,

**Will this accreditation be applicable to other areas of psychology such as industrial-organizational psychology?**

No, Council's charge for the pursuit of master's accreditation was limited to areas where APA already accredits. Therefore, the accreditation system that is being developed will be limited to health service areas of psychology, that is, clinical, counseling, school, and combinations thereof.

**What will graduates of these programs be called? What will be their scope of practice?**

Questions about the practice of psychology at the master's level are not being addressed by this task force. The APA Board of Professional Affairs is putting together a work group that will address key considerations relevant to practice competencies that would inform relevant groups (e.g., ASPPB and licensing boards) regarding potential title and scope of practice matters.