

Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation  
American Psychological Association  
750 First Street NE  
Washington, DC 20002

March 24, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

The *Standards of Accreditation for Health Service Psychology* (SoA) is a Commission on Accreditation (CoA) policy document that outlines training requirements for programs at the doctoral, doctoral internship, and postdoctoral levels. Correspondent to the SoA are Implementing Regulations (IRs), which are official policy documents that “elucidate, interpret and operationally define” the CoA’s policies and procedures. IRs are divided into several different sections (A through E), which are subject to regular review and revision by the CoA. Through this iterative process, opportunities for clarification have arisen regarding IRs in Section D, which relate specifically to the AOP.

In accordance with Section 8.1 of the AOP at all levels, the CoA reviews a program’s most recent self-study report, the most recent site visit report, the program’s response to that report, and any other records of relevance that the program has submitted as well as any third-party comments and responses to those comments that have been received before making an accreditation decision. Via IR D.2-4, the Commission’s training work group has expanded its policy on scheduling site visits to update information about how long a program’s self-study would remain valid. The CoA also updated the site visit cycles mentioned in the IR to bring them into compliance with the Commission’s current actions.

In accordance with the APA "Policies for Accreditation Governance" and U.S. Department of Education regulations for notice and comment, the CoA will make the proposed revisions available for a sixty (60) day period of public review and comment. The comment period is scheduled to begin at **5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time on March 24, 2025 and will continue through 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time on May 23, 2025**. Information about the proposed standards and public comment is available at <http://apps.apa.org/accredcomment/>.

To promote thoughtful discussion, the CoA is providing an electronic-based form for public comment submission. Comments and other information including users' identities will be public, while email addresses used in the registration process will be kept confidential. The CoA will consider all comments received and make appropriate revisions should they be deemed necessary prior to approval of the final versions of the IRs.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation at (202) 336-5979 or [apaaccred@apa.org](mailto:apaaccred@apa.org). On behalf of the CoA, thank you for your review and comments.

#### **D.2-4. Policy on Scheduling Site Visits & Self-Study Expiration**

(Commission on Accreditation, October 2004; revised February 2005, February 2016, July 2022, revised for public comment February 2025)

After a program has been authorized for a site visit, that visit must take place during the assigned ~~program review-site visit~~ cycle (master's and doctoral programs: January-~~March-June~~ and ~~August-September-December~~; internship and postdoctoral residency programs: January-~~March-April~~, ~~April-May~~-August, September-December). In unusual situations, the CoA may grant an ~~on-site visit cycle~~ extension. Under these circumstances, the ~~CoA program~~ may be required the program to update, revise, or create new self-study materials. ~~A self-study for master's and doctoral programs expires after two accreditation cycles; a self-study for internship and postdoctoral programs expires after three accreditation cycles. If at the time of site visit scheduling the self-study is over a year old, the self-study is considered outdated, and the program may be asked by the Commission to submit a self-study supplement. A self-study is considered expired after three years, at which time the Commission may request the submission of a new self-study. See sections 7.M, 7.D, 7.I, and 7.P of the Accreditation Operating Procedures for further information regarding the site visit.~~