

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

May 26, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

The *Accreditation Operating Procedures* (AOP) outline training requirements for programs at the doctoral, doctoral internship, and postdoctoral levels. Correspondent to the AOP are a set of Implementing Regulations (IRs), which are official policy documents that “elucidate, interpret and operationally define” the Commission on Accreditation’s (CoA) 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 further clarification have arisen following review of received public comment to the proposed IR D.4-11.

Per the AOP (§1.3), an accredited program may request to voluntarily withdraw from accredited status at any time by advising the CoA in writing in advance of the requested withdrawal date. IR D.4-11 has been created to provide APA-accredited programs with clarification regarding AOP-compliant withdrawal procedures for programs who wish to withdraw from accreditation and continue to operate. This IR is out for a third round of public comment.

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 thirty (30) day period of public review and comment. The comment period is scheduled to begin at **5:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time on May 26, 2022 and will continue through 5:00pm Eastern Daylight Time on June 25, 2022.**

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. On behalf of the CoA, thank you for your review and comments.

D.4-11. Voluntary Withdrawal from Accreditation

(Commission on Accreditation, [revised for public comment February 2022; April 2022](#))

According to Section 1.3 of the Accreditation Operating Procedures, “a program may request to voluntarily withdraw from accredited status at any time by advising the CoA of its intent in writing in advance of the requested withdrawal date. Programs requesting voluntary withdrawal will be placed on the next CoA agenda for official vote of the program’s change in accredited status.”

Written notice requesting formal withdrawal from accreditation must include the following information:

Doctoral Programs

IR D.4-5 provides information on procedures for doctoral programs that are phasing out due to program closure.

In the case of a doctoral program that is **not closing** that intends to withdraw from APA-accreditation by a time-certain, the program is encouraged to alert the CoA of its intent in advance of its formal request to withdraw by including:

- The projected withdrawal date from APA-accreditation;
- How and when it will provide public notification of its intent to withdraw from APA-accreditation to current/prospective students;
- Assurance that the program will maintain [consistency compliance](#) with the SoA until the program’s formal withdrawal.

The formal request to withdraw from APA-accreditation should be submitted in advance of the end-date (~~but no earlier than 1 year before its intended withdrawal date~~) and should include confirmation that all current and prospective students have received advanced notice of this voluntary action. [Should the end-date change the program is asked to notify the CoA. Only students graduating before the program’s formal withdrawal from accreditation will graduate from an APA-accredited program.](#)

Internship/Postdoctoral Programs

Internship and postdoctoral programs requesting to withdraw from APA-Accreditation should submit their request in advance of the end-date and should include confirmation that 1) the current cohort will have completed by this date, and 2) that a cohort for the following training year was not recruited. If the program will have any trainees following withdrawal from APA-accreditation, the program is asked to confirm that these trainees received advanced notice of the program’s voluntary withdrawal from accreditation.

For All Levels of Training

If a program intends to voluntarily withdraw from accreditation without program closure, the CoA will not publicize a projected withdrawal date. It is incumbent on the program to provide sufficient notice to current/incoming students/trainees.