

<h1>Regulatory Analysis Form</h1> <p>(Completed by Promulgating Agency)</p> <p>(All Comments submitted on this regulation will appear on IRRC's website)</p>		<p><i>INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION</i></p> <p>RECEIVED</p> <p>Independent Regulatory Review Commission April 23, 2025</p>	
<p>(1) Agency Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs, State Board of Psychology</p>		<p>IRRC Number: 3422</p>	
<p>(2) Agency Number: 16A Identification Number: 6327</p>			
<p>(3) PA Code Cite:</p> <p>49 Pa. Code §§ 41.1, 41.43, 41.61</p>			
<p>(4) Short Title:</p> <p>Accreditation</p>			
<p>(5) Agency Contacts (List Telephone Number and Email Address):</p> <p>Primary Contact: Jacqueline A. Wolfgang, Regulatory Counsel, Department of State, P.O. Box 69523, Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523 (phone 717-783-7200) (fax 787-0251) (jawolfgang@pa.gov).</p> <p>Ronald Rouse, Board Counsel, State Board of Psychology, P.O. Box 69523, Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523 (phone 717-783-7200) (fax 717-787-0251) (rorouse@pa.gov).</p>			
<p>6) Type of Rulemaking (check applicable box):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Regulation</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FINAL REGULATION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Final Omitted Regulation</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Certification Regulation;</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Certification by the Governor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Certification by the Attorney General</p>	
<p>(7) Briefly explain the regulation in clear and nontechnical language. (100 words or less)</p> <p>The State Board of Psychology (Board) recognizes the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS), which would provide an alternate accreditation to the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA). Including PCSAS parity within the Commonwealth would afford clinical psychological programs a pathway to licensure.</p> <p>The Board also updates the regulations to reflect a name change from the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation (CORPA) to the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).</p>			
<p>(8) State the statutory authority for the regulation. Include <u>specific</u> statutory citation.</p> <p>Under section 3.2 of the Professional Psychologists Practice Act (act) (63 P.S. 1203.2), the Board has the authority to adopt and revise the regulations. Under the act, the Board is authorized to: pass upon the</p>			

qualifications and fitness of applicants for licenses and reciprocal licenses; and adopt and revise rules and regulations requiring applicants to pass examinations relating to their qualifications as a prerequisite to the issuance of license; and adopt and, from time to time, revise such rules and regulations and policies not inconsistent with the law as may be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this act. 63 P.S. 1203.2 (1) and (2). Under section 6(a)(2) of the act, a doctoral degree in psychology or a field related to psychology is required for licensure as a psychologist.

(9) Is the regulation mandated by any federal or state law or court order, or federal regulation? Are there any relevant state or federal court decisions? If yes, cite the specific law, case or regulation as well as, any deadlines for action.

No, this regulation is not mandated by any Federal or State law or court order or Federal regulation. There are no relevant State or Federal court decisions.

(10) State why the regulation is needed. Explain the compelling public interest that justifies the regulation. Describe who will benefit from the regulation. Quantify the benefits as completely as possible and approximate the number of people who will benefit.

Including PCSAS parity within this Commonwealth will afford clinical psychological programs a pathway to licensure. The PCSAS is an independent, non-profit organization providing rigorous, objective, and empirically-based accreditation of Ph.D. programs that adhere to a clinical science training model — one that increases the quality and quantity of clinical scientists contributing to all aspects of public health and extends the science base for mental health care. The Academy of Psychological Clinical Science is the parent organization of the PCSAS. The PCSAS is recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), which is the entity that carries out the recognition of accrediting agencies in the private, nongovernmental sector. Three PCSAS-accredited clinical psychology doctoral programs located in Pennsylvania (University of Pittsburgh, University of Pennsylvania, and Temple University) requested that the PCSAS receive parity with the APA and the CPA.

Individuals who attend PCSAS-accredited clinical psychology doctoral programs will benefit from this regulation because they will have a pathway to licensure in this Commonwealth. The Board recognizes the importance of science-centered training in clinical psychology and believes that providing parity to the PCSAS will have a positive impact in the treatment of mental and behavioral health problems. Additionally, universities and colleges that wish to be PCSAS accredited will not be required to also be accredited by the APA or the CPA. This will result in a cost savings to those universities and colleges. The Board does not track the accreditation of its licensees so it has no way of knowing how many individuals will be impacted. Nevertheless, adding the PCSAS accreditation will be beneficial to applicants and to the profession.

This regulation is also needed to reflect a name change from CORPA to CHEA. CORPA was established in January 1994 to continue the recognition of accrediting agencies previously carried out by the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation (COPA) until such time as a new national organization for accreditation could be established. CORPA was dissolved in April 1997 after the CHEA was created. CHEA is currently the entity that carries out the recognition function in the private, nongovernmental sector.

(11) Are there any provisions that are more stringent than federal standards? If yes, identify the specific provisions and the compelling Pennsylvania interest that demands stronger regulations.

There are no Federal standards applicable to the subject matter of the regulation.

(12) How does this regulation compare with those of the other states? How will this affect Pennsylvania's ability to compete with other states?

The following States provide PCSAS parity: Delaware, Arizona, California, Illinois, Missouri, Michigan, New Mexico and New York. At this time, the only states in the Northeast Region that allow for PCSAS parity are Delaware and New York. Based upon this information, when looking at the Northeast Region, this Commonwealth will be more competitive than the majority of the states in the Northeast Region because applicants will have an additional pathway to licensure. Additionally, universities and colleges that wish to be PCSAS accredited will not be required to also be accredited by the APA or the CPA. This will result in a cost savings to those universities and colleges. Providing parity to the PCSAS will have a positive impact in the treatment of mental and behavioral health problems.

(13) Will the regulation affect any other regulations of the promulgating agency or other state agencies? If yes, explain and provide specific citations.

This rulemaking does not affect other regulations of the Board or other state agencies.

(14) Describe the communications with and solicitation of input from the public, any advisory council/group, small businesses and groups representing small businesses in the development and drafting of the regulation. List the specific persons and/or groups who were involved. ("Small business" is defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012.)

In accordance with the requirements of Executive Order 1996-1 (February 6, 1996), on February 5, 2024, the Board sent an exposure draft of the proposed regulation to interested parties and stakeholders. After a 30-day comment period, no comments were received.

Notice of the proposed rulemaking was published at 54 Pa.B. 7468 (November 16, 2024). After a 30-day public comment period, the Board received no public comments. Additionally, there were no comments received from Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) other than to say that they have no objections, comments or recommendations to offer. The House Professional Licensure Committee and the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee also did not submit comments.

Additionally, the Board discusses its regulatory proposals at regularly scheduled public meetings of the Board. Representatives of the professional associations representing the regulated community routinely attend those meetings. This rulemaking was discussed at multiple Board meetings beginning in 2021 and continuing through February 10, 2025, at which time the Board voted to adopt the final-form rulemaking with no changes.

(15) Identify the types and number of persons, businesses, small businesses (as defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012) and organizations which will be affected by the regulation. How are they affected?

This rulemaking will have a positive impact on current and future applicants who are graduates from a PCSAS accredited college or university. This rulemaking will be beneficial because it will provide a pathway to licensure for PCSAS-accredited programs in this Commonwealth. The rulemaking will positively impact the colleges and universities because giving parity to PCSAS will provide another accreditation alternative to colleges and universities. Additionally, this regulation will benefit colleges and universities that wish to offer programs with PCSAS accreditation because they will no longer be required to have multiple accreditations. The Board recognizes the importance of science-centered training in clinical psychology and believes that providing parity to PCSAS will have a positive impact in the treatment of mental and behavioral health problems.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, in 2020 (the most recent year for which data is available) psychologists, including clinical, counseling and school psychologists; industrial-organizational psychologists; and psychologists, all other, held approximately 178,900 jobs, nationally. The Board does not track PCSAS accreditation and cannot estimate how many graduates of PCSAS accredited school may apply for a license in this Commonwealth. The Board does not know how many colleges and universities in this Commonwealth will benefit from PCSAS parity. However, the Board is aware of at least four universities in this Commonwealth that currently have PCSAS accreditation (University of Pittsburgh, University of Pennsylvania, Temple University and Penn State University).

Small businesses are defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, (71 P.S. § 745.3) which provides that a small business is defined by the SBA's Small Business Size Regulations under 13 CFR Ch. 1 Part 121. These size standards have been established for types of businesses under the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). In applying the NAICS standards to colleges and universities, the small business threshold is \$34.5 million or less in average annual receipts. The Board does not regulate colleges or universities and does not have the ability to track their fiscal information but believes that some smaller colleges and universities may be categorized as a small business. All colleges and universities, regardless of whether they are small businesses or not, would benefit from this regulation because it provides for an additional accreditation alternative that did not previously exist in this Commonwealth.

(16) List the persons, groups or entities, including small businesses, that will be required to comply with the regulation. Approximate the number that will be required to comply.

No one will be required to comply with this regulation. This regulation provides an additional accreditation option by adding PCSAS. Neither applicants nor colleges and universities are required to utilize PCSAS and do not have to change accreditation.

(17) Identify the financial, economic and social impact of the regulation on individuals, small businesses, businesses and labor communities and other public and private organizations. Evaluate the benefits expected as a result of the regulation.

This rulemaking would impact applicants who graduate from a PCSAS accredited college or university. It will also impact the colleges and universities that are or wish to become accredited by PCSAS. Colleges and universities, whether or not they are small businesses, would be impacted positively because they would have an additional accreditation alternative. For those universities and colleges that are currently accredited with PCSAS, under the existing regulations, they must also be accredited through APA or CPA. Those universities and colleges will benefit from this regulation fiscally because they would no longer be required to also have APA or CPA accreditation.

The citizens of the Commonwealth will benefit because PCSAS provides a high-quality science centered doctoral education and training and provides a for a rigorous accreditation process. The majority of top-ranked Ph.D programs in clinical psychology in the United States are PCSAS programs. The Board believes that PCSAS parity will have a positive impact in the treatment of mental and behavioral health problems. At this time, because the Board does not recognize PCSAS, programs that want the more specific science centered PCSAS accreditation would also be required to be accredited by the APA or the CPA. The Board has determined that this dual accreditation is unnecessary and overly burdensome, given the quality of PCSAS accreditation.

There is no negative financial impact of the regulation. Colleges and universities that wish to only be accredited by the PCSAS will experience a positive fiscal impact because they will no longer be required to have multiple accreditations.

(18) Explain how the benefits of the regulation outweigh any cost and adverse effects.

There are no adverse effects of this regulation. As discussed above there will be a positive impact to the citizens of this Commonwealth, applicants and colleges and universities.

(19) Provide a specific estimate of the costs and/or savings to the regulated community associated with compliance, including any legal, accounting or consulting procedures which may be required. Explain how the dollar estimates were derived.

There are no costs related to this regulation. Colleges and universities are not required to obtain this accreditation. PCSAS accreditation costs are comparable to current costs of accreditation through the APA and the CPA. Colleges and universities that carry PCSAS accreditation and APA or CPA accreditation will have a cost savings if they choose to only have PCSAS accreditation. The cost of APA accreditation is approximately \$4,500 for an application fee and \$4,500 for annual accreditation fees. It is unknown how many colleges and universities would choose to obtain PCSAS accreditation and whether they would discontinue APA or CPA accreditation.

(20) Provide a specific estimate of the costs and/or savings to the local governments associated with compliance, including any legal, accounting or consulting procedures which may be required. Explain how the dollar estimates were derived.

The regulation would not result in costs or savings to local governments.

(21) Provide a specific estimate of the costs and/or savings to the state government associated with the implementation of the regulation, including any legal, accounting, or consulting procedures which may be required. Explain how the dollar estimates were derived.

There will not be any costs or savings to the Board or to state government.

(22) For each of the groups and entities identified in items (19)-(21) above, submit a statement of legal, accounting or consulting procedures and additional reporting, recordkeeping or other paperwork, including copies of forms or reports, which will be required for implementation of the regulation and an explanation of measures which have been taken to minimize these requirements.

There should be no legal, accounting or consulting procedures associated with this rulemaking.

(22a) Are forms required for implementation of the regulation?

Yes.

(22b) If forms are required for implementation of the regulation, attach copies of the forms here. If your agency uses electronic forms, provide links to each form or a detailed description of the information required to be reported. Failure to attach forms, provide links, or provide a detailed description of the information to be reported will constitute a faulty delivery of the regulation.

The Board will have to update its online checklist for psychology licensure and the Verification of Doctoral Program Accreditation/Designation Status and Pre-Doctoral Internship form. The Board will include PCSAS as an alternative accreditation in the checklist and form.

The Board attaches a revised Verification of Doctoral Program Accreditation/Designation Status and Pre-Doctoral Internship form. (See, Attachment A.)

(23) In the table below, provide an estimate of the fiscal savings and costs associated with implementation and compliance for the regulated community, local government, and state government for the current year and five subsequent years.

	Current FY 24-25	FY +1 25-26	FY +2 26-27	FY +3 27-28	FY +4 28-29	FY +5 29-30
SAVINGS:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Regulated Community	0	0	0	0	0	0
Local Government	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Government	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Savings	0	0	0	0	0	0
COSTS:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Regulated Community	0	0	0	0	0	0
Local Government	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Government	0	0	0	0	0	0

Total Costs	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE LOSSES:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Regulated Community	0	0	0	0	0	0
Local Government	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Government	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Revenue Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0

(23a) Provide the past three year expenditure history for programs affected by the regulation.

Program	FY -3 2021-2022 (actual)	FY -2 2022-2023 (actual)	FY -1 2023-2024 (estimated)	Current FY 2024-2025 (budgeted)
State Board of Psychology	\$541,600.73	\$525,401.02	\$527,098.43	\$658,000

(24) For any regulation that may have an adverse impact on small businesses (as defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012), provide an economic impact statement that includes the following:

- (a) An identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation.
 - (b) The projected reporting, recordkeeping and other administrative costs required for compliance with the final regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparation of the report or record.
 - (c) A statement of probable effect on impacted small businesses.
 - (d) A description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the final regulation.
- (a) This rulemaking will not have an adverse impact on small businesses.
- (b) This rulemaking will not impose additional reporting, recordkeeping or other administrative costs on small businesses.
- (c) The probable effect on impacted small businesses would be positive as the rulemaking creates an additional accreditation option that did not previously exist.
- (d) The rulemaking is not intrusive or costly.

(25) List any special provisions which have been developed to meet the particular needs of affected groups or persons including, but not limited to, minorities, the elderly, small businesses, and farmers.

No special provisions have been developed for any affected groups or persons.

(26) Include a description of any alternative regulatory provisions which have been considered and rejected and a statement that the least burdensome acceptable alternative has been selected.

No alternative regulatory provisions were considered and rejected. The Board believes this regulation represents the least burdensome acceptable alternative.

(27) In conducting a regulatory flexibility analysis, explain whether regulatory methods were considered that will minimize any adverse impact on small businesses (as defined in Section 3 of the Regulatory Review Act, Act 76 of 2012), including:

- a) The establishment of less stringent compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses;
- b) The establishment of less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses;
- c) The consolidation or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements for small businesses;
- d) The establishment of performing standards for small businesses to replace design or operational standards required in the regulation; and
- e) The exemption of small businesses from all or any part of the requirements contained in the regulation.

The Board did not conduct a regulatory flexibility analysis because small businesses will not be adversely impacted by this regulation.

(28) If data is the basis for this regulation, please provide a description of the data, explain in detail how the data was obtained, and how it meets the acceptability standard for empirical, replicable and testable data that is supported by documentation, statistics, reports, studies or research. Please submit data or supporting materials with the regulatory package. If the material exceeds 50 pages, please provide it in a searchable electronic format or provide a list of citations and internet links that, where possible, can be accessed in a searchable format in lieu of the actual material. If other data was considered but not used, please explain why that data was determined not to be acceptable.

No data, studies or references were used to justify the regulation.

(29) Include a schedule for review of the regulation including:

A. The length of the public comment period: 30 days.

B. The date or dates on which any public meetings or hearings will be held:

No public hearings were scheduled or held. The Board discusses its regulatory proposals at regularly scheduled meetings. This rulemaking was discussed at public board meetings on June 7, 2021, August 9, 2021, December 13, 2021, February 5, 2024, April 8, 2024 and February 10, 2025.

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|---|----------------------------|
| C. The expected date of the final-form regulation: | Spring 2025. |
| D. The expected effective date of the final-form regulation: | Upon publication as final. |
| E. The expected date by which compliance with the final-form regulation will be required: | Upon publication as final. |
| F. The expected date by which required permits, licenses or other approvals must be obtained: | N/A |

(30) Describe the plan developed for evaluating the continuing effectiveness of the regulations after its implementation.

The Board continually reviews the efficacy of its regulations, as part of its annual review process under Executive Order 1996-1. The Board reviews its regulatory proposals at regularly scheduled public meetings. The Board will meet on the following dates in 2025: April 14, June 16, August 18, October 20 and December 15. More information can be found on the Board's website.

ATTACHMENT “A”

State Board of Psychology

2 Technology Park
Harrisburg PA 17110



BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND
OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

State Board of Psychology

P O BOX 2649
Harrisburg PA 17105-2649

VERIFICATION OF DOCTORAL PROGRAM ACCREDITATION/DESIGNATION STATUS AND PRE-DOCTORAL
INTERNSHIP

After completing this Verification of Doctoral Program Accreditation/Designation Status and Pre-Doctoral Internship form, please place it and any attachment in a sealed envelope, place your signature over the envelope seal and return it to the applicant

APPLICANT INFORMATION

NAME:	Last	First	Middle
OTHER NAME:			
DATE OF BIRTH:		LAST 4 DIGITS OF SSN:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY / STATE / ZIP:			

After completing this Verification of Doctoral Program Accreditation/Designation Status form, please place it in a sealed envelope, place your signature over the envelope seal and return it to the applicant.

I certify that _____ completed

NAME OF APPLICANT

the _____ program at _____
NAME OF DOCTORAL PROGRAM NAME OF INSTITUTION

1. The program completed by the above-named applicant is:

Accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA)

☐ Yes ☐ No

Designated by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards

(ASPPB)/ National Register Designation Project

☐ Yes ☐ No

Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS)

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. The above-named applicant completed a pre-doctoral internship during the following time period:

From: _____ To: _____
Month/Day/Year Month/Day/Year *

*Director of Clinical Training may also provide a copy of the internship certificate which contains the dates of the pre-doctoral internship.

Name of Director of Clinical Training

Signature of Director of Clinical Training

Date

CDL-1

**FACE SHEET
FOR FILING DOCUMENTS
WITH THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**



(Pursuant to Commonwealth Documents Law)

RECEIVED

Independent Regulatory
Review Commission

April 23, 2025

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

<p>Copy below is hereby approved as to form and legality. Attorney General</p> <p>BY: _____ (DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL)</p> <p>_____ DATE OF APPROVAL</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check if applicable Copy not approved. Objections attached.</p>	<p>Copy below is hereby certified to be a true and correct copy of a document issued, prescribed or promulgated by:</p> <p><u>State Board of Psychology</u> (AGENCY)</p> <p>DOCUMENT/FISCAL NOTE NO. <u>16A-6327</u></p> <p>DATE OF ADOPTION: _____</p> <p></p> <p>BY: _____ Donald McAleer Psy.D., ABPP</p> <p>TITLE <u>Chairperson</u> (EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY)</p>	<p>Copy below is hereby approved as to form and legality. Executive or Independent Agencies.</p> <p>BY:  (Deputy General Counsel Strike inapplicable title)</p> <p>4/10/2025</p> <p>_____ DATE OF APPROVAL</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check if applicable. No Attorney General approval or objection within 30 days after submission.</p>
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NOTICE OF FINAL RULEMAKING

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

49 PA. CODE CHAPTER 41

§§ 41.1, 41.31 and 41.61

ACCREDITATION

The State Board of Psychology (Board) amends §§ 41.1, 41.31 and 41.61 to read as set forth in Annex A.

Effective Date

These amendments will be effective upon publication of the final-form rulemaking in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Statutory Authority

The Board has the authority to adopt and revise the regulations that govern its licensees under the authority granted to it by section 3.2 of the Professional Psychologists Practice Act (act) (63 P.S. § 1203.2). Under section 3.2(1) and (2) of the act, the Board has the authority to: pass upon the qualifications and fitness of applicants for licenses and reciprocal licenses; adopt and revise rules and regulations requiring applicants to pass examinations relating to their qualifications as a prerequisite to the issuance of license; and adopt and, from time to time, revise the rules, regulations and policies to be consistent with the law as may be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this act. Under section 6(a)(2) of the act (63 P.S. § 1206(a)(2)), an applicant must be a graduate of an accredited college or university with a doctoral degree in psychology or a field related to psychology to be eligible for licensure as a psychologist.

Background and Purpose

The Board's regulations under § 41.31 recognize program accreditation from the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA). In this rulemaking, the Board also recognizes the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS) to afford clinical psychological programs an additional pathway to licensure.

The PCSAS is an independent, nonprofit organization providing rigorous, objective and empirically based accreditation of PhD programs that adhere to a clinical science training model—one that increases the quality and quantity of clinical scientists contributing to all aspects of public health and extends the science base for mental health care. The Academy of Psychological Clinical Science is the parent organization of the PCSAS. According to its web site, the PCSAS programs adhere to a clinical science training model—one that supports and expands the scientific foundation for mental and behavioral health care and increases the quality and quantity of clinical scientists contributing to all aspects of public health for all people. The PCSAS is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), which is the entity that carries out the recognition of accrediting agencies in the private, nongovernmental sector. The majority of top-ranked PhD programs in clinical psychology in the United States are PCSAS programs. The PCSAS only accredits clinical science PhD programs. The Board recognizes the importance of science-centered training in clinical psychology and believes that providing parity to the PCSAS will have a positive impact in the treatment of mental and behavioral health problems.

In this rulemaking, the Board also updates its regulations to reflect a name change from the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation (CORPA) to the CHEA.

Comments to the Proposed Rulemaking

The Board published a notice of proposed rulemaking at 54 Pa.B. 7468 (November 16, 2024), for thirty days of public comment. Publication was followed by a 30-day public comment

period during which the Board received no public comments. Additionally, there were no comments received from the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) other than to say that they have no objections, comments or recommendations to offer. The Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee of the Senate (SCP/PLC) and the Professional Licensure Committee of the House of Representatives (HPLC) did not submit comments.

The Board did not make any amendments to the annex in the final-form rulemaking.

Fiscal Impact and Paperwork Requirements

This rulemaking will have no adverse fiscal impact on the Commonwealth or its political subdivisions and will impose no additional paperwork requirements upon the Commonwealth, political subdivisions or the private sector.

Sunset Date

A sunset date is not being established for this rulemaking. The need and efficacy of the regulation will be periodically monitored by the Board.

Regulatory Review

Under Section 5(a) of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5(a)), on November 4, 2024, the Board submitted a copy of the notice of proposed rulemaking, published at 54 Pa. B. 7468 (November 16, 2024) and a copy of a Regulatory Analysis form to IRRC and the chairpersons of the SCP/PLC and HPLC for review and comment. A copy of this material is available to the public upon request.

Under section 5(c) of the Regulatory Review Act, IRRC, SCP/PLC and HPLC were provided with copies of the comments received on the regulation, as well as other documents when requested. In preparing this final-form rulemaking, the Board made no revisions based upon a lack of comments received from the public, IRRC, the SCP/PLC and the HPLC.

Under section 5.1(a) of the Regulatory Review Act, on April 23, 2025, the Board delivered the final-form rulemaking to IRRC and the SCP/PLC and the HPLC. Under section 5.1(j.2) of the Regulatory Review Act, on _____, 2025, the final-form rulemaking was deemed approved by the SCP/PLC and the HPLC. Under section 5 (g) of the Regulatory Review Act the final-form rulemaking was deemed approved by IRRC effective _____, 2025.

Additional Information

Further information may be obtained by contacting Regulatory Counsel, State Board of Psychology P.O. Box 2649 Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649 or by e-mail at RA-STRegulatoryCounsel@pa.gov. Reference No. 16A-6327 (Accreditation) when requesting information.

Findings

The Board finds that:

- (1) Public notice of proposed rulemaking was given under sections 201 and 202 of the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L. 769, No. 240) and regulations promulgated thereunder, 1 Pa. Code §§ 7.1 and 7.2 (relating to notice of proposed rulemaking required; and adoption of regulations).
- (2) A public comment period was provided as required by law and no comments were received.
- (3) This final-form rulemaking does not include any amendments and did not enlarge the scope of proposed rulemaking published at 54 Pa.B. 7468 (November 16, 2024).
- (4) The final-form rulemaking adopted by this order is necessary and appropriate for the administration of the Professional Psychologists Practice Act.

Order

The Board, acting under its authorizing statute, orders that:

- (a) The regulations of the Board at 49 Pa. Code §§ 41.1, 41.31 and 41.61 are amended to read as set forth in Annex A.
- (b) The Board shall submit this order and Annex A to the Office of Attorney General and the Office of General Counsel for approval as required by law.
- (c) The Board shall submit this final-form rulemaking to IRRC, the HPLC and SCP/PLC as required by law.
- (d) The Board shall certify this order and Annex A and deposit them with the Legislative Reference Bureau as required by law.
- (e) The final-form rulemaking shall take effect upon publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Donald McAleer, Psy.D., ABPP
Chairperson

16A-6327 Commenter List

No public comments.

ANNEX A
TITLE 49. PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL STANDARDS
PART I. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Subpart A. PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS
CHAPTER 41. STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY
GENERAL

§ 41.1. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

* * * * *

Accredited college or university—An institution which is recognized as an institution of higher education under 22 Pa. Code (relating to education) or which is accredited by a regional accrediting association recognized by the [Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation (CORPA)] Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

* * * * *

Doctoral degree in a field related to psychology—A degree awarded upon successful completion of a program which, within 1 year from the award of the doctoral degree, meets one of the following:

- (i) Is accredited by the APA [or the], CPA or PCSAS.
- (ii) Is designated by the ASPPB/National Register Designation Project.

(iii) Is offered by a foreign college or university whose standards are equivalent to the ASPPB/National Register Designation Project criteria.

Doctoral degree in psychology—A degree awarded upon successful completion of a program in psychology which, within 1 year from the award of the doctoral degree, meets one of the following criteria:

- (i) Is accredited by the APA [or the], CPA or the PCSAS.
- (ii) Is designated by the ASPPB/ National Register Designation Project.
- (iii) Is offered by a foreign college or university whose standards are equivalent to the ASPPB/National Register Designation Project Criteria.

* * * * *

National Register—The Council for the National Register of Health Service Providers.

PCSAS - Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System.

Parent—Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System

* * * * *

QUALIFICATIONS

§ 41.31. Educational qualifications.

To meet the education requirements for licensure under section 6 of the act (63 P.S. § 1206), an applicant shall complete the requirements for a doctoral degree in psychology or a field related to psychology as defined in § 41.1 (relating to definitions). The following documentation evidences compliance:

(1) For degree holders from a program in the United States, Canada or United States territories, a Verification of Doctoral Program Approval Status completed by the program’s director reflecting accreditation by the APA [or], CPA or PCSAS or designation by the ASPPB/National Register Designation Project within 1 year from the award of the doctoral degree, and an official transcript from the registrar.

* * * * *

(3) An applicant who does not meet the criteria in paragraph (2) shall complete supplemental education or training, or both, from a program accredited by the APA [or the], CPA or PCSAS or designated by ASPPB/National Register Designation Project based upon an evaluation of the deficiency by the program. The program director shall certify that the supplemental coursework or experience, or both, makes the applicant equivalent to a graduate of that program.

* * * * *

CODE OF ETHICS

§ 41.61. Code of Ethics

* * * * *

Principle 2. Competency.

* * * * *

(d) Psychologists accurately represent their competence, education, training and experience. They claim as evidence of psychological educational qualifications only those degrees obtained from institutions accredited by a regional accrediting association approved by the [Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation (CORPA)] Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). Degrees earned from foreign colleges and universities may be

represented only if they are determined to be equivalent to the degrees conferred by these accredited institutions. Determinations of equivalency shall be made by an agency acceptable to the Board, subject to the Board's final approval. Representations of nonpsychological earned academic degrees are not prohibited, if the degrees are from accredited schools. If these degrees are generic, such as Ph.D., Ed.D., M.S., M.A. and M.Ed., the holder may represent them, but shall specify the discipline in which each particular degree was earned.

* * * * *



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY**

**Post Office Box 2649
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-2649
(717) 783-7155**

April 23, 2025

The Honorable George D. Bedwick, Chairman
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION
14th Floor, Harristown 2, 333 Market Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

Re: Final Rulemaking
State Board of Psychology
16A-6327: Accreditation

Dear Chairman Bedwick:

Enclosed is a copy of a final rulemaking package of the State Board of Psychology pertaining to 16A-6327: Accreditation.

The Board will be pleased to provide whatever information the Commission may require during the course of its review of the rulemaking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donald McAleer Psy.D.".

Donald McAleer, Psy.D., Chairperson
State Board of Psychology

DM/JAW/ms
Enclosure

cc: Arion Claggett, Acting Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs
K. Kalonji Johnson, Deputy Secretary for Regulatory Programs
Andrew LaFratte, Deputy Policy Director, Department of State
Jason C. Giurintano, Deputy Chief Counsel, Department of State
Jacqueline A. Wolfgang, Senior Regulatory Counsel, Department of State
Ronald K. Rouse, Board Counsel, State Board of Psychology
State Board of Psychology

Sheehe, Melanie

From: Monoski, Jesse <Jesse.Monoski@pasenate.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 8:17 AM
To: Sheehe, Melanie; Dimm, Ian; joseph.kelly; Vazquez, Enid
Subject: Re: DELIVERY NOTICE: REGULATION # 16A-6327 Accreditation

RECEIVED

This has been received. Thank you.

Independent Regulatory
Review Commission

-Jesse

April 23, 2025

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Sheehe, Melanie <msheehe@pa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 8:13:56 AM
To: Monoski, Jesse <jesse.monoski@pasenate.com>; Dimm, Ian <Ian.Dimm@pasenate.com>; Kelly, Joseph <joseph.kelly@pasenate.com>; Vazquez, Enid <enid.vazquez@pasenate.com>
Subject: DELIVERY NOTICE: REGULATION # 16A-6327 Accreditation

■ EXTERNAL EMAIL ■

Please provide a written (email) confirmation of receipt of delivery of the attached final rulemaking.

Please be advised that the State Board of Psychology is delivering the below final rulemaking.

- 16A-6327 - State Board of Psychology – (Accreditation)
The State Board of Psychology (Board) recognizes the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS), which would provide an alternate accreditation to the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA). Including PCSAS parity within the Commonwealth would afford clinical psychological programs a pathway to licensure.
The Board also updates the regulations to reflect a name change from the Commission on Recognition of Postsecondary Accreditation (CORPA) to the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



Melanie A. Sheehe | Legal Assistant II
Office of Chief Counsel | Department of State
Governor's Office of General Counsel
2400 Thea Drive
P.O. Box 69523 | Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523
Office Phone 717.710.2749 | Fax: 717.787.0251
msheehe@pa.gov | www.dos.pa.gov

Preferred Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

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Sheehe, Melanie

From: Orchard, Kari L. <KOrchard@pahouse.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 9:43 AM
To: Sheehe, Melanie; Barton, Jamie; Brett, Joseph D.
Subject: RE: DELIVERY NOTICE: REGULATION # 16A-6327 Accreditation

RECEIVED

Independent Regulatory
Review Commission

April 23, 2025

Received. Thank you!

Kari Orchard

Executive Director (D) | House Professional Licensure Committee
Chairman Frank Burns, 72nd Legislative District

From: Sheehe, Melanie <msheehe@pa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 8:16 AM
To: Orchard, Kari L. <KOrchard@pahouse.net>; Barton, Jamie <JBarton@pahouse.net>; Brett, Joseph D. <JBrett@pahouse.net>
Subject: DELIVERY NOTICE: REGULATION # 16A-6327 Accreditation
Importance: High

Please provide a written (email) confirmation of receipt of delivery of the attached final rulemaking.

Please be advised that the State Board of Psychology is delivering the below final rulemaking.

- 16A-6327 - State Board of Psychology – (Accreditation)
The State Board of Psychology (Board) recognizes the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS), which would provide an alternate accreditation to the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA). Including PCSAS parity within the Commonwealth would afford clinical psychological programs a pathway to licensure.
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Melanie A. Sheehe | Legal Assistant II
Office of Chief Counsel | Department of State
Governor's Office of General Counsel
2400 Thea Drive
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Sheehe, Melanie

From: Nicole Sidle <Nsidle@pahousegop.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 9:25 AM
To: Sheehe, Melanie; Cindy Sauder
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]: DELIVERY NOTICE: REGULATION # 16A-6327 Accreditation

Good Morning—

This has been received.

Nicole

RECEIVED

Independent Regulatory
Review Commission

April 23, 2025

From: Sheehe, Melanie <msheehe@pa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 8:19 AM
To: Nicole Sidle <Nsidle@pahousegop.com>; Cindy Sauder <Csauder@pahousegop.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: DELIVERY NOTICE: REGULATION # 16A-6327 Accreditation
Importance: High

Please provide a written (email) confirmation of receipt of delivery of the attached final rulemaking.

Please be advised that the State Board of Psychology is delivering the below final rulemaking.

- 16A-6327 - State Board of Psychology – (Accreditation)
The State Board of Psychology (Board) recognizes the Psychological Clinical Science Accreditation System (PCSAS), which would provide an alternate accreditation to the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA). Including PCSAS parity within the Commonwealth would afford clinical psychological programs a pathway to licensure.
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Melanie A. Sheehe | Legal Assistant II
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Governor's Office of General Counsel
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Sheehe, Melanie

From: Smeltz, Jennifer <jmsmeltz@pasen.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 8:23 AM
To: Sheehe, Melanie
Subject: RE: DELIVERY NOTICE: REGULATION # 16A-6327 Accreditation

RECEIVED

Received.

Independent Regulatory
Review Commission

April 23, 2025

*Jennifer Smeltz, Executive Director
Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee
Office of Senator Pat Stefano
Phone: (717) 787-7175*

From: Sheehe, Melanie <msheehe@pa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 8:21 AM
To: Smeltz, Jennifer <jmsmeltz@pasen.gov>
Subject: DELIVERY NOTICE: REGULATION # 16A-6327 Accreditation
Importance: High

⦿ **CAUTION : External Email** ⦿

Please provide a written (email) confirmation of receipt of delivery of the attached final rulemaking.

Please be advised that the State Board of Psychology is delivering the below final rulemaking.

- 16A-6327 - State Board of Psychology – (Accreditation)
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