

Authority

This standard has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 31 March 2010 pursuant to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009)* (the National Law) with approval taking effect from 1 July 2010.

Summary

An applicant for provisional registration as a psychologist must have completed an accredited four-year sequence of psychology study, or a sequence of study that in the opinion of the Board is substantially equivalent. Provisional registration is granted to enable an individual to complete years five and six of supervised practice as part of a minimum six-year sequence of study approved by the Board in order to become eligible for general registration.

The Board has determined that the qualification that leads to registration as a general psychologist is a six-year accredited sequence of study, comprising a Master's degree minimum qualification or equivalent. The Board will recognise the following six-year sequences of study as equivalent:

- a). (a) a five-year accredited sequence of study followed by a one-year Board-approved internship (5+1); or
- b). (b) a four-year accredited sequence of study followed by a two-year Board-approved internship (4+2).

A provisional psychologist may not undertake dual pathways, that is, mixing components of two different pathways to make up a six-year sequence of study will not be accepted as completing an approved qualification leading to general registration.

Scope of application

This standard applies to all applicants for provisional registration and registered provisional psychologists. It includes students undertaking practical placements as part of an accredited six-year sequence of study and registered as provisional psychologists.

Requirements of the 4+2 internship program

1. The core capabilities and attributes of the two-year internship program that must be achieved by the provisional psychologist are:
 - a) knowledge of the discipline
 - b) ethical, legal and professional matters
 - c) psychological assessment and measurement

- d) intervention strategies
- e) research and evaluation
- f) communication and interpersonal relationships
- g) working within a cross-cultural context; and
- h) practice across the lifespan.

2. A provisional psychologist undertaking the Board-approved two-year internship must successfully complete the internship in accordance with the Board's internship guidelines, which include:
 - a) a minimum two-year program based on a 35 hour week and seven hour day, totalling a minimum of 3080 hours
 - b) a minimum of 17.5 hours per week internship
 - c) a maximum eight-week provision for annual and personal leave per year
 - d) one-on-one supervision with a Board-approved supervisor at a ratio of one hour of supervision to 17.5 hours of supervised practice. Two-thirds must be individual supervision, with the rest either being individual or group supervision; and
 - e) a minimum of 60 hours of professional development per full-time year designed to meet the eight competencies of the internship program. The pro rata equivalent applies to part-time practice.
3. The program must consist of 40 per cent client contact and 60 per cent client related activities.
4. The program must be completed within a maximum of five years from commencement.
5. All work roles/placements (internship program only) must be approved by the Board prior to commencement.
6. Six monthly progress reports must be submitted by the supervisor and the provisional psychologist.
7. At the completion of the internship program a final assessment of competence form signed by the supervisor and case studies completed by the provisional psychologist must be submitted with an application for general registration.

Requirements of the 5+1 internship program

1. This standard will be updated to provide the requirements of the one-year internship program once the program becomes available.

Requirements of the accredited professional degree

1. An applicant for provisional registration must provide evidence of current enrolment in an accredited professional degree leading to general registration.
2. A provisional psychologist undertaking an accredited professional degree leading to general registration must be registered from the commencement of enrolment and for the duration of enrolment.

Definitions

Client-related activities for the purposes of the internship program means activities including reading and researching to assist problem formulation and diagnosis, case consultation with colleagues, formal and informal reporting, and professional development.

Internship means a supervised practice program approved by the Board.

Client contact, for the purposes of the internship program, means direct client contact, which includes performing specific tasks of psychological assessment, intervention and prevention.

Supervisor means a registered general psychologist approved by the Board to act as principal supervisor to a provisional psychologist undertaking an internship program. A supervisor must have a minimum of three years experience as a registered general psychologist and have completed a Board-approved training program in psychology supervision prior to applying to act as a Board-approved supervisor.

References

Psychology Board of Australia Internship Program Guidelines are available on the Board's website.

Review

This standard will commence on 1 July 2010. The Board will review this standard at least every three years.