

**R156. Commerce, Occupational and Professional Licensing.**

**R156-61. Psychologist Licensing Act Rule.**

**R156-61-101. Title.**

This rule is known as the "Psychologist Licensing Act Rule."

**R156-61-102. Definitions.**

In addition to the definitions in Title 58, Chapters 1 and 61, as used in Title 58, Chapters 1 and 61 or this rule:

- (1) "Approved diagnostic and statistical manual for mental disorders" means the following:
  - (a) Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition: DSM-5 published by the American Psychiatric Association;
  - (b) 2015 ICD-10-CM for Physicians, Professional Edition published by the American Medical Association; or
  - (c) ICD-10-CM 2019: The Complete Official Draft Code Set published by the American Medical Association.
- (2) "CoA" means Committee on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association.
- (3)(a) "Conversion therapy" means any practice or treatment that seeks to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of a patient or client, including mental health therapy that seeks to change, eliminate, or reduce behaviors, expressions, attractions, or feelings related to a patient or client's sexual orientation or gender identity.
  - (b) "Conversion therapy" does not mean a practice or treatment that does not seek to change a patient or client's sexual orientation or gender identity, including mental health therapy that:
    - (i) is neutral with respect to sexual orientation and gender identity;
    - (ii) provides assistance to a patient or client undergoing gender transition;
    - (iii) provides acceptance, support, and understanding of a patient or client;
    - (iv) facilitates a patient or client's ability to cope, social support, and identity exploration and development;
    - (v) addresses unlawful, unsafe, premarital, or extramarital sexual activities in a manner that is neutral with respect to sexual orientation; or
    - (vi) discusses with a patient or client the patient or client's moral or religious beliefs or practices.
- (4) "Direct supervision" of a supervisee in training, as used in Subsection 58-61-304(1)(f), means:
  - (a) a supervisor meeting with the supervisee when both are physically present in the same room at the same time; or
  - (b) a supervisor meeting with the supervisee remotely via real-time electronic methods that allow for visual and audio interaction between the supervisor and supervisee under the following conditions:
    - (i) the supervisor and supervisee shall enter into a written supervisory agreement which, at a minimum, establishes the following:
      - (A) frequency, duration, reason for, and objectives of electronic meetings between the supervisor and supervisee;
      - (B) a plan to ensure accessibility of the supervisor to the supervisee despite the physical distance between their offices;
      - (C) a plan to address potential conflicts between clinical recommendations of the supervisor and the representatives of the agency employing the supervisee;
      - (D) a plan to inform a supervisee's client or patient and employer regarding the supervisee's use of remote supervision;
      - (E) a plan to comply with the supervisor's duties and responsibilities as established in rule; and
      - (F) a plan to physically visit the location where the supervisee practices on at least a quarterly basis during the period of supervision or at a lesser frequency as approved by the Division in collaboration with the Board;
    - (ii) the supervisee submits the supervisory agreement to the Division and obtains approval before counting direct supervision completed via live real-time methods toward the 40 hour direct supervision requirement; and
    - (iii) in evaluating a supervisory agreement, the Division shall consider whether it adequately protects the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
- (5) "On-the-job training program approved by the Division", as used in Subsection 58-61-301(1)(b), means a program that meets the standards established in Section R156-61-601.
- (6)(a) "Predoctoral internship" refers to a formal training program that meets the minimum requirements of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) offered to culminate a doctoral degree in clinical, counseling, or school psychology.
  - (b) A training program may be a full-time one year program or a half-time two year program.
- (7)(a) "Program accredited by the CoA", as used in Subsections R156-61-302a(1), means a psychology department program that, as of the date on which a student completes a doctoral psychology degree program:
  - (i) has obtained an accreditation from the CoA; or
  - (ii)(A) has applied to the CoA for accreditation;
  - (B) has been approved by the CoA for a site visit, which is to occur within the ensuing six years; and
  - (C) has not previously been denied accreditation by the CoA.
- (8)(a) "Program of respecialization", as used in Subsection R156-61-302a(3), is a formal program designed to prepare someone with a doctoral degree in psychology with the necessary skills to practice psychology.
  - (b) The respecialization activities shall include substantial requirements that are formally offered as an organized sequence of course work and supervised practicum leading to a certificate (or similar recognition) by an educational body that offers a doctoral degree qualifying for licensure in the same area of practice as that of the certificate.

(9)(a) "Psychology training", as used in Subsection 58-61-304(1)(e), means practical training experience providing direct services in the practice of mental health therapy and psychology under supervision. All activities in full-time internships and full-time post-doctoral positions devoted solely to mental health delivery meet this definition.

(b) Activities not directly related to the practice of psychology, even if commonly performed by psychologists, do not meet the definition of psychology training under Subsection 58-61-304(1)(e). Examples of ineligible activities include psychology coursework, analog clinical activities (e.g. role plays), activities required for business purposes (e.g. billing), supervision of others engaged in activities other than practice of psychology (e.g. supervising adolescents in wilderness settings), and activities commonly performed by non-psychologists (e.g. teaching of psychology on topics not of a professional nature).

(10) "Qualified faculty", as used in Subsection 58-1-307(1)(b), means a university faculty member who provides pre-doctoral supervision of clinical or counseling experience in a university setting who:

- (i) is licensed in Utah as a psychologist; and
- (ii) is training students in the context of a doctoral program leading to licensure.

(11) "Residency program", as used in Subsection 58-61-301(1)(b), means a program of post-doctoral supervised clinical training necessary to meet licensing requirements as a psychologist.

**R156-61-103. Authority - Purpose.**

This rule is adopted by the Division under the authority of Subsection 58-1-106(1)(a) to enable the Division to administer Title 58, Chapter 61.

**R156-61-104. Organization - Relationship to Rule R156-1.**

The organization of this rule and its relationship to Rule R156-1 is as described in Section R156-1-107.

**R156-61-201. Advisory Peer Committee Created - Membership - Duties.**

(1) There is hereby enabled in accordance with Subsection 58-1-203(1)(f), the Ethics Committee as an advisory peer committee to the Psychologist Licensing Board on either a permanent or ad hoc basis consisting of members licensed in good standing as psychologists qualified to engage in the practice of mental health therapy, in number and area of expertise necessary to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the committee as set forth in Subsection (3).

(2) The committee shall be appointed and serve in accordance with Section R156-1-205.

(3) The committee shall assist the Division in its duties, functions, and responsibilities defined in Section 58-1-202 including:

(a) upon the request of the Division, reviewing reported violations of Utah law or the standards and ethics of the profession by a person licensed as a psychologist and advising the Division if allegations against or information known about the person presents a reasonable basis to initiate or continue an investigation with respect to the person;

(b) upon the request of the Division providing expert advice to the Division with respect to conduct of an investigation; and

(c) when appropriate serving as an expert witness in matters before the Division.

**R156-61-302a. Qualifications for Licensure - Education Requirements.**

(1) In accordance with Subsection 58-61-304(1)(d), an institution or program of higher education awarding a psychology degree that qualifies an applicant for licensure as a psychologist shall be accredited by the CoA.

(a) An applicant shall graduate from the actual program that is accredited by CoA. No other program within the department or institution qualifies unless separately accredited.

(b) If a transcript does not uniquely identify the qualifying CoA accredited degree program, it is the responsibility of the applicant to provide signed, written documentation from the program director or department chair that the applicant did indeed graduate from the qualifying accredited degree program.

(2) In accordance with Subsection 58-61-304(1)(d), an institution or program of higher education awarding a psychology doctoral degree that is not accredited by CoA shall meet the following criteria in order to qualify an applicant for licensure as a psychologist:

(a) if located in the United States or Canada, be an institution having a doctoral psychology program recognized by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB)/National Register Joint Designation Committee as being found to meet "designation criteria", at the time the applicant received the earned degree. Whether a program is found to meet designation criteria is a decision to be made by the ASPPB/National Register Joint Designation Committee; or

(b) if located outside of the United States or Canada, be an institution that meets the ASPPB National Register (NR) Designation Guidelines for defining a doctoral degree in psychology as determined by the NR.

(3) An applicant whose psychology doctoral degree training is not designed to lead to clinical practice or who wishes to practice in a substantially different area than the training of the doctoral degree shall complete a program of respecialization as defined in Subsection R156-61-102(7), and shall meet requirements of Subsection R156-61-302a(2).

(4) The date of completion of the doctoral degree shall be the graduation date listed on the official transcript.

**R156-61-302b. Qualifications for Licensure - Experience Requirements.**

(1) An applicant for licensure as a psychologist under Subsection 58-61-304(1)(e) or mental health therapy under Subsections 58-61-304(1)(e) and (1)(f) shall complete a minimum of 4,000 hours of psychology training approved by the Division in collaboration with the Board. The training shall:

- (a) be completed in not less than two years;

- (b) be completed in not more than four years following the awarding of the doctoral degree unless the Division in collaboration with the Board approves an extension due to extenuating circumstances;
  - (c) be completed while the applicant is enrolled in an approved doctoral program or licensed as a certified psychology resident;
  - (d) be completed while the applicant is under the supervision of a qualified psychologist meeting the requirements under Section R156-61-302d;
  - (e) if completed under the supervision of a qualified faculty member who is not an approved psychology training supervisor in accordance with Section R156-61-302d, the training shall not be credited toward the 4,000 hours of psychology doctoral clinical training;
  - (f) be completed as part of a supervised psychology training program as defined in Subsection R156-61-102(4) that does not exceed:
    - (i) 40 hours per week for full-time internships and full-time post doctoral positions; or
    - (ii) 20 hours of part-time internships and part-time post doctoral positions; and
  - (g) be completed while the applicant is under supervision of a minimum of one hour of supervision for every 20 hours of pre-doctoral training and experience and one hour for every 40 hours of post-doctoral training and experience.
- (2) In accordance with Subsection 58-61-301(1)(b), an individual engaged in a post-doctoral residency program of supervised clinical training shall be certified as a psychology resident.
- (3) An applicant for licensure may accrue any portion of the 4,000 hours of psychology doctoral degree training and experience required in Subsection 58-61-304(1)(e) in a pre-doctoral program.
- (4) An applicant who applies for licensure as a psychologist who completes the 4,000 hours of psychology doctoral degree training and experience required in Subsection 58-61-304(1)(e) in a pre-doctoral program or post-doctoral residency, and meets qualifications for licensure, may be approved to sit for the examinations, and upon passing the examinations will be issued a psychologist license.
- (5) An applicant for licensure as a psychologist who has commenced and completed all or part of the psychology or mental health therapy training requirements under Subsection R156-61-302b(1) outside the state, may receive credit for that training completed outside of the state if it is demonstrated by the applicant that the training is equivalent to the requirements for training under Subsections 58-61-304(1)(e) and (f), and Subsection R156-61-302b(1).

**R156-61-302c. Qualifications for Licensure - Examination Requirements.**

- (1) The examination requirements which shall be met by an applicant for licensure as a psychologist under Subsection 58-61-304(1)(g) are:
- (a) passing the Examination for the Professional Practice of Psychology (EPPP) developed by the American Association of State Psychology Board (ASPPB) with a passing score as recommended by the ASPPB; and
  - (b) passing the Utah Psychologist Law and Ethics Examination with a score of not less than 75%.
- (2) A person may be admitted to the EPPP and Utah Psychologist Law and Ethics examinations in Utah only after meeting the requirements under Section 58-61-305, and after receiving written approval from the Division.
- (3) If an applicant is admitted to an EPPP examination based upon substantive information that is incorrect and furnished knowingly by the applicant, the applicant shall automatically be given a failing score and shall not be permitted to retake the examination until the applicant submits fees and a correct application demonstrating the applicant is qualified for the examination and adequately explains why the applicant knowingly furnished incorrect information. If an applicant is inappropriately admitted to an EPPP examination because of a Division or Board error and the applicant receives a passing score, the results of the examination may not be used for licensure until the deficiency which would have barred the applicant for admission to the examination is corrected.
- (4) An applicant who fails the EPPP examination three times will only be allowed subsequent admission to the examination after the applicant has appeared before the Board, developed with the Board a plan of study in appropriate subject matter, and thereafter completed the planned course of study to the satisfaction of the Board.
- (5) An applicant who is found to be cheating on the EPPP examination or in any way invalidating the integrity of the examination shall automatically be given a failing score and shall not be permitted to retake the examination for a period of at least three years or as determined by the Division in collaboration with the Board.
- (6) In accordance with Section 58-1-203 and Subsection 58-61-304(1)(g), an applicant for the EPPP or the Utah Psychologist Law and Ethics Examination shall pass the examinations within one year from the date of the psychologist application for licensure. If the applicant does not pass the examinations within one year, the pending psychologist application shall be denied. The applicant may continue to register to take the EPPP examination under the procedures outlined in Subsection R156-61-302c(4).
- (7) In accordance with Section 58-1-203 and Subsection 58-61-304(2)(d), an applicant for psychologist licensure by endorsement shall pass the Utah Psychologist Law and Ethics Examination within six months from the date of the psychologist application for licensure. If the applicant does not pass the examination in six months, the pending psychologist application shall be denied.

**R156-61-302d. Qualifications for Designation as an Approved Psychology Training Supervisor.**

In accordance with Subsections 58-61-304(1)(e) and (f), to be approved by the Division in collaboration with the Board as a supervisor of psychology or mental health therapy training, an individual shall:

- (1) be currently licensed in good standing as a psychologist in the jurisdiction in which the supervised training is being performed; and

- (2) have practiced as a licensed psychologist for not fewer than 4,000 hours in a period of not less than two years.

**R156-61-302e. Duties and Responsibilities of a Supervisor of Psychology Training and Mental Health Therapist Training.**

The duties and responsibilities of a psychologist supervisor are further defined, clarified or established as follows. The psychologist supervisor shall:

- (1) be professionally responsible for the acts and practices of the supervisee which are a part of the required supervised training, including supervision of all activities requiring a mental health therapy license;
- (2) engage in a relationship with the supervisee in which the supervisor is independent from control by the supervisee, and in which the ability of the supervisor to supervise and direct the practice of the supervisee is not compromised;
- (3) supervise not more than three full-time equivalent supervisees unless otherwise approved by the Division in collaboration with the Board;
- (4) be available for advice, consultation, and direction consistent with the standards and ethics of the profession and the requirements suggested by the total circumstances including the supervisee's level of training, ability to diagnose patients, and other factors determined by the supervisor;
- (5) comply with the confidentiality requirements of Section 58-61-602;
- (6) provide timely and periodic review of the client records assigned to the supervisee;
- (7) monitor the performance of the supervisee for compliance with laws, standards, and ethics applicable to the practice of psychology;
- (8) submit appropriate documentation to the Division with respect to work completed by the supervisee evidencing the performance of the supervisee during the period of supervised psychology training and mental health therapist training, including the supervisor's evaluation of the supervisee's competence in the practice of psychology and mental health therapy;
- (9) ensure that the supervisee is certified by the Division as a psychology resident, or is enrolled in a psychology doctoral program and engaged in a training experience authorized by the educational program;
- (10) ensure the psychologist supervisor is legally able to personally provide the services which the psychologist supervisor is supervising; and
- (11) ensure the psychologist supervisor meets all other requirements for supervision as described in this section.

**R156-61-302f. Renewal Cycle - Procedures.**

- (1) In accordance with Subsection 58-1-308(1), the renewal date for the two-year renewal cycle applicable to licenses under Title 58, Chapter 61, is established by rule in Section R156-1-308a.
- (2) Renewal procedures shall be in accordance with Section R156-1-308c.

**R156-61-302g. License Reinstatement - Requirements.**

An applicant for reinstatement of a license after two years following expiration of that license shall:

- (1) upon request meet with the Board for the purpose of evaluating the applicant's current ability to safely and competently engage in practice as a psychologist and to make a determination of education, experience or examination requirements which will be required before reinstatement;
- (2) upon the recommendation of the Board, establish a plan of supervision under an approved supervisor which may include up to 4,000 hours of psychology and/or mental health therapy training;
- (3) take or retake, and pass the Utah Psychology Law Examination; or the EPPP Examination, or both, if it is determined by the Board it is necessary to demonstrate the applicant's ability to engage safely and competently in practice as a psychologist; and
- (4) complete a minimum of 48 hours of professional education in subjects determined necessary by the Board to ensure the applicant's ability to engage safely and competently in practice as a psychologist.

**R156-61-302h. Continuing Education.**

(1) There is hereby established a continuing education requirement for all individuals licensed or certified under Title 58, Chapter 61.

- (2) During each two year period commencing on October 1 of each even numbered year:
  - (a) a licensed psychologist shall be required to complete not less than 48 hours of continuing education directly related to the licensee's professional practice;
  - (b) a certified psychology resident shall be required to complete not less than 24 hours of continuing education directly related to professional practice.
- (3) The required number of hours of continuing education for an individual who first becomes licensed during the two year period shall be decreased in a pro-rata amount equal to any part of that two year period preceding the date on which that individual first became licensed.
- (4) Continuing education under this section shall:
  - (a) have an identifiable clear statement of purpose and defined objective for the educational program directly related to the practice of a psychologist;
  - (b) be relevant to the licensee's professional practice;
  - (c) be presented in a competent, well organized, and sequential manner consistent with the stated purpose and objective of the program;
  - (d) be prepared and presented by individuals who are qualified by education, training, and experience; and

- (e) have associated with it a competent method of registration of individuals who actually completed the professional education program and records of that registration and completion are available for review.
- (5) Credit for continuing education shall be recognized in accordance with the following:
  - (a) Unlimited hours shall be recognized for continuing education completed in blocks of time of not less than one hour in formally established classroom courses, seminars, or conferences.
  - (b) A maximum of ten hours per two year period may be recognized for teaching in a college or university, teaching continuing education courses in the field of psychology, or supervision of an individual completing the experience requirement for licensure as a psychologist.
  - (c) A minimum of six hours per two year period shall be completed in ethics/law.
  - (d) A maximum of six hours per two year period may be recognized for clinical readings directly related to practice as a psychologist.
  - (e) A maximum of 18 hours per two year period may be recognized for Internet or distance learning courses that includes an examination, a completion certificate and recognized by the American Psychological Association or a state or province psychological association.
  - (f) A maximum of six hours per two year period may be recognized for regular peer consultation, review and meetings if properly documented that the peer consultation, review and meetings meet the following requirements:
    - (i) have an identifiable clear statement of purpose and defined objective for the educational consultation/meeting directly related to the practice of a psychologist;
    - (ii) are relevant to the licensee's professional practice;
    - (iii) are presented in a competent, well organized manner consistent with the stated purpose and objective of the consultation/meeting;
    - (iv) are prepared and presented by individuals who are qualified by education, training and experience; and
    - (v) have associated with it a competent method of registration of individuals who attended.
- (6) A licensee shall be responsible for maintaining competent records of completed qualified professional education for a period of four years after the close of the two year period to which the records pertain. It is the responsibility of the licensee to maintain information with respect to qualified professional education to demonstrate it meets the requirements under this section.

**R156-61-502. Unprofessional Conduct.**

"Unprofessional conduct" includes:

- (1) violation of any provision of the "Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct" of the American Psychological Association (APA) as adopted by the APA, January 1, 2017 edition, which is adopted and incorporated by reference;
- (2) violation of any provision of the "ASPPB Code of Conduct" of the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) as adopted by the ASPPB, January 1, 2018 edition, which is adopted and incorporated by reference;
- (3) acting as a supervisor or accepting supervision of a supervisor without complying with or ensuring the compliance with the requirements of Sections R156-61-302d and R156-61-302e;
- (4) engaging in and aiding or abetting conduct or practices which are dishonest, deceptive or fraudulent;
- (5) engaging in or aiding or abetting deceptive or fraudulent billing practices;
- (6) failing to establish and maintain appropriate professional boundaries with a client or former client;
- (7) engaging in dual or multiple relationships with a client or former client in which there is a risk of exploitation or potential harm to the client;
- (8) engaging in sexual activities or sexual contact with a client with or without client consent;
- (9) engaging in sexual activities or sexual contact with a former client within two years of documented termination of services;
- (10) engaging in sexual activities or sexual contact at any time with a former client who is especially vulnerable or susceptible to being disadvantaged because of the client's personal history, current mental status, or any condition which could reasonably be expected to place the client at a disadvantage recognizing the power imbalance which exists or may exist between the psychologist and the client;
- (11) engaging in sexual activities or sexual contact with client's relatives or other individuals with whom the client maintains a relationship when that individual is especially vulnerable or susceptible to being disadvantaged because of his personal history, current mental status, or any condition which could reasonably be expected to place that individual at a disadvantage recognizing the power imbalance which exists or may exist between the psychologist and that individual;
- (12) physical contact with a client when there is a risk of exploitation or potential harm to the client resulting from the contact;
- (13) engaging in or aiding or abetting sexual harassment or any conduct which is exploitive or abusive with respect to a student, trainee, employee, or colleague with whom the licensee has supervisory or management responsibility;
- (14) failing to render impartial, objective, and informed services, recommendations or opinions with respect to custodial or parental rights, divorce, domestic relationships, adoptions, sanity, competency, mental health or any other determination concerning an individual's civil or legal rights;
- (15) exploiting a client for personal gain;
- (16) using a professional client relationship to exploit a client or other person for personal gain;
- (17) failing to maintain appropriate client records for a period of not less than ten years from the documented termination of services to the client;

- (18) failing to obtain informed consent from the client or legal guardian before taping, recording or permitting third party observations of client care or records;
- (19) failure to cooperate with the Division during an investigation
- (20) participating in a residency program or other post degree experience without being certified as a psychology resident for post-doctoral training and experience;
- (21) supervising a residency program of an individual who is not certified as a psychology resident;
- (22) when providing services remotely:
  - (a) failing to practice according to professional standards of care in the delivery of services remotely;
  - (b) failing to protect the security of electronic, confidential data and information; or
  - (c) failing to appropriately store and dispose of electronic, confidential data and information; or
- (23)(a) providing conversion therapy to a patient or client who is younger than 18 years old; and
- (b) Subsection (23)(a) does not apply to:
  - (i) a clergy member or religious counselor who is acting substantially in a pastoral or religious capacity and not in the capacity of a psychologist; or
  - (ii) a parent or grandparent who is a psychologist and who is acting substantially in the capacity of a parent or grandparent and not in the capacity of a psychologist.

**R156-61-601. Standards - Approved On-the-Job Training Program.**

In accordance with Subsection R156-61-102(4), an on-the-job training program is one that:

- (1) includes only individuals who have completed all courses required for graduation in a doctoral degree that satisfies the licensure requirements under Title 58, Chapter 61 and these rules;
- (2) starts immediately upon completion of all courses required for graduation;
- (3) ends no later than 45 days from the date it begins, or upon licensure, whichever is earlier;
- (4) may not be extended or used a second time;
- (5) is completed while the individual is an employee of a public or private agency engaged in the practice of psychology; and
- (6) is supervised by an individual who:
  - (a) is licensed under Title 58, Chapter 61; and
  - (b) conducts supervision at least weekly on circumstances where supervisor and supervisee are physically present in the same room at the same time.

**KEY: licensing, psychologists**

**Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: January 21, 2020**

**Notice of Continuation: September 18, 2018**

**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 58-1-106(1)(a); 58-1-202(1)(a); 58-61-101**