

Statement Regarding the Status of the Educational Psychology Doctoral Program at Northern Arizona University

Northern Arizona University's doctoral programs, including Educational Psychology – Counseling Psychology, Educational Psychology – School Psychology, and Combined Counseling/School Psychology, are not accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA). Questions related to the program's accredited status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation:

The [American Psychological Association](#)
Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
750 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002-4242
202.336.5979

The doctoral programs in Educational Psychology – Counseling Psychology and Educational Psychology – School Psychology have always been listed as a "Designated Doctoral Program in Psychology" by a joint commission of the ASPPB (Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards) and the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology. We received a letter during the summer of 2013 informing us that as of 2018, the joint designation program will cease to exist. This affects NAU and 25 other universities around the country. What this means for students is that if you cannot complete all degree requirements by June 1, 2018, some states MAY not accept your degree as making you eligible for a psychologist license.

Currently, few states require that students graduate from an APA-accredited program in order to be license-eligible. Requirements for psychology licensure vary from state to state and may change over time. For information on licensure requirements by state, see the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards website at: <http://www.asppb.net>. We encourage you to investigate the psychologist licensure process in the state(s) in which you wish to practice to assess the impact our current program status may have in the future should you decide to accept an offer of admission.

A second development from summer 2013 was a letter informing us that as of Fall 2017, students from non-APA programs will not be allowed to participate in the National Matching process for internships. While this is not the only means to obtain an internship, the program currently encourages students to use this system to arrange for their internships, and most do.

A third development is that we have developed a new doctoral program in Combined Counseling/School Psychology that will launch in Fall 2016. After Fall 2016, no further students will be admitted to the separate doctoral programs. The Combined doctoral program will replace the Educational Psychology – Counseling Psychology and Educational Psychology – School Psychology doctoral programs once students currently in those programs have graduated.

A fourth development is that we are writing a self-study as part of the application for APA accreditation for the Combined Counseling/School Psychology doctoral program. **We cannot promise that our program will become APA-accredited or that students will be able to participate in the National Match during Fall 2017. Therefore, we are forewarning all potential students that, they should seriously consider not accepting an offer of admission to our program.** It would be a misdirection of your time, energy and money if you completed a doctoral program and were not license-eligible as a psychologist in the state(s) where you want to work.

It will probably take at least one more year to determine whether we might become APA accredited. If you have further questions or need additional information on this matter, please contact Dr. Evie Garcia, Doctoral Training Director, at Y.Evie.Garcia@nau.edu