

In 2006, the APA Council of Representatives adopted a major policy advising licensing bodies that psychology graduates no longer need a postdoc to become a licensed psychologist. Their reasoning took into consideration multiple factors:

- Graduate students in clinical programs accrue 1,800-2,200 hours of supervised clinical experience before entering their internship year. To put that number in perspective, in 1987 when APA adopted its previous policy of requiring a post-doctoral supervised year, a trainee was achieving that many hours from practicum work AND their internship year.
- The post-doctoral year often lacks the consistency of training that is provided during practicums and internship.
- The post-doctoral year creates another barrier to licensure, mobility, and financial burdens.

The APA Model Act for State Licensure of Psychologists (2010) states, *“APA recommends that legislation requires the equivalent of two full-time years of sequential, organized, supervised, professional experience prior to obtaining the license. This training may be completed prior or subsequent to the granting of the doctoral degree. For applicants prepared for practice in the health services domain of psychology, one of those two years of supervised professional experience shall be a predoctoral internship which may be completed as a part-time intern over a two-year period provided that the total experience is the equivalent of one year of full-time experience.”*

We are proposing that the BSRB allow pre-internship experience hours count towards the post-internship licensure requirement (1800 hours) as long as they meet certain requirements (for example):

- Supervised by a licensed psychologist
- At least one hour of individual supervision per week
- Any hours past 1800 hours during internship year with a maximum of 200 hours

There are 18 states including MO which have already changed/passed laws, rules and/or regulations to count pre-internship hours. We can review these regulations to make sure we are being consistent with those established regulations.

KPA is in favor of this change and will work with the Board to provide supporting evidence as needed.

Thank you for considering and I look forward to more discussion,



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