



**The term “focus” should be used to describe opportunities in areas of training which are not recognized specialties. Training programs should strive to provide explicit explanations of the type of training provided in these non-specialty areas.

Rehabilitation Psychology E & T Taxonomy was approved by CoS Board of Directors on 11- 06-2021. CoS will request an updated Taxonomy for CoS review and approval one year prior to Rehabilitation Psychology’s next petition for renewal of specialty recognition by the Commission for Recognition of Specialties and Subspecialties in Professional Psychology (CRSSPP). The updated Taxonomy will be due at date to be determined after 2022 petition for renewal of recognition is completed.

Common Definitions and Criteria Across All Recognized Specialties
Clarifications to help recognized specialties use the APA-Taxonomy* in a consistent manner

- Broad and general training forms the core of education and training in health service psychology. Programs are accredited by the APA-CoA or Canadian Psychological Association. Programs integrate the broad and general training with those educational and training activities related to recognized specialties as determined by the specialty and described in a specialty taxonomy. In addition, each specialty will have education and training guidelines consistent with its specialty area. Specialty training may be acquired at the doctoral, doctoral internship, postdoctoral, or post-licensure stages as defined by the specialty.
- By definition, postdoctoral education and training is a Major Area of Study in a specialty recognized by the Commission for the Recognition of Specialties and Subspecialties in Professional Psychology (CRSSPP) and requires that 80% or more of time be spent in the specialty area. At the postdoctoral training stage, as per above, it is recognized that training in the Major Area of Study will be consistent with the education and training guidelines set forth by the specialty.
- A course is typically defined as 3 semester-credit hours (or equivalent) in a health service psychology training program accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) or the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA).
- A practicum is typically defined as the equivalent of one academic year (e.g., 9 months, in semester or quarter systems) consisting of supervised training for at least 8 hours per week, or its equivalent, with at least 50% of time in the provision of clinical services.
- Consistent with what is described in CoA *Standards of Accreditation*, supervision should be provided by persons with competencies in the specialty demonstrated by appropriate training, credentials, and qualifications for training in the specialty as defined by the specialty.
- Additional training experiences can also include, but are not limited to, research experiences, lab meetings, brown bags, lecture/colloquia series, and grand rounds, as defined by the specialty.
- For definitions of continuing education (CE) and continuing professional development (CPD) see the APA [Quality Professional Development and Continuing Education Resolution](#). A continuing education (CE) course is defined as an organized program by the American Psychological Association or Canadian Psychological Association, a State Psychological Association, or other major provider of CE (e.g., Society of Behavioral Medicine).

* Taxonomy; www.apa.org/ed/graduate/specialize/taxonomy.pdf

Specialty Specific Definitions and Criteria

Use superscripts in table entries above to reference footnotes provide in this section which expand upon or clarify table entries as needed.

¹ Doctoral Course – The majority of the course content must be relevant to the Rehabilitation Psychology competencies (Stiers, W., Barisa, M., Stucky, K., Pawlowski, C., Van Tubbergen, M., Turner, A., Hibbard, M., & Caplan, B. (2015). Guidelines for Competency Development and Measurement in Rehabilitation Psychology Postdoctoral Training. *Rehabilitation Psychology*, 60(2), 111-122).

² Doctoral Practicum⁺ – The practicum must be for one academic year (approximately 9 months) consisting of supervised experience involving ≥ 8 hours per week, with $\geq 50\%$ clinical service delivery with persons with disability receiving rehabilitation services, and their family members and care teams. Seminar attendance and readings may count as part of the supervised experience.

³ Doctoral Dissertation or Research Project – Empirical research, extended case studies, literature critiques and analyses, or capstone projects relevant to the Rehabilitation Psychology populations, problems, and procedures (Stiers, W., Hanson, S., Turner, A., Stucky, K., Barisa, M., Brownsberger, M., Van Tubbergen, M., Ashman, T., & Kuemmel, A. (2012). Guidelines for Postdoctoral Training in Rehabilitation Psychology. *Rehabilitation Psychology*, 57(4), 267–279).

⁴ Supervised Experience⁺ – The supervised experience must include $\geq 50\%$ clinical service delivery with persons with disability receiving rehabilitation services, and their family members and care teams. Seminar attendance, readings, and research may count as part of the supervised experience.

⁵ (Not applicable) – Postdoctoral education and training in a specialty is a major area of study requiring $\geq 80\%$ time commitment, with potential exposure ($\geq 10\%$ - $\leq 20\%$ time commitment) to other specialty areas.

⁶ Post-licensure Training⁺ – Specialization in Rehabilitation Psychology occurs following completion of a doctoral program and internship. Specialization may be achieved through completion of a formal postdoctoral training program ($\geq 80\%$ - 100% time commitment) or completion of 2 years of supervised experience in the specialty (1 year internship involving a major area of study [$\geq 50\%$ time commitment] and 1 year post-licensure [$\geq 80\%$ - 100% time commitment], or 2 years post-licensure [$\geq 80\%$ - 100% time commitment]). Post-licensure supervised experience must consist of $\geq 50\%$ clinical service delivery with persons with disability receiving rehabilitation services, and their family members and care teams. Seminar attendance, readings, and research may count as part of the supervised experience. The 1-2 year post-licensure training may be completed on a part-time basis.

⁷ CE – Must be through a university course or an APA-approved CE sponsor and the majority of the course content must be relevant to the Rehabilitation Psychology competencies (Stiers, et al., 2015).

⁸ (Not applicable) – Since specialization occurs either through a recognized postdoctoral training program or through 2 years of supervised experience in the specialty, other levels of post-licensure education and training opportunities are not relevant.

⁺Practicum, post-doctoral, and post-licensure supervised experience must be under the direction of a licensed psychologist who has achieved an advanced level of competence in Rehabilitation Psychology, as evidenced by an American Board of Rehabilitation Psychology diploma, fellow status in APA Division 22, a record of clinical expertise in the specialty, or other evidence of professional competence in the specialty.

Examples of Program Descriptors for Each Stage of Training

Doctoral

The doctoral program at Our University is accredited by APA and offers a *Major Area of Study* in Rehabilitation Psychology. Students in this graduate program will enroll in at least two academic courses in which the majority of the content is relevant to Rehabilitation Psychology competencies (e.g., adjustment to disability, cognitive assessment, consultation on interdisciplinary teams, advocacy with persons with disabilities) and complete a dissertation or research project relevant to Rehabilitation Psychology populations, problems, and procedures. Clinical training will include participating in at least two practica, each for one academic year (approximately 9 months), consisting of supervised experience, at least 50% of which is dedicated to clinical service delivery with persons with disability receiving rehabilitation services, and their family members and care teams.

Doctoral internship

Our APA-accredited VA internship program offers an *Emphasis* in Rehabilitation Psychology, with a four-month rotation dedicated to training in Rehabilitation Psychology. Interns will spend 33% of their supervised experience this training year dedicated to the provision of clinical service to persons with disability receiving rehabilitation services, and their family members and care teams. In addition to clinical training, the program offers didactic experiences focused on Rehabilitation Psychology competencies.

Postdoctoral residency

The 2-year postdoctoral residency program at Our University Medical Center offers a *Major Area of Study* in Rehabilitation Psychology. This program is designed to conform to the proposals from the National Conference on Postdoctoral Training in Professional Psychology and the Baltimore Conference Rehabilitation Psychology training guidelines. It fulfills eligibility requirements for board certification in Rehabilitation Psychology through the American Board of Professional Psychology. Residents will spend at least 80% of their time in supervised experience involving at least 50% time devoted to clinical care of persons with disability receiving rehabilitation services, and their family members and care teams. Residents will complete four, six-month rotations working with both inpatients and outpatients who have traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, chronic pain, and a variety of other conditions that impact functioning. Residents will also complete at least two research products (i.e., peer-reviewed publication and paper/poster presentation at national/international meeting) relevant to Rehabilitation Psychology during the residency.

Post-licensure training

Our Health Science Center is affiliated with Our University and offers a *Major Area of Study* in Rehabilitation Psychology. Licensed psychologists would enroll in Our University's Foundations of Rehabilitation Psychology course, which provides 30 hours of CE. Psychologists also participate in 1-2 years of supervised experience, either full- or part-time, with at least 50% of their time dedicated to clinical service delivery with rehabilitation populations in the hospital setting. Supervision is provided on a monthly basis via Zoom with a board certified rehabilitation psychologist.