

Executive Summary
Summit 3.0
Interorganizational Summit on Specialty, Specialization and Board Certification
June 15-16, 2017

The third of three *Interorganizational Summits on Specialty, Specialization and Board Certification* was held at the APA Building in Washington DC on June 15 & 16, 2017. Two previous Summits were held in 2016, in Chicago and in Chapel Hill, NC. Summit 3.0 participants and groups they represent are provided in Attachment A.

The Conclusions and Recommendations in this executive summary reflect the outcomes of the Summit. Notes from Summit 3.0 are provided in Attachment B. These notes reflect the structure and agenda for the summit, presentations, and the topical discussions.

The Conclusion and Recommendations of *Summit 3.0*

- **Specialty definition** – a slightly modified definition of the previously jointly adopted “specialty” was agreed upon:

A specialty is a defined area of professional psychology practice characterized by a distinctive configuration of competent services for specified problems and populations. Practice in a specialty requires advanced knowledge and skills acquired through an organized sequence of **formal** education, training, and **experience** in addition to the broad and general education and core scientific and professional foundations acquired through an APA or CPA accredited doctoral program.*

Specialty training may be acquired at the doctoral, **internship**, postdoctoral or **post-licensure** level as defined by the specialty.

*Except where APA or CPA program accreditation does not exist for that area of professional psychology

- It was agreed that each organization would take this modified version back to its leadership group\Board of Directors and ask that **it be adopted and utilized** in all documents, publications, applications where appropriate.
 - APA’s CRSPPP will submit this for approval to APA Council as a slight modification to the existing policy document and note that the changes are a positive, interorganizational agreement.
 - CRSPPP and ABPP will work jointly to have a consistent definition of ‘subspecialty’ and discuss how subspecialty can be introduced as APA policy as part of the definition of specialty.

- APA (CRSPPP) and ABPP agreed to work through CoS to establish a mechanism to jointly **review applications for specialty recognition** to save time and decrease duplication of effort and promote consistency across organizations.
 - To foster uniformity with the field, CoS will ask CoA **to accept the current list of specialties** recognized by CoS and/or ABPP rather than embark on its own review for recognition of specialties when a program wishes to be accredited as providing education and training in that specialty.
 - CRSPPP and ABPP have agreed that CoS will ask each recognized specialty to choose the name of their specialty so that both ABPP and APA use the same name for the same specialty.
 - Once agreed upon, each organization will initiate the required administrative changes to utilize the agreed upon names. CRSPPP will submit necessary name changes to APA Council for approval as a minor amendment based on a major interorganizational agreement. If needed, ABPP will initiate the name changes its Board of Trustees to change the name of the specialty when recognizing specialists.
 - APAGS and ECP committees will work with CoS and CRSPPP to support COR's adoption of any revised names.
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- **Taxonomy** – Adopting the language of the Taxonomy
 - All organizations agreed that it is important to adopt the language of the Taxonomy to help programs consistently describe the content of their educational opportunities for students at all levels of education and training
 - It is of key importance that organizations focus on the use of the taxonomy language to describe programmatic content.
 - CoS will lead the organizations in drafting language to help describe how the use of the taxonomy to describe learning content in programs will help: (1) programs consistently describe these learning opportunities; (2) individuals describe their own learning experiences; and (3) individuals and programs understand, using the information on CoS website, what recognized specialties expect of programmatic content at each level of training.
 - Although the taxonomy was specifically developed for programs to use consistent program descriptors rather than be focused on individual learner's opportunities, it is expected that such changes will allow both students and licensed psychologists to better plan their trajectory of training and then consistently describe their learning histories..

- CoS will draft a letter to CoA to be jointly signed by organizational representatives participating in the Summit stating that the field has **agreed to the use of the language of the Taxonomy and asking that CoA incorporate the definition of Specialty** (which is APA policy) **and the Taxonomy language** (which is APA policy) into its materials.
 - This would mean that CoA would then
 - be asking programs seeking APA accreditation to use consistent language to describe their educational and training content per the Taxonomy language and
 - use the learning opportunity descriptors (taxonomy language) listed by each Specialty on the CoS website as guidelines for specialty-defined content descriptions of learning opportunities at each level of training.
 - APPIC, ABPP, and ASPPB will each bring the taxonomy language to their organizations and **seek agreement to adopt the language** in all their publications, material, applications as appropriate.
 - CoS will work with CCTC to have training councils adopt taxonomy and encourage training directors to use the taxonomy in describing their programs.
 - CoS and CRSPPP will facilitate this dissemination of the taxonomy language and help training councils identify speakers who can help each council bring the language and practical examples of the use of the taxonomy language to their members.
 - APAGS and ECP committees will work to help lead/promote adoption of the taxonomy language and help its members see the utility of the use of the language in both choosing their graduate education and describing their educational history..
- **Other recommendations and follow-up**
 - CRSPPP and COS will develop a 10:00 minute +/- video that outlines the definition of Specialty and the importance of the use of the Taxonomy in helping clarify program content, and how this is helpful both to students in terms of specialty training and consumers regarding an understanding of the intensity of the training experiences needed to become psychology specialists.
 - This video can be presented at meetings of all organizations including CCTC to help with developing the knowledge and skills needed to help each organization adopt the definition and language of the taxonomy
 - CoS will take the lead in developing an APA Convention 2018 proposal – jointly sponsored by relevant Divisions – to present the importance of the uniform specialty definition and use of the taxonomy language

- APAGS and the ECP committees will be involved with a goal to make certain the next generation is supportive of the adoption of the definition and taxonomy language
 - APA staff will approach the *Monitor* regarding inclusion of an article about the Summit and the importance of the recommendations of an interorganizational adoption of the definition and the taxonomy language.
 - CRSPPP will be asked to submit this summary as an Information item for August Council agenda
 - ABPP will provide notification of the use of the definition and taxonomy language in *the ABPP Specialist*.
 - CoS will address the details of approaching TEPP and/or PPRP regarding a special issue or articles about the Summit's recommendations.
- **Activities that have taken place since the Summit (and dates)**
 - Several organizations have met since the Summit and worked toward implementation of some of the agreed upon actions
 - ABPP: ABPP has discussed from the summit at the executive committee level and will be asking the ABPP Board of Trustees to adopt the specialty definition, and have each specialty board to work to incorporate the taxonomy into appropriate sections of their requirements.
 - APPIC: June 2017, agreed to begin adopting the taxonomy.
 - ASPPB: June 2017, ASPPB's BOD adopted the definition of Specialty as ASPPB policy
 - The CoA will be informed about the Summit recommendations by the Director of Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation at the July CoA meeting.

Attachment A

Participant	Group Represented
Eddy Ameen, PhD	Office of Early Career Psychologists
Kevin Arnold, PhD, ABPP	CRSPPP/ABBP-Foundation/Summit Planning Group
Jeff Baker, PhD, ABPP	APPIC
David Cox, PhD, ABPP	ABPP Executive Director/Summit Planning Group
Jim Diaz-Granados, PhD	APA Education Directorate
Elena Eisman, EdD, ABPP	APA Center for Psychology and Health
Nabil El-Ghoroury, PhD	APAGS
Phillip Keck, PhD	Committee for Early Career Psychologists (CECP)
Jennifer Kelly, PhD, ABPP	APA Board of Directors
Toni Minniti, PhD	APA Education Directorate
Victor Molinari, PhD, ABPP	CoS/Summit Planning Group
Lavita Nadkarni, PhD	NCSPP
Katherine Nordal, PhD	APA Practice Directorate/APAPO
Ronald Rozensky, PhD, ABPP	Speaker/Summit Planning Group
Richard Seime, PhD, ABPP	CoS Chair/Summit Planning Group
Alex Siegel, JD, PhD	ASPPB/Summit Planning Group
Jared Skillings, PhD, ABPP	APA Board of Professional Affairs
Ann Springer, JD	Speaker/APA Associate General Counsel
Michael Tansy, PhD, ABPP	ABPP Board of Trustees
Jacquie Wall, PhD	APA Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation
Jason Williams, PsyD, MS, ED	Council of Chairs of Training Councils

