



**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.

Police and Public Safety Psychology E & T Taxonomy was approved by CoS Board of Directors on 11- 05-2022. CoS will request an updated Taxonomy for CoS review and approval one year prior to Police and Public Safety 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 end of 2025.

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 American Psychological Association 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 postlicensure 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

¹ PPSP is concerned with assisting law enforcement and other public safety personnel and agencies in carrying out their missions and societal functions with optimal effectiveness, safety, health, and conformity to laws and ethics. It consists of the application of the science and profession of psychology in four primary domains of practice: assessment, clinical intervention, operational support, and organizational consulting (<http://www.apa.org/ed/graduate/specialize/police.aspx>)

² Brewster, J., Stoloff, M., Corey, D. M., Greene, L., Gupton, H., & Roland, J. (2016). Education and training guidelines for the specialty of police and public safety psychology. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology, 10*(3), 171-178.

³ PPSP Course – Each course must have predominant content specific to one or more of the four PPSP domains (assessment, intervention, operational support, organizational consultation) and carry 3 or more hours of credit.

⁴ PPSP Practicum – Minimum experience of 9 months of applied supervised training for at least 10 hours per week and at least 50% clinical contact with police or other public safety applicants and/or personnel.

⁵ PPSP Supervisors – Supervision should be provided by psychologists who meet the requirements for a major area of study in PPSP at the postdoctoral stage (100 hour of PPSP CE or supervised experience in PPSP) or who have the equivalent of no less than 5 years of full-time postdoctoral practice providing services in the specific area being supervised and who are conversant in all domains of PPSP.

⁶ Supervised Practice – Must include at least 50% clinical contact with police or other public safety applicants and/or personnel pertaining to assessment, treatment, operations and/or consultation. If offered, seminar attendance, interdisciplinary team participation, readings, research and ride-alongs may count as part of the supervised experience for interns and postdoctoral fellows or residents.

⁷ CE Coursework – Must be approved by the American Psychological Association, the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, or another recognized professional organization, and have content specific to one or more of the PPSP domains. All courses in the PPSP catalog may be used to meet the respective requirements for the four levels of post-licensure training in PPSP, as well as for board certification by the American Board of Police & Public Safety Psychology.

Examples of Program Descriptors for Each Stage of Training

Doctoral

Our APA-accredited doctoral program in clinical psychology offers a *Major Area of Study* in Police and Public Safety Psychology (PPSP). Students in this training program will be required to complete (a) at least four didactic courses, each covering one of the four PPSP domains (i.e., assessment, intervention, operational support, and organizational consultation); (b) a PPSP practicum; and (c) a PPSP dissertation or other research project.

Doctoral Internship

Our APA-accredited internship program offers an *Experience* in Police and Public Safety Psychology, with 25% of the intern's time dedicated to training in the assessment and intervention domains of PPSP. In addition to clinical training, the program offers didactic experiences focused in the area of PPSP. Alternatively, should an intern elect, our program offers an *Exposure* in PPSP, which consists of supervised experience in PPSP for 10% of the training year.

Postdoctoral Residency

Our Police & Public Safety Psychology Postdoctoral Residency program offers a *Major Area of Study* in PPSP with two areas of focus: assessment (suitability and fitness evaluations) and intervention (counseling and crisis intervention). This 2-year, full-time residency is intended to prepare residents for independent practice in PPSP and eventual board certification in the specialty.

Post-Licensure Training

Our online educational programming is approved by the American Psychological Association and the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). We offer more than 20 individual on-demand, video-based courses comprising a total of more than 100 hours, including *An Introduction to Police and Public Safety Psychology* (10 hours), *Foundational and Functional Competencies in Police and Public Safety Psychology* (8 hours), and *Evaluations of Police Suitability and Fitness for Duty* (8 hours). All courses in the PPSP catalog may be used to meet the respective requirements for the four levels of post-licensure training in PPSP, as well as for board certification by the American Board of Police & Public Safety Psychology.