



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

August 12, 2016

Jimmy G. Cheek
Chancellor
University of Tennessee – Knoxville
527 Andy Holt Tower
Office of the Chancellor
Knoxville, TN 37996-0184

Dear Chancellor Cheek,

At its meeting on July 14-17, 2016 the Commission on Accreditation conducted a review of the doctoral Ph.D. program in Counseling psychology at the University of Tennessee - Knoxville. This review included consideration of the program's most recent self-study report, the preliminary review ("admin review"), the program's response to the preliminary review, the report of the team that visited the program on May 2-3, 2016, and the program's response to the site visit report.

I am pleased to inform you that, on the basis of this review, the Commission on Accreditation (CoA) voted to award accreditation to this program. In so doing, the Commission scheduled the next accreditation site visit to be held in 2023. During the interim, the program will be listed annually among accredited programs of professional psychology in the *American Psychologist* and on the Accreditation web pages. The Commission also encourages you to share information about your program's accredited status with agencies and others of the public as appropriate.

The Commission would like to provide the program with a summary of its review. This is provided below according to each of the accreditation domains. At the end of the letter, the program will be provided with an itemized list of any actions that the program needs to take prior to the next accreditation review. Please note that you will also receive this feedback online via the CoA Portal.

Domain A: Eligibility

As a prerequisite for accreditation, the program's purpose must be within the scope of the accrediting body and must be pursued in an institutional setting appropriate for the doctoral education and training of professional psychologists.

The Ph.D. program in Counseling psychology at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville has a curriculum that is designed to provide its students with strong research and clinical skills which enable them to engage in professional psychology in a broad range of settings. The program is incorporated in the budget and structure of the College of Arts and Sciences. The program's training objectives support the host institution's mission. Sufficient resources with regard to

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Domain C: Program Resources

The program demonstrates that it has resources of appropriate quality and sufficiency to achieve its education and training goals.

Program faculty are appropriately credentialed and sufficient to contribute to the program goals and training of counseling psychologists. Faculty have reasonable teaching loads and are accessible to mentor and supervise student scholarship. Students have appropriate credentials and interests that match the program's training goals. The program admits a handful of students each year to ensure meaningful socialization and learning experiences. The program has appropriate physical facilities and the university provides necessary student support services.

The program's revised Table 3a.2 indicates that Dr. Leticia Flores is not a licensed psychologist and is a member of the Experimental Psychology faculty. However, in its narrative response, the program describes her as a licensed psychologist and the Associate Director of the Psychological Clinic (self-study [SS], Standard C.1.a-b). By **September 1, 2017**, the program is asked to clarify Dr. Flores' role in the program and her licensure status (Standard C.1.a-b in the CoA Portal).

Domain D: Cultural and Individual Differences and Diversity

The program recognizes the importance of cultural and individual differences and diversity in the training of psychologists.

The program's philosophy, curriculum, and policies demonstrate strong respect for individual and cultural diversity. The program has long-term, systematic efforts in place for the recruitment and retention of diverse faculty and students, which includes the department's Comprehensive Diversity Plan (SS, Appendix D.1.1.2). The program has a strong "commitment to diversity and multicultural training which is expressed in the inclusion of advocacy as a competency for students" (site visit report [SVR], Standard D.[AI]). Diversity topics are also thoroughly and intentionally infused throughout the program's curriculum.

The program is consistent with the provisions of this domain.

Domain E: Student-Faculty Relations

The program demonstrates that its education, training, and socialization experiences are characterized by mutual respect and courtesy between students and faculty and that it operates in a manner that facilitates students' educational experiences.

The faculty and students in the program enjoy relationships characterized by collegiality, courtesy and respect. The program provides an informational orientation meeting early in the academic year to provide students with the resources needed to aid in their success in the program. Students are assigned a faculty advisor, whom they meet with on a regular basis to encourage timely progress through the program. Faculty are accessible, knowledgeable, and interested in student learning and development, and are supportive of their scholarly endeavors.

Domain G: Public Disclosure

The program demonstrates its commitment to public disclosure by providing written materials and other communications that appropriately represent it to the relevant publics.

The program makes its formal written policies and procedures readily available and describes itself accurately to its publics. The program provides the contact information for the CoA when citing its accreditation status.

The program's website accurately presents student outcome data, consistent with Implementing Regulation C-20. Please note that the program's public information will be reviewed on or after October 1 of each year to ensure that the disclosure data has been updated and is in compliance with the most recent version of IR C-20. The most current version of IR C-20 is attached for your information.

The program is consistent with the provisions of this domain.

Domain H: Relationship with Accrediting Body

The program demonstrates its commitment to the accreditation process by fulfilling its responsibilities to the accrediting body from which its accredited status is granted.

The program abides by the CoA's published policies and procedures. The program has been prompt and thorough in its communications with the CoA. Payments and fees necessary to maintain the program's accreditation status are made in a timely manner.

The program is consistent with the provisions of this domain.

The program is asked to address the following issues in a narrative response by **September 1, 2017** for formal review by the Commission:

- Demonstrate how its coverage in the curriculum area of *psychological measurement* meets the SoA (Section II.B.1.a) (Standard B.3 in the CoA Portal).
- Clarify Dr. Flores' role in the program and her licensure status (Standard C.1.a-b in the CoA Portal).
- Provide its formal written policy that demonstrates students are provided with written feedback on the extent to which remediation has or has not been successful (Standard E.4 in the CoA Portal).
- Provide a plan for how it will collect, aggregate, and use its distal outcome data in a way that is useful for program self-assessment, consistent with the SoA. (Standard F.1(C-32) in the CoA Portal).