



Standard of Practice: Criteria for Evaluating Academic Credentials for Psychologists

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Fundamental Requirements

We established our foundational knowledge requirements and core competencies using the 2004 Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) and the Association of Canadian Psychology Regulatory Organizations (ACPRO) position statement on the National Standard for entry to practice in psychology. The core competencies are applied to both undergraduate programming and postgraduate programming. The following core competencies are shared by all the Canadian jurisdictions, including Alberta with the release of their 2030 academic requirements.

The key areas are:

- Introductory knowledge in:
 - Introductory psychology
 - Biological bases of behaviour
 - Cognitive affective bases of behaviour
 - Social and cultural bases of behaviour
 - Psychology of the individual
 - Research methods in psychology
- Foundational (advanced) knowledge in:
 - Cognitive affective bases of behaviour
 - Social and cultural bases of behaviour
 - Psychology of the individual
 - Research methods in psychology
- Core competencies in:
 - Assessment and evaluation (general and formal)
 - Intervention and consultation
 - Research
 - Ethics and standards

Table 1: Decisions establishing the academic requirements of an undergraduate program.

Requirement	Decision	Notes
576 hours or 4 years of undergraduate instruction. 12 one-semester courses in psychology, providing a broad foundation for advanced psychology study and includes: • Introductory psychology • Research methods in psychology • Biological bases of behaviour • Social bases of behaviour • Cognitive/affective bases of behaviour • Individual differences and lifespan development	Required for substantial equivalency to an undergraduate degree with a major in psychology.	The hours are consistent with a 4-year undergraduate degree course load.

Foundational (advanced) knowledge as established in the MRA. • Cognitive affective bases of behaviour • Social and cultural bases of behaviour • Psychology of the individual • Research methods in psychology	Required for substantial equivalency to an undergraduate degree with a major in psychology.	Must be senior-level courses (300 or 400) or obtained in postgraduate coursework.
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Table 2: Decisions establishing the fundamental requirements of a graduate program.

Programs accredited by the Canadian Psychological Association or the American Psychological Association meet all criteria.

Requirement	Decision	Notes
The postgraduate degree is from a psychology program offered at: • A legally authorized degree-granting institution in Canada; or • An accredited degree-granting institution from the United States of America; or • A degree-granting institution from another country that has been evaluated by an acceptable foreign credential evaluation service, as being equivalent in level to a master's degree offered at a university in Canada.	Required for equivalency to non-accredited programs.	Ideally the degree contains the word "psychology" though there may be some acceptable programs which do not use this term.
Coursework must meet the core competency requirements as established in the MRA. • Assessment and Evaluation • Intervention and Consultation • Research • Ethics and Standards	Required for equivalency to non-accredited programs.	Minimum 1 course in level C testing and 1 course in intervention.
Foundational (advanced) knowledge as established in the MRA. • Biological bases of behaviour • Cognitive affective bases of behaviour • Social and cultural bases of behaviour • Psychology of the individual	Required for substantial equivalency to an undergraduate degree with a major in psychology.	Must be senior level courses (300 or 400) or obtained in postgraduate coursework.

Additional program considerations include the following requirements:

- Programs that are 100 per cent virtual are not accepted. The program must have some in-person courses and the in-person requirements for the practicums must be met.
- Postgraduate faculty must be majority PhD or registered psychologists responsible for cohesive program delivery.

The Registrar is currently unable to allow post degree augmentation for postgraduate programs.

Practica and provisional practice hours

Practica and provisional supervised hours are a critical component in the education and training of a psychologist. It allows students and graduates to apply the foundational knowledge they have gained in real life cases.

The Practica requirements are based on a review of the requirements of the various regulators across Canada and aligning in the middle. The provisional supervision requirements are heavily influenced by the College of Alberta Psychologists (2026) *Criteria for evaluating academic credentials*.

Formal assessment and diagnosis are a mandatory competency of psychology in the Yukon. This means that the practicum and the supervised provisional hours must include formal assessment and diagnosis training. Throughout this document, level C testing is referenced as a requirement. Most jurisdictions do not specifically reference level C, as their assessment (formal) requirements include level C and beyond. We are using level C as a shorthand for formal assessment training. The expectation is that a person obtains well rounded experience and training in formal assessments and diagnosis – of which one component is level C testing.

There are numerous branches of psychology that an individual may focus their practice such as school/educational psychological services or neuropsychology. The supervision plan must include information on the branch(es) being focused on in addition to the competencies that they will be proficient in including the required formal assessment and diagnosis competency. Specific information on supervision requirements is found in the *Guide to Provisional Supervision* (2026).

Table 3: Decisions establishing practica requirements of an undergraduate or postgraduate program.

Requirement	Decision	Notes
500 hours min in one or more practica, direct hours meeting min: 150 intervention and 100 formal assessment (including level C testing).	Required – however 400 hours may be acceptable upon approval by the Registrar	No more than 37.5 hours in intervention and 25 hours of assessment can be virtual .
A minimum of 25 per cent of the clinical supervision of the student shall involve direct review of the interaction between the student and the clients.	Required	
One primary supervisor and at least one other person must provide a significant contribution to the student’s training.	Required	At least two people must be involved in the training of the student.

Table 4: Decisions establishing provisional supervision requirements.

Requirement	Decision	Notes
Practice focus		
As per the regulation, a provisional registrant must obtain 1600 supervised hours of experience.	Required	
A minimum 400 hours must be dedicated to each branch of psychology that the applicant intends to practice in for each competency that they intend to include in their practice.	Required	Minimum of 1200 hours in service delivery
Minimum 400 hours must be dedicated to formal assessment and diagnosis. Formal assessment is a required competency.	Required	
Minimum 400 hours must be dedicated to selected intervention activities (practicing not just learning). Intervention is a required competency.	Required	
Maximum of 400 hours focused on research, teaching, supervision, and consultation.	Required	
Supervision		
Maintain the current standard of 1-hour direct supervision for every 15 hours of clinical practice (107 hours).	Required	Individual supervision, not group supervision.
When participating in group supervision, the group must not be more than 6 members.	Required	This is additional supervision to the minimum 1:15 hour ratio.
At least one supervisor (primary or secondary) must provide a minimum of 25 per cent (400 hours) of the total supervised hours.	Required	
At least 50 per cent (54 hours) of the direct supervision hours must be onsite face-to-face supervision where the supervisor conducts their work.	Required	
Two supervision evaluation reports are required from each primary supervisor for each competency that the psychologist will be including in their practice.	Required	
Midterm reports are conducted at the half-way point of the 1600 supervised hours. Final reports are then completed at the end of the 1600 hours.	Required	

Note: When a registered provisional psychologist has ceased practicing for any reason other than for parental leave, ongoing supervision of a minimum of one hour of contact per 4 months must be maintained between the registered provisional psychologist and the approved supervisor. The focus of the supervision would be to support the registered provisional psychologist in preparing for the EPPP and Yukon jurisprudence examinations and in completing all outstanding registration requirements in a timely manner, as well as to maintain competency and review any training required.

Resources

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Other Project Resources (non-exhaustive)

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