

Oregon Psychological Association
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Testimony on HB 4002

- Regional accreditation does not specify coursework or training required for graduate programs in psychology. This bill would allow educational programs the freedom to create their own curriculums and obligate the Oregon Board of Psychology Examiners to accept their graduates as candidates for licensure.
- The American Psychological Association (APA) accredits training programs in clinical psychology to ensure that candidates for state licensure are sufficiently prepared and the public will not be put at risk.
- At the current point in time, there are a sufficient number of APA accredited programs in clinical psychology that it is not a barrier to training.

That has not always been the case.

- Some of the APA accredited schools are distance learning programs; The Fielding Institute in California comes to mind. There are no barriers to the accreditation of distance learning programs.
- As licensed Oregon psychologists it is very concerning to us that an educational program either cannot gain APA accreditation or chooses not to gain accreditation.
- Current Oregon psychology licensure procedures have been streamlined so as to take advantage of the vetting of candidates provided by APA accredited educational programs.

OBPE works with graduates from non-APA accredited programs to ensure that they have equivalent preparation for clinical practice. This bill would eliminate all vetting of candidates for licensure in Oregon, so long as they graduate from a regionally accredited program.