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Kentucky Psychological Association

e-NEWS

August/September 2015

**CE Connections:
Upcoming KPA CE Events**

Sept 17th

Live CE: Louisville, KY

[EVIDENCE-BASED DEVELOPMENTALLY SOUND TREATMENT OF ANXIETY DISORDERS IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS](#)

Anne Marie Albano, Ph.D.,
ABPP

3-6 CEs (9am-12pm; 1:30pm-4:30pm)

Sept 18th

Live CE: Louisville, KY

[THE CHALLENGES OF ANXIETY FOR ADOLESCENTS AND ADULTS](#)

Anne Marie Albano, Ph.D.,
ABPP

3 CEs (9am-12pm)

Thursday, Oct 1st

Live CE: Louisville, KY

[STRATEGIES TO REDUCE SUSPENSIONS, DISCIPLINARY REFERRALS AMONG DIVERSE STUDENTS](#)

Ivory Toldson, Ph.D.

3 CEs ((9:30am-12:30pm)

Complete details and registration information can be found on the [KPA Event Calendar](#).

Next KPA Board of Directors Meeting

Sept 11th

Exciting News from KPA in August

Here's the August edition of the KPA e-NEWS, a regular e-newsletter, to enhance communication about psychology across the state. What follows is a sampling of psychology-related news and opportunities across the Commonwealth. Check out the column on the left for upcoming KPA Social and CE events, meetings, Kentucky Currents (member news items), and more. For more updates, visit the KPA website and join KPA on Facebook: simply click "Like" on the [Kentucky Psychological Association Facebook page](#).

Update from KPA Executive Director

by Lisa Willner, Ph.D., KPA Executive Director

KPA has never been more active than it has been in 2015, and there has never been a better time for you to be active and engaged in your professional association. KPA provides structures for professional networking across the state, brings you high quality CE programming at a substantial cost savings for members, offers free consultation services in ethics, professional practice, and (coming soon!) cultural proficiency. And of course, KPA is the voice of psychology in Frankfort. Your membership and participation strengthens that voice, enriches KPA's offerings and opportunities for psychologists, and broadens the reach of our networks both within and beyond our own profession.

Many KPA members are demonstrating levels of engagement above and beyond the call of duty, and I want to take this opportunity to highlight just a few upcoming member-led activities across the state. During the summer, Central Region Representative Jon Urey, Ph.D., has organized local community meet-ups with state legislators. The first meeting was in Elizabethtown, and a gathering in Campbellsville is coming up soon. Western Region Representative Sarah Shelton, Ph.D., is offering a [KPA CE Road Show](#) event this September in Paducah. Many thanks to Sarah for serving as both host and presenter! Katie McBride, Ph.D., will be hosting a Jefferson Region Social this October, featuring APA President-Elect candidate and nationally renowned neuropsychologists Antonio Puente, Ph.D. This year's [Annual Convention](#) is back in Lexington this year, with the planning committee comprised entirely of KPA Fayette Region members, and chaired by Marianne McClure, Ph.D.

[KPA Board of Directors](#) list

KPA Book Corner

The KPA Book Corner highlights books written by KPA Members and those recommended by KPA speakers, including those from the 2013 Convention. [Click here to take a look at our current listings.](#)

If you have presented for KPA or are a KPA Member author, please send your suggested items to kpa@kpa.org. (If you order Book Corner recommendations or other items through Amazon, remember to access the Amazon site by clicking on the Amazon link on the KPA home page - Amazon donates a small percentage of these purchases back to KPA!)

Community Bulletin Board

A forum is available to any KPA member who would like to post information that the psychology community may find interesting or helpful or for which psychology input is requested. Visit the [Community Bulletin Board](#) to view current messages or to post a new message.

Advertisements:

Please note that there are currently several ways for you to increase your own participation in KPA in ways both large and small. Open nominations for the KPA Board of Directors have been open until recently, and the KPA Board Ballot will be posted soon. Leadership makes a real difference, so be sure to use your exclusive member privilege and vote! The KPA Member [RxP Survey](#) remains open until midnight on September 1. If you haven't already, please take a few minutes of your time to share your views on prescriptive authority for psychologists. Thank you to all of you who submitted nominations for this year's KPA Awards. This was a highly competitive year for these prestigious awards; winners will be announced soon. There are a few [KPA and KPF Committees](#) with member openings. Please consider applying! Finally, note that nominations are now open for the KPF Multicultural Awards. For the first time this year, these awards will be presented during KPA's Annual Awards Luncheon during Convention.

As always, thanks to all of you for your membership, participation, and engagement. Please do not hesitate to contact me for additional information about any of KPA's or KPF's activities and initiatives.

e.

I look forward to seeing you at a KPA event soon!



Kentucky Psychological Foundation News



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Diversity Committee Update

The Diversity Committee of the Kentucky Psychological Foundation (KPF) is committed to advancing the integration of cultural sensitivity across KPA's organizational structure, within all KPA initiatives, and throughout our communities and the state.

The committee's most recent initiative was a May Diversity Conference, Enhancing Clinical Skills with Ethnically and Racially Diverse Clients, with keynote speaker (and KPA member) Monnica Williams, Ph.D. In the spirit of clinician growth, the conference included diversity committee members facilitating cultural consultations with participants, offering an opportunity for workshop attendees to discuss the role of culture and cultural identities in work with specific clients within a friendly and welcoming environment. The committee is planning to make cultural consultations for KPA members an ongoing component of its work.

On October 1, we are sponsoring a full day of programming in collaboration with Jefferson County Public Schools (which serves 1 out of 7 of Kentucky's schoolchildren) and Louisville Metro Government featuring psychologist and US Dept of Education Director Dr. Ivory Toldson. Dr. Toldson will present a day-long series of talks aimed at a broad range of audiences including psychologists, teachers, school administrators and support personnel, community health providers, researchers, psychology and criminal justice students, religious institutions, and the community at large. The broad theme for these talks will be promoting academic success and positive behavior for diverse students, particularly males of color and students in poverty. The Continuing Education event for psychologists takes place from 9:30 – 12:30 on October 1. [Registration is now open.](#)

The Diversity Committee has an active Multicultural Awards program, incentivizes growth in multicultural understanding to KPA's elected leadership by offering leader discounts on diversity programs, and recently recommended the addition of a dedicated Diversity Representative to the KPA Board of Directors, which the KPA Board unanimously approved.

Multi-Cultural Award Nominations now being accepted!

The Kentucky Psychological Foundation has opened applications for the 2015 Multicultural Awards. The awards will be presented in November at the 2015 KPA Annual Convention in Lexington, KY.

Multicultural Professional Development Award - Qualified applicants are psychologists who represent an ethnic/racial diverse group. The cash award may be used for a specific multicultural initiative, training, conference, event, or membership dues to a multicultural national professional organization. Award recipient must be a KPA member in good standing. Reward amount: up to \$500



Members in the Media

The following member appeared on "Let's Talk" at 970AM WGTK with fellow KPA member Stan Frager, Ph.D.

Karyn McKenzie, Ph.D. discussed Healthy Relationships

Brigid Kleinman, Ph.d., Jennifer Price, Ph.D., and Cay Shawler, M.S. had an op ed in the Courier Journal on August 22, 2015 educating on

transgender issues.

Please send your announcements to kpa@kpa.org so that your news may be shared with the KPA membership.

KPA Interest Sections

Joining KPA Interest Sections is free and participation on the listservs is an exclusive member benefit. Many ideas, resources, and requests for treatment recommendations and other opportunities flow through the KPA listservs daily. Here is an excerpt from a post on the KPA Clinical listserv: "Thank you to everyone who shared their experiences with me. I was quite surprised at the variability of your responses.....Nice to have a community to call on for advice when such situations arise!" If you want to expand your resources and deepen your own sense of community within KPA, visit the KPA Interest Section webpage for instructions on how to join a KPA Interest Section.

[Interest Section Details](#)
[Listserv Details](#)



Join KPA and KPAAGS on Facebook!

Multicultural Student Professional Development Award - Qualified applicants are psychology graduate students representing an ethnic/racial diverse group. Award money may be used for a specific multicultural initiative, training, conference, event, or dues to a multicultural national professional organization. Award recipient must be a KPA member in good standing. Reward amount: up to \$350

Application process and accountability:

An application for either of the Professional Development Awards requires a Letter of Interest specifically stating the goals/purpose for which the funds will be used, the amount requested, and a CV. Applications will be reviewed by the KPF Diversity Committee. The deadline to apply is September 9, 2015.

Within 12 months after receiving the award, winners will be required to submit a brief letter explaining how the money was used and how the funds contributed to the goals stated in the letter of interest. The winner of the student award will also be required to submit within 12 months a brief statement signed by an academic mentor or advisor verifying the use of the award.

To apply: Send your letter of interest and CV to kpa@kpa.org with KPF Multicultural Award in the subject line.

Public Education Committee Update

The KPF Public Education Committee recently had an educational op ed piece, [Transgender Remains a Confusing Concept](#), published in the Louisville Courier-Journal, Kentucky's highest circulation newspaper. Additionally, the Public Education Committee along with KPF board members and several KPA members, have recently become involved in a very promising [project](#) with Wordsworth Group, an innovative media and publishing organization, with the goal of providing accessible information about mental health and wellness to pre-school, kindergarten, and early elementary-age children. The first issue of Th!nk Magazine was geared toward Kindergarten readiness, and was distributed broadly throughout Jefferson County. Subsequent editions will be distributed in public schools statewide. Sample copies of Th!nk will be available at the KPF table during the KPA Annual Convention.

Research Colloquium Travel Award

The Kentucky Psychological Foundation has created an initiative to support the presentation of research colloquia by psychologists in academic or research settings within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The purpose of this initiative is to foster inter-institutional networking between Kentucky academic or research institutions, promote the exchange of ideas, and provide career-development opportunities for academic and research psychologists within the Commonwealth. [Click here for details.](#)

... KPF ...

KPA has always been an organization that works to be inclusive of all psychologists in the state. Kentucky Psychological Association is officially on the popular social networking site, Facebook.com, and currently has 378 "friends". All you need to do to join the Kentucky Psychological Association on Facebook is to select the "Like" button after finding our group on Facebook. Please be sure to search for "Kentucky Psychological Association" and review the KPA Social Media/Forum Policy. The KPA Graduate Students (KPAGS) are also on Facebook! Stay up to date with the latest KPAGS news and communicate with other psychology graduate students from around the state!

Advertise in the KPA e-Newsletter!

The bi-monthly editions of the KPA e-Newsletter, are distributed to over 1100 KPA members. The eNewsletter is sent via blast email at the end of Jan, March, May, July, Sept and Nov with submissions accepted at any time. Complete information and pricing details are available on the KPA Advertising webpage.

Support KPA During in 2015 via Shopping on Amazon.com

You can support KPA when shopping on Amazon by clicking the Amazon link on the main KPA website as a first step in making purchases on Amazon.com. Up to 3% of every purchase made on Amazon when you click their link on the main KPA website benefits KPA.

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2015 Convention Update

by Marianne McClure, Chair 2015 Convention

Registration is now open for [The Kentucky Psychological Association's 2015 Annual Convention – Creating our Future in a Transforming Landscape](#). Full details about the Convention which will be held November 5 – 7 at the Marriott Griffin Gate Resort are available on the KPA Website. Featured Presenters and Workshops include: **M. David Rudd, Ph.D.** -Assessment and Management of Suicidal Patients (6 CEs)-, **John Norcross, Ph.D.** -A New Therapy for Each Patient: Treatment Adaptations that Work (3 CEs), **Daniel Walinsky, Ph.D.** – Ethics, Relationship, and Hope : Imperatives for Culturally Responsive Professionalism (3 CEs)- and **Mark Epstein, M.D.** - Everyday Trauma: Perspectives from Buddhism and Psychoanalysis (3 CEs). Additionally, **Dr. Norcross** will be the keynote speaker on the 6th presenting Psychoquackery: Discredited Mental Health Treatments and Tests (1 CE). There is also a wide range of workshops that will appeal to the diverse range of Psychologists and other Mental Health Professionals who attend convention. To learn more and register, go to the KPA website or click [HERE](#).

KPA Member RxP Survey

The RxP survey closes at midnight on Tuesday, September 1st. If you haven't already completed the survey, please give us 5 minutes to share your views. Click [here](#) to access the survey.

Creating a PAC and Influencing Policy from the Ground Up

by Felicia D. Smith, PhD and Joe Edwards, PsyD

What is a PAC? A Political Action Committee (PAC) is an organization that enables people to participate in the political process through political giving. A

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KPA Home Study Opportunities

Under revised KRS CE regulations, you can now earn up to 12 credits per licensure cycle for home study courses. See what KPA has to offer...

2015 WEBINAR SERIES NOW AVAILABLE!

[A TRANSFORMING PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH CARE: PSYCHOLOGY AND INTEGRATED PRIMARY CARE](#)

Susan McDaniel, Ph.D., APA President-elect

[ETHICAL ISSUES PSYCHOLOGISTS FACE IN INTEGRATED PRIMARY CARE: ARE CURRENT APA GUIDELINES SUFFICIENT OR DO THEY FALL SHORT?](#)

Christina Runyan, Ph.D., ABPP

[INCREASING VALUE THROUGH PEDIATRIC INTEGRATED CARE](#)

William Douglas (Doug) Tynan,

PAC raises funds from individuals with common interests and distributes funds to candidates for political office. A PAC allows individuals to pool their resources and thus increase their visibility and voice in the political process.

Why does KPA need a PAC? Following much research and deliberation, KPA's Board of Directors (BOD) voted to create a PAC for our association. The task of advocating for psychology in Frankfort has become increasingly complex. A number of professional groups are diversifying their advocacy efforts to include political giving as a mechanism to build stronger relationships with policy makers. Indeed, there are presently 24 healthcare-related PACs in Kentucky (including nurse anesthetists, optometrists, and occupational therapists), and a significant number of state psychological associations have formed PACs. The current reality is that it will be increasingly difficult for an organization such as KPA to maintain influence in Frankfort without the expansion of our advocacy efforts to include political giving. KPA itself cannot donate to political parties or individual legislators. Thus, a PAC is a separate financial and legal entity that would advocate for the policy priorities identified by KPA's members. A PAC for KPA serves as a means of supporting legislators who are champions for psychology, who share our commitment to improve the health of the Commonwealth, and who would advance psychology's legislative advocacy priorities.

What can you do to support the PAC? The PAC is in its early stages of development. In accordance with the structure set out by the KPA BOD, the current KPA President, David Olson, PhD, has appointed co-chairs, Felicia Smith, PhD, and Joe Edwards, PsyD to lead the creation of the PAC. There are three important ways that you can actively support the development of this ground up initiative to advance psychology's priorities:

1. *Serve on KPAs Political Action Committee.* We are seeking KPA members who are passionate about advocacy; action oriented; and forward thinking in their perspective about the role of psychology in promoting education, health and wellness in Kentucky. If you would like to serve on behalf of our members to protect and advance our interests, this is your Call to Action! Contact Felicia Smith, PhD (drfsmith@gmail.com) or Joe Edwards, PsyD (joedwards@iglou.com).
2. *Donate to KPAs Political Action Committee.* By contributing to the KPA PAC, you enhance the likelihood that KPA's voice can be heard in this complicated political climate. Choosing not to be involved leaves the door open to other groups to dictate topics that are important to psychology. Every contribution to the PAC assists in influencing important political decisions and helps us further empower psychology in our state legislature. Consider a sustaining contribution to ensure that the PAC remains robust year after year. To pledge your support, contact Felicia Smith, PhD (drfsmith@gmail.com) or Joe Edwards, PsyD (joedwards@iglou.com).
3. *Spread the word about KPAs Political Action Committee.* At the 2015 KPA Annual Convention, we will formally introduce the PAC initiative to our membership. You can help by sharing the good news about this initiative among others within the profession. As KPA and the PAC solicit feedback and distribute information about our advocacy priorities, participate in the discussion and spread the word among your colleagues! We need everyone to become involved!

The formation of a PAC is a crucial element of KPAs advocacy strategy. The Board's decision to create a PAC reflects KPAs commitment to addressing

Jr., Ph.D.

[PSYCHOSOCIAL ONCOLOGY
IN INTEGRATIVE
PRACTICE: ADDRESSING
PATIENT NEEDS USING
EVIDENCE BASED
APPROACHES](#)

Timothy Pearman, Ph.D.

[PALLIATIVE CARE AND
HOSPICE: AN INTEGRATIVE
RESPONSE FOR A MENTAL
HEALTH ISSUE](#)

Julia Kasl-Godley, Ph.D.

View the [KPA Home Study
Page](#)

for additional options.

concerns that are important to our profession, and more specifically those of KPA members. We look forward to utilizing our PAC as an opportunity for psychology to have a voice in the political process.

ICD-10 is Blazing Our Way!

by Laurie Grimes, PhD

KPA Director of Professional Affairs

For those who don't like change, these are trying times. Just as we are finding our way through EHRs, MCOs, and DSM-5 (to name a few), now, **in fewer than 100 days**, there will be a major shift in coding procedures when the transition to ICD-10-CM (clinical modification) goes in to effect October 1st. If you are thinking "who cares," are feeling indifferent, or are procrastinating on preparing for the transition, please read on. Here are some things you need to know:

- This ain't yer mamma's ICD. The ICD-10 is a beast – it's complicated, it's comprehensive, and it's cumbersome. You need training and preparation – this is not a pull-an-all-nighter-and-ace-the-test, cram-worthy material.

- Get cozy with the Blue Book, the companion manual to ICD-10-CM's code set, and the home to the clinical descriptions and diagnostic criteria for ICD-10 diagnoses. It's a 267-page download, so take a break from the melatonin and SleepEze and get comfortable.

- The jump from DSM-IV/ICD-9 to DSM-5/ICD-10 is cavernous. Since ICD-9 codes and DSM-IV codes were essentially the same, no effort was required on our part to know the ICD system. This could not be farther from the truth with ICD-10 and DSM-5!! The two systems are quite different. Sure, there is a crosswalk in DSM-5, but it is incomplete and unreliable. The two manuals are not aligned and sometimes are not compatible - there are over 300 differences between them.

- There is no either/or picking and choosing. All HIPAA-covered entities are mandated to use ICD-10 and CMS – the top dog decision-maker for all things health reimbursement related - will only recognize ICD-10. So you will not be paid by a third-party payer after September 30 if you do not use ICD-10. But don't throw the DSM-5 away and pledge total loyalty to the ICD-10, because DSM-5 diagnostic conceptualization will still be necessary and required for clinical documentation. We have to be bilingual.

- And speaking of your language skills, can you define anakastic? Do you know diagnostic criteria for hyperkenesis? What will you do with your DSM-5-diagnosed Binge-Eating Disorder patient, because there is no such diagnosis in ICD-10? Do know an F from a Z or R code? The language, the diagnostic criteria, the symptom duration requirements, the number of disorder subtypes – there are differences everywhere!

- The ICD covers all health issues and runs thousands of pages long. For the most part, we can focus on Chapter 5, the section on Mental and Behavioral Disorders.

The good news is there is lots of help out there. The following resources will

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120 Sears Ave, Ste 214
Louisville, KY 40207
502-894-0777
kpa@kpa.org
www.kpa.org

help get you started on your ICD-10 education or lead you to resources for higher levels of mastery. The clock is ticking.....

The CMS (The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) website has many helpful links at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/ProviderResources.html/> not the least of which is "Road to Ten" for basic background information on ICD.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has an interactive training guide that can be found at <http://apps.who.int/classifications/apps/icd/ICD10Training/> . Select a portion of the ICD-10 (the behavioral disorders section takes about 80 minutes) and self-assess your knowledge through training examples. The WHO also offers the free 267-page download of the Blue Book at <http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/en/bluebook.pdf>. (It can also be purchased from Amazon for \$44.)

<http://www.theclinicianstoolbox.com/> includes background on the structure and use of ICD-10 for mental health providers. Carol Goodheart's book, A Primer for ICD-10cm Users (Goodheart, 2014).

<http://www.cdc.gov> has ICD documents and resources.

<http://www.lcd10data.com> offers several resources, including coding translation.

Passport has resources for their providers at www.Passporthealthplan.com.

At <http://my.apa.org/>, members of the APAPO (APA Practice Organization) can access a free web-based application under "Practice Tools" featuring diagnostic codes for Chapter 5 (Mental, Behavioral and Neurodevelopmental Disorders).

The find-a-code website at <http://www.findacode.com/search/search.php> will suggest options for translating a DSM diagnosis into an ICD-10 code.

There are many webinars and CE seminars available from a range of organizations.

Q&A on Current Issues in Ethics.....

by KPA Ethics Committee

Ethical Question:

The Ethics Committee received a question regarding a parent who scheduled testing for her child, but then changed her mind and decided to go elsewhere. The parent was insistent that she be given the questionnaires already completed as a portion of the assessment that were now in the child's file. This may not seem to be a complicated issue on the surface. But questions may form in the provider's mind, such as: Can I provide a copy or original of the questionnaire to the new provider? Can I provide a copy to the parent along with an interpretive summary? Do I do the interpretive summary

and nothing else?

Relevant ethical standards to consider may be:

3.09 Cooperation with Other Professionals

When indicated and professionally appropriate, psychologists cooperate with other professionals in order to serve their clients/patients effectively and appropriately.

4.05 Disclosures

(a) Psychologists may disclose confidential information with the appropriate consent of the organizational client, the individual client/patient or another legally authorized person on behalf of the client/patient unless prohibited by law.

9.04 Release of Test Data

(a) The term test data refers to raw and scaled scores, client/patient responses to test questions or stimuli and psychologists' notes and recordings concerning client/patient statements and behavior during an examination. Those portions of test materials that include client/patient responses are included in the definition of test data. Pursuant to a client/patient release, psychologists provide test data to the client/patient or other persons identified in the release. Psychologists may refrain from releasing test data to protect a client/patient or others from substantial harm or misuse or misrepresentation of the data or the test, recognizing that in many instances release of confidential information under these circumstances is regulated by law.

(b) In the absence of a client/patient release, psychologists provide test data only as required by law or court order.

9.11 Maintaining Test Security

The term test materials refers to manual, instruments, protocols and test questions or stimuli and does not include test data as defined in Standard 9.04, Release of Test Data. Psychologists make reasonable efforts to maintain the integrity and security of test materials and other assessment techniques consistent with law and contractual obligations, and in a manner that permits adherence to the Ethics Code.

Celia Fisher (Decoding the Ethics Code: A Practical Guide for Psychologists) goes on to state, "Recognizing that availability of test questions and scoring criteria may compromise the validity of a test for future use with a client/patient or other individuals exposed to the information, Standard 9.04 distinguishes "test data" which under most circumstances must be provided upon a client/patient release, from "test materials," which under most circumstances should not. The definition of "test data" does not include test manuals, protocols for administering or scoring responses, or test items unless these materials include the client's/patient's responses or scores or the psychologist's contemporaneous notes on the client's/patient's testing responses or behaviors. If testing protocols allow, it is good practice for psychologists to record client/patient responses on a form separated from the test items themselves to ensure that upon client/patient request only the test data and not the test material itself need be released."

Relevant sections of the KY Code of Conduct to consider may be:

Section 10 (201 KAR 26:145)

(1) Confidential information. The credential holder shall treat as confidential assessment results or interpretations regarding an individual.

(2) Protection of integrity of assessment procedures. The credential holder shall not disseminate a psychological test in a way that may invalidate it.

(3) Information for professional users. The credential holder offering an assessment procedure of automated interpretation service to another professional shall accompany this offering by a manual or other printed material which describes the development of the assessment procedure or service, the rationale, evidence of validity and reliability, and characteristics of the normative population. The credential holder shall state the purpose and application for which the procedure is recommended and identify special qualifications required to administer and interpret it properly. The credential holder shall ensure that advertisements for the assessment procedure or interpretive service are factual.

KPA Member Resources

Technology Resource - Dr. Dan Florell, presenter of the June 21st, 2013 KPA CE Workshop, [Advanced Supervision: Influence of Technology](#), has been gracious enough to share an audio recording of his workshop with KPA members interested in the advancements of technology and their use in the field of psychology.

Clinical Psychology – Overview and Effectiveness PowerPoint courtesy of KPA Member Eric Russ, Ph.D., University of Louisville. [Click here](#) to access the Powerpoint presentation.

Ethics Resource - The KPA Ethics Committee has developed a list of resources for KPA members aimed to help psychologists find [resources](#) about self-assessment, self-care and the development of skills, relationships, and personal qualities that will allow them to be less vulnerable to ethical breaches and "slippery slopes" in their professional careers and foster ethical awareness that leads to optimal practice. The posted resources define and discuss the stress—distress—impairment continuum, and the vulnerability at any point along the way to an ethical violation. They touch on topics such as risk factors, prevention of impairment, intervening with an impaired colleague, treatment options and the national movement toward establishing colleague assistance programs.

**Getting your license, keeping your license,
and losing your license.
Part two – what Master's degree education is
required?**

by guest contributor, Mark R. Brengelman, JD

This article is the second in a multi-part series covering the basics of licensure as a psychologist in Kentucky. While most readers of this KPA eNewsletter will have already completed the lengthy professional education to qualify for a license to practice psychology, it is helpful to review the educational requirements to be a Master's degree psychologist.

This second part of this series focuses on those Master's degree requirements. The next part will review the nuts and bolts of applying for a license to practice psychology for all psychologists. Another part applicable to all psychologists will review keeping one's license to practice as a psychologist in Kentucky. Finally, a concluding part in this series will be an overview of losing one's license to practice psychology in Kentucky.

As stated in the prior article on doctoral-educated psychologists, some states, such as Kentucky, credential psychologists at both the Master's degree and the doctoral level. Kentucky has the unusual history of having gone from both doctoral and Master's degree, to doctoral only, then back to both doctoral and Master's degree requirements.

Obtaining a Master's degree qualifies the applicant to practice psychology in Kentucky as a "Licensed Psychological Associate," but only under supervision of a doctoral-educated, licensed psychologist. However, with time, a Master's degree psychologist may apply to practice at the independent practice level, a unique feature of Kentucky law.

Therefore, there are two routes to independent practice. Basically, upon completion of a Master's degree, such person may practice under supervision for a period of at least five years in Kentucky, then apply for an independent practice credential having met that and other requirements under law. Or, such person may continue from the Master's level to a doctoral program, complete the doctoral program and experience, then apply for a license to practice psychology, that is, to practice independently.

Kentucky law requires the Master's degree applicant to apply for a license, but with this different title, "Licensed Psychological Associate." The core similarity here is both the doctoral level educated and the masters level educated hold a "license" to practice psychology, with "license" being the operative word understood and recognized by the public and by paying insurance companies as the permission from the state to engage in this professional activity. Master's degree educated person practice under supervision, as stated above, and use different titles. They may not employ or supervise other psychologists.

Several accredited schools in Kentucky issue Master's degrees which qualify the holder to meet the educational requirements to apply for a license to practice psychology under supervision. Kentucky law specifically charges the Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology with the task of promulgating administrative regulations through the notice and comment rulemaking under KRS Chapter 13A. This includes defining accepted educational components. The Kentucky Board shall make such regulations:
(a) Establishing requirements, standards, and tests to determine the moral, intellectual, educational, scientific, technical, and professional qualifications of applicants for licensure.
(Emphasis added.)

Regardless of the exact nature of the Master's degree itself, it must be issued by a "recognized institution of higher learning" which is "a regionally accredited educational institution." Kentucky law has a 10-part standard to determine the sufficiency of any Master's degree. The Master's degree program has these foundational requirements:

(1) The program, wherever it may be administratively housed, is clearly identified by the granting institution as a psychology program. The program shall specify in pertinent institutional catalogs and brochures its intent to educate and train professional psychologists;

(2) Any thesis required for the degree is psychological in method and content and an expected product of master's training in psychology;

(3) The program stands as a recognizable, coherent, organized entity within the institution;

(4) Within the psychology faculty there is clear authority and primary responsibility for the core and specialty areas whether or not the program cuts across administrative lines;

(5) The program is an integrated, organized sequence of study;

(6) There is an identifiable psychology faculty and a psychologist responsible for the program;

(7) The program has an identifiable body of students who are matriculated in that program for a degree; and

(8) The program includes educational experiences with titles such as practicum, internship or field training. This accumulated experience must be supervised by a doctoral-level psychologist and shall equal 600 hours.

Not only are the educational program requirements set by law, but the exact "curricular experiences and course work" in psychology are regulated, too. These are the numerous factors considered under law to determine it's "acceptability."

(1) The curriculum shall encompass a minimum of forty-five (45) semester hours of graduate study.

(2) In addition to instruction in scientific and professional ethics and standards, research design and methodology, statistics and psychometrics, the core program shall require each student to demonstrate competence in each of the following content areas. This typically will be met by including a minimum of three (3) or more graduate semester hours (five (5) or more graduate quarter hours) in each of these four (4) areas:

1. Biological bases of behavior, including the subject matters of physiological psychology, comparative psychology, neuropsychology, sensation and perception, psychopharmacology.

2. Cognitive-affective bases of behavior, including the subject matters of learning, thinking, motivation, emotion.

3. Social bases of behavior, including the subject matters of social psychology, group process, organizational psychology and systems.

4. Individual differences, including the subject matters of personality theory, human development, abnormal psychology.

(3) In addition to the core program, the curriculum shall include appropriate course work as determined by the board in the specialty area of training

including specific training in diagnosis and assessment of individual/ organizational differences and the design and implementation of appropriate intervention technique, e.g. psychotherapy, counseling, consultation, etc.

(4) The applicant shall provide any documentation required by the board in the manner and form prescribed by the board to confirm compliance with or satisfaction of the requirements of this law.

Deficiencies in any of the above course work may be “corrected by appropriate remedial work,” but only “at the discretion of the [Kentucky] Board [of Examiners of Psychology].” Note significantly how one key factor is absent from these requirements which are currently present for doctoral degrees – the minimum of one-year “in residence at the institution,” which otherwise effectively eliminates from qualifying many or most on-line doctoral degree programs in psychology. That requirement is not present at this time for Master’s degree programs in psychology.

To summarize, credentials are issued in Kentucky at both the Master’s degree and doctoral level, where the Master’s degree qualifies the holder to be issued a license to practice psychology under supervision and later, at the independent practice level if other standards are met after five years of supervised practice. Look for the next article to review aspects of the requirements for applying for a license regardless of the degree obtained.

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Have an Idea or Contribution for the KPA e-newsletter?

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