



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Olympia, Washington

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT

Title of Interpretive Statement: Requirements for Educational Meetings Completed in lieu of Doctoral Residency | Policy Number: EBOP-22-01

Issuing Entity: Examining Board of Psychology

Subject Matter: Clarifying that the Examining Board of Psychology interprets WAC 246-924-046 to require applicants from online or hybrid doctoral programs to complete 750 hours of educational meetings in lieu of doctoral residency.

Effective Date: January 31, 2020

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Department of Health
Health Systems Quality Assurance

Interpretive Statement

Revised – 10/18/11

Title:	Requirements for Educational Meetings Completed In lieu of Doctoral Residency - Applicants for psychology license	Number: EBOP-22-01
References:	RCW 18.83.050 . RCW 18.83.070 . Chapter 246-924 WAC . WAC 246-924-010 . WAC 246-924-046 .	
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Within the Examining Board of Psychology’s (board) authority under RCW [18.83.050](#)(2) to examine the qualifications of applicants and determine which applicants are eligible for licensing, the board is clarifying the meaning of “face-to-face individual or group educational meetings” under [WAC 246-924-046](#)(5) for graduates of hybrid or online programs.

Under [WAC 246-924-046](#)(5), an applicant is required to complete either “one continuous year of full-time residency” or at least 750 hours of “student faculty contact involving face-to-face individual or group educational meetings.” As a residency requires a continuous in-person presence, it cannot be completed at a hybrid or online doctoral program. Therefore, an applicant from a hybrid or online doctoral program must meet the alternative requirement, at least 750 hours of face-to-face educational meetings. [WAC 246-924-010](#)(5) defines “face to face” as “in-person contact in the same physical space not assisted by technology.”

Face-to-face educational meetings must satisfy all requirements listed in [WAC 246-924-046](#)(5)(b):

- (i) Must include both faculty-student and student-student interaction;
- (ii) Be conducted by the psychology faculty of the institution at least seventy-five percent of the time;
- (iii) Be fully documented by the institution and the applicant; and
- (iv) Relate substantially to the program components specified.

Consistent with chapter [246-924 WAC](#), activities the board counts towards the 750 educational

meeting hours are in-person, doctoral-level classes that appear on an academic transcript for credit and satisfy all requirements listed in [WAC 246-924-046](#) (5)(b). In considering other meetings and activities, the board considers whether the meeting or activity is substantially related to acquiring the academic knowledge and clinical skills essential to successfully practicing clinical psychology after graduation.

The board does not accept meetings or activities that are conducted remotely, non-educational, or do not substantially relate to a doctoral psychology curriculum. Examples of activities that do not count towards the 750 educational meeting hours, even if required by the doctoral program and/or listed on a transcript, include but are not limited to:

- Conferences, conventions, and professional association events of any type;
- Activities that are generic to any event, including check-ins, obtaining materials, welcome sessions, orientations, and meal periods;
- Networking activities, events, or opportunities;
- Receptions or awards ceremonies;
- Activities such as library orientation or writing skills training, which are intended to teach or improve basic skills and do not substantially relate to or focus on a doctoral psychology curriculum preparing students for licensure as an independently practicing clinical psychologist;
- Anything that does not appear on the transcript for academic credit; and
- Any other activities that do not substantially relate to acquiring the academic knowledge and clinical skills essential to successfully practicing clinical psychology after graduation.

In conclusion, it is the board's position that graduates of hybrid or online programs must complete 750 hours of educational meetings that meet the board's interpretation of "face-to-face educational meetings" under [WAC 246-924-046](#)(5).