



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Olympia, Washington 98504

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NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A POLICY STATEMENT

Title of Policy Statement: Virtual Supervision for Psychology Internships and Preinternships during and following the COVID-19 Declared Emergency | Policy Number: EBOP-20-02.1.

Issuing Entity: Examining Board of Psychology

Subject Matter: Clarifying the Examining Board of Psychology's (board) position on using virtual supervision to fulfill requirements for face-to-face individual supervision for internships and preinternships. The board has extended this policy statement through August 31, 2023.

Effective Date: September 30, 2022

Contact Person: Nancy Delgado, Program Manager
psychology@doh.wa.gov
(360) 236-4951

Department of Health
Health Systems Quality Assurance
Policy Statement

Revised – 10/18/11

<i>Title:</i>	Virtual Supervision for Psychology Internships and Preinternships during and following the COVID-19 Declared Emergency.	<i>Number:</i> EBOP-20-02.1
<i>References:</i>	RCW 18.83.050 . RCW 18.83.070 . Chapter 246-924 WAC . WAC 246-924-053 . WAC 246-924-056 . Governor's Stay Home - Stay Healthy Proclamations, 20-25 through 20-25.7 .	
<i>Contact:</i>	Nancy Delgado, Program Manager	
<i>Phone:</i>	(360) 236-4951	
<i>Email:</i>	psychology@doh.wa.gov	
<i>Effective Date:</i>	September 30, 2022	
<i>Supersedes:</i>	EBOP-20-02	
<i>Approved By:</i>	Sasha de Leon, Assistant Secretary	

It is the Examining Board of Psychology's (board) position that virtual supervision may fulfill the requirement for "face-to-face individual supervision" during psychology internships and preinternships during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) declared emergency and the subsequent period, beginning February 29, 2020 through August 31, 2023.

Under Chapter 246-924 WAC, both psychology internships and preinternships require "face-to-face individual supervision." WAC [246-924-053](#) requires at least 2 hours of face-to-face supervision for every 20 hours of preinternship experience, while WAC [246-924-056](#) requires at least 2 hours of face-to-face supervision for every 40 hours of internship experience. Additionally, "face-to-face" is defined in WAC [246-924-010](#) as "in-person contact in the same physical space not assisted by technology."

During the COVID-19 declared emergency, the Governor issued Proclamation [20-25 Stay Home - Stay Healthy](#) and subsequent [proclamations](#) requiring social distancing to mitigate the public health threat posed by COVID-19. In response the board issued Policy Statement EBOP-20-02. Within the board's authority under RCW [18.83.070](#)(3) to define circumstances under which supervised experience qualifies a candidate for licensure and within the board's authority under RCW [18.83.050](#)(2) to determine which applicants are eligible for licensing, the board recognized virtual supervision as a means to fulfill the requirement for "face-to-face individual supervision" during psychology internships and preinternships during the COVID-19 declared emergency.

Given the social distancing guidelines that were authorized by the Governor's Stay Home - Stay Healthy proclamations, the board's first policy statement allowing virtual supervision to satisfy

supervision requirements, and the possible adverse impact on students of rescinding the policy statement in the middle of the school year, the board will continue to consider internship or preinternship individual supervision to meet the "face-to-face" requirement if:

1. The internship or preinternship individual supervised experience hours took place during the Washington State COVID-19 declared emergency or subsequent period, beginning February 29, 2020 through August 31, 2023;
2. Virtual supervision was conducted over technology; and
3. Virtual supervision satisfied all other requirements as defined in WAC [246-924-053](#) or WAC [246-924-056](#).

The board's position on virtual supervision as identified in this policy statement will remain in effect for all applicants who completed internship or preinternship hours during the COVID-19 declared emergency or subsequent period, from February 29, 2020 through August 31, 2023, regardless of when they apply for licensure.