

# **SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM ACCREDITATION: NAVIGATING OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**

***Presenters: Catherine L. Grus, Ph.D., Natalie Politikos, Ph.D.,  
Lori Unruh, Ph.D., Linda McKee, M.Ed., and  
Abigail Harris, Ph.D.***

**Tuesday, February 18, 2020  
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. / 3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.  
Trainers of School Psychologists Conference  
Baltimore, MD**

The landscape of school psychology program accreditation is changing. The American Psychological Association (APA) continues to be the key accrediting body for doctoral programs and pressure to require only APA accredited internships and postdoctoral “residency-like” training hasn’t disappeared. The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) is the key accrediting body for Specialist level programs and offers accreditation to doctoral programs as well. For all school psychology programs, NASP Graduate Preparation Standards provide the backbone of specialty accreditation and existing accreditation options include CAEP, AAQEP, NASP, and APA. The purpose of this panel is to update trainers on how the changing landscape provides opportunities and challenges. Cathi Grus will share updates from APA and current Masters level initiatives. Natalie Politikos will discuss proposed changes in the revised NASP Graduate Preparation Standards (2020) as well as provide updates on NASP’s quest for CHEA recognition. Lori Unruh will share some of the challenges being faced in meeting the new CAEP Advanced Level Standards. Linda Mckee will introduce AAQEP, an increasingly popular alternative to CAEP. Attendees are encouraged to submit discussion points and questions for panelists. The panel will be moderated by Abigail Harris.

*Level of Curriculum Content: Intermediate*

## ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

**Catherine L. Grus, Ph.D.** is the Acting Chief Education Officer at the American Psychological Association (APA) and has been on the staff of the APA since 2005. Dr. Grus received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Nova University in 1993. She completed her doctoral internship at the University of Miami, School of Medicine and a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. At APA she works to advance policies and practices that promote high quality education and training at the doctoral, postdoctoral and post-licensure levels. Areas of focus for Dr. Grus include interprofessional education, development of models and tools for competency assessment, supervision, and primary care psychology practice. Prior to coming to APA Dr. Grus was an assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Miami School of Medicine where she served as the director of an APA accredited internship program.

**Natalie Politikos, Ph.D.** has served as program director of the University of Hartford specialist program in school psychology (NASP Approved and CAEP accredited) since 2008. She is the chair of the NASP Program Accreditation Board and in that role oversees the accreditation process for programs within the NASP and CAEP spheres. Throughout the NASP Standards revision process, she has served as the co-lead of the NASP 2020 Standards for Graduate Preparation of School Psychologists.

**Lori Unruh, Ph.D.** is an Associate Professor and Director of the School Psychology Graduate Program at Western Carolina University in North Carolina. She has served on the NASP Board of Directors for nine years and is currently the NASP Strategic Planning Coordinator.

**Linda McKee, M.Ed.** serves as the Chief Operations Officer and is a founding team member for the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP). Linda's relevant work experience includes strategic planning and administration to promote continuous improvement and performance measures, documentation of the outcomes in a variety of contexts, and research into optimal use of evidence for program improvement. Prior to joining AAQEP, McKee was the senior director for the Quality Support Center at AACTE. She has served as director for member and state relations with a national accreditor for education programs and spent over 10 years as director of the Tulane University's Teacher Preparation and Certification Program. McKee has served education as a classroom teacher, district and state administrator, educator preparation administrator, and national consultant. Her teaching experience includes teacher preparation, leadership preparation for educators, continuous improvement for PK-16, secondary language arts, and gifted education.

**Abigail Harris, Ph.D.** is a survivor of over 15 years as the program director of an APA accredited and NASP approved school psychology program. She served on the NASP Accreditation Advisory Committee and collaborated with colleagues in describing levels of core competencies in school psychology. Currently she serves as a TSP Executive Board member and Editor of the NASP Technical Assistance Briefs Series.

## PROGRAM LOCATION

Royal Sonesta Harbor Court  
550 Light Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

## PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Participants will be able to:

- Identify criteria and resources for obtaining program accreditation through APA, NASP, CAEP or AAQEP
- Describe the implications for programs that seek accreditation through one or more of these routes.

## PROGRAM AGENDA

### **Presentation 1**

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Updates from APA and current Masters-level Initiatives
2:00 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.	Proposed Changes in the Revised NASP Graduate Preparation Standards & NASP's quest for CHEA recognition
2:20 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.	Challenges in meeting CAEP Advanced Level Standards
2:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Introduction to AAQEP

### **Presentation 2**

3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	Updates from APA and current Masters-level Initiatives
3:45 p.m. – 4:05 p.m.	Proposed Changes in the Revised NASP Graduate Preparation Standards & NASP's quest for CHEA recognition
4:05 p.m. – 4:25 p.m.	Challenges in meeting CAEP Advanced Level Standards
4:25 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	Introduction to AAQEP

**For additional information on continuing education policies, please visit our web site at <http://psychology.nova.edu/ce>**

## CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION

**Psychologists:** Nova Southeastern University's College of Psychology is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Nova Southeastern University maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

**Clinical social workers, mental health counselors, and marriage and family therapists:** Nova Southeastern University's College of Psychology is approved by the state of Florida's Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling to offer continuing education. Provider number: BAP# 330, Exp. 03/31/21

**School psychologists:** Nova Southeastern University's College of Psychology is approved by the state of Florida's Board of Medical Therapies/Psychology, Office of School Psychology, to offer continuing education. Provider number: SCE# 11, Exp. 11/30/21.

Nova Southeastern University's College of Psychology is approved by the National Association of School Psychologists to offer continuing education for school psychologists. Nova Southeastern University maintains responsibility for this program and its content. Provider# 1024

**Professional counselors:** Nova Southeastern University's College of Psychology has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 4548. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. Nova Southeastern University's College of Psychology is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs.

**All mental health professionals will receive 1.5 continuing education credits for the workshop. Full attendance is required. No partial credit will be awarded. Check your licensing state's rules and regulations for more information regarding your continuing education requirements.**

Nova Southeastern University is committed to making its programs accessible to all prospective attendees. Let us know if you have specific requirements due to a disability.

## ABOUT THE SPONSOR

Nova Southeastern University's College of Psychology is dedicated to providing high-quality training, education, research, and service its students and to the community. The college offers two American Psychological Association (APA)-accredited doctoral programs (Ph.D. and Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology); a specialist and a doctoral program in school psychology; master's degree programs in counseling clinical mental health counseling, school counseling, substance abuse counseling, and applied behavioral analysis), forensic psychology, experimental psychology, and general psychology; and bachelor's degree programs in psychology and behavioral neuroscience. The College of Psychology has two APA accredited doctoral internship programs, the South Florida Consortium Internship Program and the Psychology Services Center Internship program.

## NOTICES OF ACCREDITATION, MEMBERSHIP, AND NONDISCRIMINATION

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees. The university is chartered by the State of Florida. The College of Psychology Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. The College of Psychology Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. The College of Psychology has two APA accredited doctoral internship programs, the South Florida Consortium Internship Program and the Psychology Services Center Internship program. Questions related to the programs' accredited status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation: Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, American Psychological Association, 750 1st Street, NE, Washington, D.C., 20002-4242, Phone: (202) 336-5979, Email: [apaaccred@apa.org](mailto:apaaccred@apa.org), Web: [www.apa.org/ed/accreditation](http://www.apa.org/ed/accreditation). The college's master's degree program in school counseling and specialist program in school psychology are approved by the Florida Department of Education. In addition, the specialist and doctoral programs in school psychology holds the designation of National Recognition by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). The College of Psychology offers two programs, (1) the M.S. in School Counseling and (2) the Psy.S. in School Psychology, for practitioners in P-12 schools that have been accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The accreditation for these programs is awarded to the university through the Fischler School of Education as follows: The Fischler School of Education at Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), [www.ncate.org](http://www.ncate.org). This accreditation covers initial teacher preparation programs and advanced educator preparation programs at all university locations and online. However, the accreditation does not include individual education courses that the institution offers to P-12 educators for professional development, relicensure, or other purposes.

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.