Department Of Health
Health Systems Quality Assurance
Washington State Examining Board of Psychology
Policy/Procedure

Title:	**Examining Board of Psychology - Practicum supervisors**	Number: PY-07-17-09.1
Contact:	Program Manager	
Effective Date:	Approved on July 17, 2009	
Approved:	Carol A. Pahlke, Ph.D, Chair, Examining Board of Psychology	

Purpose:

This statement is provided to clarify the Board's interpretation of what qualifications or requirements apply to persons supervising a doctoral student's practicum experience. This statement is intended to apply to the current practicum rule and to the practicum rules that take effect on September 1, 2009.

Rules:

Current rule: The applicant's doctoral degree program must include a "coordinated practicum and internship experience. (a) Practicum experience shall total at least two semesters (three quarters) and consist of a total of at least 300 hours of direct experience and 100 hours of supervision." WAC 246-924-040(3). [Effective through 8/31/09.]

Future rule: The applicant's doctoral degree program must include "a practicum of at least two semesters or three quarter hours and at least 300 hours of direct experience, 100 hours of which must be in supervision..." WAC 246-924-049. The practicum is referenced in WAC 246-924-043 and WAC 246-924-046. [Each rule effective on 9/01/09.]

Interpretation:

Both the current and the future practicum rule require at least 100 hours of supervised practicum experience. [Note: The Board interprets both current and future rules as including the 100 hours of supervised experience as part of the minimum 300 hours of practicum experience.] Neither rule provides any description of the qualifications of persons who supervise the doctoral student's practicum. The Board concludes that any

qualifying doctoral program has discretion to determine practicum supervisor qualifications. That discretion would be subject to any applicable limitations related to the doctoral institution's regional accreditation requirements and any licensing requirements applicable to delivery of direct services to clients in the practicum.

Unless further restricted by such limitations, a practicum experience could be supervised by persons meeting the qualifications listed for supervisors of internships under WAC 246-924-056. However neither the current nor the future practicum rule require a practicum supervisor to meet the same qualifications as an internship supervisor. The Board interprets the current and future practicum rules as necessarily implying that any practicum supervisor must have an appropriate and relevant level of education and clinical expertise. Therefore, a supervisor cannot be a student.

Under this interpretation, there should be no distinction for the qualifications of practicum supervisors for potential applicants completing their practicum under either the current rule (WAC 246-924-040(3)) or the future rule (WAC 246-924-049.)

Carol A. Pahlke Ph.D. 7-17-09

Carol A. Pahlke, Ph.D., Chair Date