



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

June 28, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Due to the impact of the pandemic, all APA postponed all accreditation site visits scheduled to occur in-person during 2020. This postponement was made to curb the spread of COVID-19 and protect and promote health and well-being.

The APA Commission on Accreditation (CoA), with the support of the APA office of program consultation and accreditation (OPCA), has implemented a plan for all programs to be reviewed in a timely manner. At its July 15-19, 2020 meeting, the CoA voted for continued use of virtual site visits through the end of 2020 for a subset of applicant programs. Due to the success of those virtual site visits, and the ongoing impact of the pandemic, the CoA extended virtual site visits through June 30, 2021, and recently extended virtual site visits through December 31, 2021. The CoA will review the status of COVID-19 guidance in mid-October to determine if on-site visits will resume in spring 2022.

A virtual visit will follow the same general format as an in-person visit, consisting of two days of interactive audio/video interviews, facility verification, and record review. As always, site visits are an opportunity for programs to showcase their strengths, the site visit team to verify and confirm information provided in the self-study report, and the CoA to gain information on the program that cannot be gleaned from a written record. Each virtual site visit will be followed with a brief in-person site visit to meet the statutory and regulatory requirements to perform regular on-site inspections (timing TBD).

Due to a variety of factors (e.g., staff resources, site visitor availability/training) the CoA initially prioritized programs originally scheduled for a winter 2020 site visit and applicant programs. At this time, programs are being scheduled in the order that they were authorized to have a visit. The OPCA has been in communication with programs and site visitors to coordinate and organize the virtual site visits.

As noted previously, **all accredited programs with site visits that continue to be delayed remain accredited and in good standing throughout this delay**. The CoA will provide an update on the status of site visits as decisions are made about their scheduling.

Site visitors participating in virtual site visits will be required to participate in an online, asynchronous training session on scheduling and conducting a virtual visit. The OPCA will also offer (upon request) live video-conferencing sessions to answer questions and familiarize visitors with the platform that is intended for use (i.e., Zoom). If you are a site visitor, you can anticipate emails from OPCA with additional information.

We greatly appreciate your flexibility and patience as we finalize the specifics and logistics associated with the ongoing need to conduct site visits virtually. Please contact apasitevisit@apa.org with any immediate questions regarding the temporary implementation of virtual site visits.

Kind Regards,

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