AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

August 13, 2026

Luther F. Carter
President
Francis Marion University
4822 East Palmetto Street
Florence, SC 29506

Dear President Carter,

In accordance with Section 6.D of the *Accreditation Operating Procedures (AOP),* a doctoral program may seek acknowledgement of "intent" to obtain accreditation. The "Intent to Apply" declaration indicates that the program intends to apply for an APA accredited status (either "on contingency" or full accreditation) in the near future. The application process provides the program an opportunity to systematically describe the infrastructure upon which it will be building a program and verifies that essential elements are in place. The Commission's decision to provide notice to the public of the program's intent to seek accreditation is **not** an accreditation status.

At its meeting of July 15-18, 2026 the APA Commission on Accreditation (CoA) reviewed the "Intent to Apply" application from the psychology PsyD program in Clinical-School psychology at the Francis Marion University dated March 26, 2026 and voted to provide public notice of the program's intent to seek accreditation on the CoA website. This information will be placed on the Commission's website for up to 3 years. By **September 1, 2029,** the program will be removed from the website as a program intending to seek accreditation, consistent with Section 8.2D of the *AOP*.

There were no recusals from the discussion and vote on this program.

The declaration of intent to apply was created to provide programs with developmental feedback to assist in their quest for accreditation. As such, the Commission reviewed your application and would like to provide feedback on your application specific to Standard II of the *Standards of Accreditation for Health Service Psychology* (SoA).

**Standard II: Aims, Competencies, Curriculum, and Outcomes**

**II.B.1.a:**
The program's Table 2 indicates that the following courses are utilized to provide coverage of multiple discipline-specific knowledge (DSK) areas:

- PSYC 606: *Psychoeducational Assessment: Intelligence, Ability, & Achievement Testing in School Psychology*/PSYC 616: *Psychoeducational Assessment: Diagnosis of Learning & Behavioral Disorders*/PSYC 646: *Advanced Topics in Child & Adolescent Assessment & Diagnosis* (cover cognitive aspects of behavior and psychometrics DSK areas)

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Please Recycle

- PSYC 620: *Psychopathology* (covers affective aspects of behavior and biological aspects of behavior DSK areas)
- PSYC 632: *Quantitative Psychology and Research Methods* (covers research methods and quantitative methods [i.e., statistical analysis] DSK areas)
- PSYC 634: *Developmental Psychology* (covers affective aspects of behavior and developmental aspects of behavior DSK areas)
- PSYC 715: *Pediatric Health Psychology*/PSYC 725: *Integrated Behavioral Health*
- *Psychology*/PSYC 735: *Advanced Integrated Behavioral Health Psychology* (cover biological aspects of behavior and advanced integrative knowledge [AIK] DSK areas)
- PSYC 798F: *Capstone Project*/PSYC 798S: *Capstone Project* (cover research methods and quantitative methods [i.e., statistical analysis] DSK areas)

The minimum level of achievement (MLA) associated with these courses is a grade of B, along with satisfactory performance on graded aspects of each course. The MLA of B suggests it could be possible for a student to receive a B in a course without having attained graduate-level knowledge in one of the DSK areas that the course covers. Further, "satisfactory performance" has not been defined, and the specific graded aspects of each course were not provided. Thus, in its self-study, the program should clarify how it discretely evaluates each of the associated DSK areas in each of these courses to demonstrate that the program ensures that students attain graduate-level knowledge in each DSK area as required by Implementing Regulation (IR) C-7 D: Discipline-Specific Knowledge. The program should include the MLAs associated with these evaluations. Further, the program should include this information in a revised Table 2.

**II.B.3:**
Programs that utilize any amount of telesupervision are expected to have a formal policy addressing their utilization of this supervision modality. If the program utilizes any amount of supervision, in its self-study the program should provide its telesupervision policy, ensuring that it is consistent with the requirements outlined in IR C-13 D: Telesupervision.

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As the program moves forward to submitting an application for either "contingent" or "full" accreditation, it is reminded that it will need to provide a complete self-study (online) under the new *Standards of Accreditation* (SoA). You will first need to register on the CoA Portal (https://coaportal.apa.org) to begin the self-study. Please contact the Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation for additional guidance on this process.

Finally, please note that the CoA voted to temporarily suspend evaluation of programs for compliance with several specific accreditation standards. As a result, the CoA did not review or take any negative action on the information contained in the suspended standards. Visit the accreditation website (https://accreditation.apa.org) to view the March 21, 2025 memorandum informing accredited programs of this decision, and the impacted standards.

We look forward to working with you as you seek initial accreditation. We encourage you to contact us with any questions or requests for consultation at (202) 336 - 5979.

Sincerely,



Aaron Joyce, PhD, ABPP
Executive Lead Psychologist, Accreditation
Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation

cc: Megan Haggard, Associate Professor of Psychology
Crystal R. Hill-Chapman, Professor of Psychology
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