



Society for the Psychological Study  
Of Culture, Ethnicity and Race  
DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (APA)

Action Letter Re: CoA Diversity Requirement Suspension

Dear Division 45 Community,

By now, folks may already be aware of the formal decision (3/21/25) made by the APA Commission on Accreditation (CoA) to immediately suspend accreditation standards related to faculty and student program actions in the areas of diversity in recruitment, admission/selection, and/or retention efforts as well as the Division 45 Executive Committee's position that was sent out (3/31/25) speaking to the concerns both about CoA's decision and APA's subsequent response. Additionally, the APA's statement letters that were sent out on 4/7/25 and 4/25/25 have elicited mixed reactions and many of us continue to be disappointed, frustrated, scared, and betrayed by the systemic loss of safety brought by the suspension of such accreditations. While grief and loss are natural responses, being stuck in our hopelessness can further allow oppressive forces to immobilize us. Research has shown that part of the antidote is transforming our helplessness into acts of resistance and collective action— for the communities we serve, for our field of psychology, and for the larger society. We have put together a list of actionable steps to engage in acts of advocacy and liberation. Hopefully, this can help us feel less alone as we take action together.

**Updates in Response to CoA's Decision**

- APA statement on further details regarding recent commission on accreditation decision 4/25/25 [https://irp.cdn-website.com/90e1a3b7/files/uploaded/CoA\\_FAQ\\_FINAL\\_1.pdf](https://irp.cdn-website.com/90e1a3b7/files/uploaded/CoA_FAQ_FINAL_1.pdf)
- APA Div 48 Peace Psychology statement on DEI, institutional betrayal, and the APA <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54e92fe3e4b035a09d9e9bf0/t/6800f3bd42fb1d3f46cc9ec3/1744892861645/Olson-DEI%2C+Institutional+Betrayal%2C+and+APA+Silence.pdf>
- APA statement letter 4/7/25 [https://digital.apa.org/assets/APA\\_Board-Letter-to-Colleagues\\_4-7-2025.pdf](https://digital.apa.org/assets/APA_Board-Letter-to-Colleagues_4-7-2025.pdf)
- Petition to APA to rescind decision of suspending diversity standards <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSetao51VunB-Z0ICKGzHx8syAHCnCITJCATYizGUOKZXNDg/viewform>

- APA Div 53 Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology statement on commitment to diversity <https://x.com/SCCAP53/status/1910773856727445818>

## Call to Action Items

1. Continue to express your concerns directly to CoA about how this impacts you, your institution, and the profession.
  - a. Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation  
750 First St., NE Washington DC 20002-4242  
[apaaccred@apa.org](mailto:apaaccred@apa.org) 202-336-5979 | 202-336-6123 | 202-336-5978
2. Voice your disappointment, frustration, fear, and betrayal by the systemic loss of safety brought by the suspension of such accreditations to APA leadership.
  - a. President: [dkawahara@apaboard.org](mailto:dkawahara@apaboard.org)
  - b. Past President: [cdelasfuentes@apaboard.org](mailto:cdelasfuentes@apaboard.org)
  - c. President Elect: [wendiwilliams@apaboard.org](mailto:wendiwilliams@apaboard.org)
  - d. Secretary: [omooreheadslaughter@apaboard.org](mailto:omooreheadslaughter@apaboard.org)
  - e. Treasurer: [nporter@apaboard.org](mailto:nporter@apaboard.org)
  - f. CEO: [Aevans@apa.org](mailto:Aevans@apa.org)
  - g. Chief Diversity Officer: [makbar@apa.org](mailto:makbar@apa.org)
3. Connect with organizations who may be impacted by the decision to suspend the enforcement of diversity accreditation standards and amplify/contribute to any advocacy efforts they are actively working on. Encourage organizations to take a stand and call on APA and CoA to uphold its commitment to diversity and not be complicit to the current political landscape. See list [here](#) for potential organizations.
4. Contact the representatives or listservs of other Divisions to see what they are doing about CoA's decision. See <https://www.apa.org/about/division>
5. Contact your State and Provincial Psychological Associations to voice your concerns and see what advocacy efforts they are doing both regarding CoA's decision and the recent 4/23 Executive Order. See [here](#) for list of directory.
6. Amplify and attend to aspects of [Standard Three](#) of the Standards of Accreditation for Programs in Health Service Psychology that focus on a supportive learning environment to ensure the retention (and possibly recruitment) of **all** students and **all** faculty. Refer to pgs. 11 (Doctoral - Students), 19 (Doctoral Internship - Interns), and 26 (Postdoctoral Residency - Program Residents).

7. Consider engaging in boycott tactics like forgoing APA's upcoming 2025 convention and make sure to inform APA about your decision (i.e., not attending APA convention because CoA suspended accreditation standards) to 1) illustrate your commitment to diversity and 2) leverage your influence to make change.
8. Suggest and support that APA join the American Bar Association (ABA), the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) among other accrediting organizations to initiate litigation against the Trump Administration for its 4/23 Executive Order ["Reforming Accreditation To Strengthen Higher Education."](#)
9. Contact your Senators and Representatives, especially if you are in States where there are blatant attacks against EDI, and express your concerns with these problematic developments. Consider efforts like <https://5calls.org/>.
10. Write Op-Eds or Letters to the Editor: Consider writing opinion pieces in local, national, or professional publications to raise public awareness of the CoA decision and the broader attack on equity in education.

#### Background Reading on Diversity Education:

- Abrica, E. J., & Oliver Andrew, R. (2024). **The racial politics of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) work.** *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/dhe0000566>
- American Psychological Association. (2017). **Multicultural guidelines: An ecological approach to context, identity, and intersectionality.** <https://www.apa.org/about/policy/multicultural-guidelines.pdf>
- American Psychological Association. (2021). **Role of psychology and APA in dismantling systemic racism in U.S.** <https://www.apa.org/about/policy/dismantling-systemic-racism>
- Bernard, D. L., Gaskin-Wasson, A. L., Jones, S. C. T., Lee, D. B., Neal, A. J., Sosoo, E. E., Neblett, E. W. (2023). **Diversifying clinical child and adolescent psychology: A change gonna come.** *Journal of Clinical Child & Adolescent Psychology*, 52(3), 396–410. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15374416.2023.2191284>

- Galán, C. A., Bowdring, M. A., Tung, I., Sequeira, S. L., Call, C. C., Savell, S., Boness, C. L., Northrup, J., & Scholars for Elevating Equity and Diversity (SEED) (2023). **Real change or performative anti-racism? Clinical psychology programs' efforts to recruit and retain BIPOC scholars.** *Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology*, 52(3), 411–426.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15374416.2023.2203930>
- Gregus, S. J., Stevens, K. T., Seivert, N. P., Tucker, R. P., & Callahan, J. L. (2020). **Student perceptions of multicultural training and program climate in clinical psychology doctoral programs.** *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*, 14(4), 293–307.  
<https://doi.org/10.1037/tep0000289>
- Hall, G. C. N. (2006). **Diversity in clinical psychology.** *Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice*, 13(3), 258–262.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2850.2006.00034.x>
- Neblett, E. W. Jr. (2019). **Diversity (psychological) science training: Challenges, tensions, and a call to action.** *Journal of Social Issues*, 75(4), 1216-1239.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/josi.12357>
- Rogers, M. R., & Molina, L. E. (2006). **Exemplary efforts in psychology to recruit and retain graduate students of color.** *American Psychologist*, 61(2), 143–156.  
<https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066X.61.2.143>

Sincerely,

The Executive Committee  
Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity and Race  
(APA Division 45)