

CANADIAN
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The First Street Accord: Mutual Recognition Agreement on Accreditation between the Canadian Psychological Association and the American Psychological Association

In 2012, the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) and American Psychological Association (APA) approved and signed the First Street Accord (hereafter, the Accord). The Accord is a mutual recognition agreement on accreditation. It is an agreement that recognizes the equivalence of the systems of accreditation of the CPA and the APA, applies only to the accreditation activity that each association undertakes in its own country and does not confer any reciprocal accreditation status on any of the programs each accredits.

The Accord asserts that the accreditation standards, policies and principles, and processes of each organization are seen as equivalent. The Accord allows for mutual monitoring and information exchange related to accreditation, and promotes the communication of the Accord to those groups responsible for educating, training, hiring, regulating, and credentialing psychologists in both countries. The Accord consists of four (4) sections:

1. The Agreement itself, which outlines the general terms of the Accord between the signatories;
2. Schedule 1, which outlines the *Components Required for Accreditation and Quality Assurance*;
3. Schedule 2, which outlines the *Expected Competencies of Graduates of an Accredited Doctoral Program in Professional Psychology*, and;
4. Schedule 3, which outlines the *Elements of Accredited Internship Programs*.

Given the APA decision (taken in 2009) to stop accrediting programmes in Canada as of September 2015, the Accord was developed to promote greater recognition of both accreditation systems among stakeholders in Canada and the United States. The Accord has led to an increase in the number of state and provincial psychology licensing bodies – and employers on both sides of the border – that acknowledge the equivalence of training by programmes accredited by the CPA and the APA. The Accord is scheduled to be re-signed on Friday, August 4, 2017.

For more information about study and practice in Canada, please refer to the attached guide. You can also contact the CPA with any questions you might have at the coordinates below.

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