

Good morning, and thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about an issue that has deeply impacted my life. My name is Jennifer Frazier, and I am a PhD Candidate at an APA accredited graduate school. I am here to tell you how I feel that the APA accreditation board has put undue pressure on their schools, that is then passed down to the students. The first year that I applied to internship, I was informed that I was to apply to APA accredited programs. The population for which I have served and wish to serve in the future was not adequately represented in California at APA accredited sites. Therefore, I had to look outside the state. At the time, I was married and had two adult step-children living at home with mental illness, and my daughter was preparing to graduate from high school. It was a difficult decision for my family to make, but we all agreed that I had to take the opportunity that these internships, which were sanctioned by the APA accreditation board, could afford me. I was not placed for many reasons. First, the population that I wish to serve, the ASD population is an underserved population within the APA accredited programs. Second, there were far more students that applied for internships than there were APA internships available.

Roughly a year later I approached my school to try to persuade them into allowing me to apply to a specific CAPIC internship that served the ASD population in a multitude of ways. I wish to now read to you the policy guidelines from my APA accredited graduate school.

**As stated in the 9/18/14 Ph.D. Program in Clinical Psychology APA and Non-APA Accredited Internship Policy, it is the Ph.D. Program's policy that students may apply only to APA accredited doctoral internships. Under unusual circumstances, students may be granted an exemption, for humanitarian reasons, to apply to non-APA accredited internships on a case-by-case basis. Approval is contingent upon a student's circumstances as well as the program's ability to ensure that the internship site meets the quality training standards set forth by APA. Students requesting an exemption are asked to review**

My extenuating circumstances, which were minimized by my school as psychosocial stressors were: separation, finding a new home for my daughter and I, sending my daughter off to college, and breast cancer surgery. The internship site that I wished to apply to was denied to me. I was emphatically informed that if I wished to continue with my pursuit of a PhD in clinical psychology at that school, I had to abide by their strict internship policy. Furthermore, I was told that only internships that the school could defend to the APA accreditation board would be approved.

In summary, I have lost the opportunity to serve a population in my community as an intern that I wish to further serve upon licensure. I have lost time, as I would be more than halfway through my internship program at this point had they accepted the CAPIC internship that I presented. My hope is that you all will see to it that the practice of placing a schools need to maintain APA accreditation is not placed upon the student's ability or desire to apply to APA accredited internships. I thank you for your time.