Criterion D.1

Criterion D.1 needs to be satisfied in one or more of the following four ways. Although any given program may utilize two or more of these criteria, only one is required. Programs are not advantaged by selecting more than one of the four criteria to satisfy Criterion D1. Each of the four criteria (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4) are designed to satisfy Criterion D1 in qualitatively different ways.

Criterion 1.1 reflects the broad consensus of the discipline of psychology in relation to content that is generally accepted as building upon doctoral level training within core areas of psychology. As an example, a program focused on the dialectic conceptualization of borderline personality disorder might use Criterion 1.1 to satisfy Criteria D1 because dialectic theory is a commonly accepted theory. A discussion of theoretical developments concerning borderline personality disorder might build upon the foundational knowledge of the disorder.

Criterion 1.2 reflects program content that has been subjected to accepted research practices within psychology and has satisfied broader scientific scrutiny within the field. The emphasis of Criterion 1.2 is placed on the application of sound methodological practices and the availability of scientific support for the program content. As an example, a program focused on a new instrument for assessing, or a new intervention for treating, borderline personality disorder might use Criterion 1.2 to satisfy Criterion D1 by clearly describing empirical work or citing published research that supports the validity of the program content.

Criterion 1.3 reflects program content that has been subjected to mechanisms of external professional peer review. This content can extend beyond empirical research (cf. Criterion 1.2) and may include theoretical, conceptual, case studies or secondary research reviews. Criterion 1.3 emphasizes the acceptability of program content based on peer review in journals, professional conferences, or venues of independent review that support the relevance and acceptability of program content for the discipline of psychology. As an example, a program focused on a new theoretical development concerning borderline personality disorder might use Criterion 1.3 to satisfy Criteria D 1 by citing peer reviewed publications (not necessarily empirical) or presentations that support this program content.

Criterion 1.4 reflects program content that pertains to ethical, professional or regulatory developments relevant to the discipline of psychology. As an example, Criterion 1.4 might be used to satisfy Criterion D 1 in relation to a program that emphasizes the personal or legal risks and risk management associated with working with individuals with borderline personality disorders.