



**PACIFICA**  
GRADUATE INSTITUTE

**A MESSAGE TO THE PACIFICA COMMUNITY  
FROM  
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

We understand the importance of communicating with the Pacifica community and our responsibility to be factual and clear with communication, so as not to damage or harm our beloved Institute, is paramount. It is a disservice for the Institute (or anyone in our opinion) to disseminate information without thorough and empirical research—which can take time.

The Pacifica Graduate Institute Board of Trustees (PGI Board), in conjunction with the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), presents this FAQ regarding the issues that have been circulating about the Institute. We appreciate your patience as we work together to ensure the academic school year is not disrupted by recent events. —*The Board of Trustees*

**Q1: Is Pacifica moving to a faith-based institution and away from its depth psychology mission?**

A1: No, Pacifica has not ever considered, nor is it considering, veering away from its mission of depth psychology to become a faith-based institution. Our mission is steeped in depth psychology, and in today’s current climate we believe it is more important than ever.

**Q2: Is Pacifica abandoning the cohort model?**

A2: No, Pacifica is not abandoning the cohort model. We recognize the unique and transformative experience a cohort model brings to both students and faculty. With this in mind, Pacifica offers on campus, hybrid, and online programs which all are designed with the cohort model in place.

**Q3: What was the process for hiring the new Provost?**

A3: Pacifica began its search process for hiring the new Provost by engaging a recruitment firm. The search committee, comprising of volunteers, included Pacifica constituents from leadership, board members, faculty, staff, alums, student representatives, and community members. The recruitment firm did an international search and presented nine candidates for the committee to review. Once the committee reviewed the resumes, they narrowed their finalists to four through a series of meetings and interviews. The final four candidates gave public presentations in the Barrett Center, with live, virtual attendance available via Zoom for those who could not attend in person. Recordings of the presentations were also posted online and sent out along with feedback forms for each candidate before the President made the final decision.

**Q4. Why did the current Counseling chairs leave, and who will be chairing the Counseling Department in Fall 2024?**

A4. Students, faculty, and staff of the Counseling Department can refer to the statement released by the Counseling Chairs on June 10, 2024.

The PGI Board has heard the concerns of students and faculty regarding chair leadership for the immediate future. Starting on September 1st, there will be an interim chair selected by the Counseling faculty. This interim chair will consist of one or more existing Counseling Core Faculty members to ensure the continuous delivery of curriculum over the 2024-2025 academic year. As soon as possible, the interim chairs and the new provost will work together internally to find an appropriate permanent Department Chair(s).

**Q5. Will the structure of the Counseling Department be affected?**

A5. The PGI Board asserts that the health of the Counseling Department is crucial to the overall health of the Institute. There will be no structural changes to either of the programs under the Counseling Department's purview. Both the MA and PsyD programs within Counseling will remain in their current forms teaching their planned curriculum to allow the work they are accomplishing to continue and to allow students to fully matriculate in the configuration they anticipated without interruption.

**Q6: Does the administration plan on changing the curriculum?**

A6. Curriculum at Pacifica has always been led and guided by faculty. The Administration has no intention of changing the vision or the curriculum. Although the Provost does carry approval authority, setting the curriculum, including any changes, is determined exclusively by the faculty in their respective departments whose role, in part, is to ensure that the curriculum remains consistent with the current licensure requirements, academic excellence, and the mission of the school.

**Q7: Is Pacifica now only accepting students who are California residents in the licensure-track programs?**

A7: Pacifica must adhere to both state and federal laws and regulations in its operations.

On October 31, 2023, the Department of Education published a final rule in the Federal Register [88 FR 74568] amending regulations related to financial responsibility, administrative capability, and certification procedures, for the student financial assistance programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (Title IV, HEA programs).

This new federal regulation took effect on July 1, 2024, and Pacifica is temporarily limiting admissions for the licensure-track programs of out-of-state students until we can confirm compliance with the respective licensing boards of other states.

While this is not preferred, it is the consequence of this federal mandate. Essentially, the new regulation implements a more rigorous process for certifying institutions to participate in Title IV, HEA programs and shifts the burden from the student to the institution to verify that the current curriculum in our licensure programs meets state licensure requirements.

The impact of the new regulations around licensure was communicated by the Compliance Committee on several occasions. Initially, this was addressed on November 8, 2023, shortly after the Final Rule was published. The new regulation was further discussed in the Compliance Committee meeting on February 6, 2024. On April 9, 2024, a preliminary FAQ regarding state authorization and licensure was shared and discussed which included the licensure-track programs (Counseling

and Clinical) and Admissions. Lastly, a finalized licensure and state authorization FAQ and Guide was shared with the programs on July 11<sup>th</sup>. While there were additional meetings and documents shared during this timeframe regarding state authorization, the focus here is specifically on the new regulation around licensure.

**To be clear, the new regulation applies only to students enrolled after July 1, 2024, and does not impact current students.**

Lastly, Pacifica must pass a two-prong test before being able to accept an applicant. First, Pacifica must have state authorizations to offer the program in the state where the student lives and second, for the licensure programs must also meet the licensure board requirements. We have been diligently working on both and for our non-licensure programs, we currently have state authorization for 15 states.

**Q8: Were the OPUS archives defunded?**

A8: No, quite the opposite. Pacifica provided OPUS, an independent nonprofit entity, with a \$100,000 grant earlier this year and continues to provide housing of the archives free of charge.