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**Abstract**

Current status and challenges of gatekeeping in the training of psychologists in Japan

TADOKORO, Katsuyoshi  
Sakushin Gakuin University  
OGAWA, Yumiko  
Marist College

Gatekeeping is the process of evaluating a person's professionalism, qualifications, and abilities from various perspectives in the process of becoming a psychologist, and providing remediation plans for those who are unsuitable and/or inadequately competent as experts in clinical psychology. The purpose of this study is to examine the current status and the challenges of gatekeeping in graduate psychology programs in Japan. The survey results show that faculty members in these programs reported that approximately 13% of the graduate students in their programs demonstrated problems with their professional competency including a lack of emotional stability and/or interpersonal skills, personality issues, and mental health disorders. 73% of the respondents recognized the need for gatekeeping. Yet the results also revealed a lack of an established gatekeeping practice in their programs and faculty members are struggling with a case-by-case and trial-and-error gatekeeping approach. Establishing a gatekeeping protocol and collaboration among faculty members appear to be the necessary ingredients for successfully implementing a gatekeeping practice in Japan.

**Keywords:** gatekeeping practice, competency, problems of professional competency (PPC)

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