

Oral Examination

Once the Practice Samples are accepted, the Candidate is eligible for the Oral Examination, which is the final phase of the process. Registration forms for the Oral Examination will be mailed after notification of the acceptance of the Practice Samples by the ABPP office. The fee for this part of the examination is \$400. Upon receipt of the registration forms, a booklet entitled “Candidate’s Manual for Oral Examination in Clinical Neuropsychology” will be sent to the Candidate.

An Examining Committee, consisting of trained Clinical Neuropsychology Examiners, is assembled when the ABCN Executive Director has a minimum of 12 Candidates who are ready for Oral Examination. Currently, examinations are held twice a year in Chicago.

The examination takes approximately four hours and consists of three parts, each conducted by a different examiner. The areas examined consist of practice samples; sense of ethics and professional commitment; and competency in fact finding/ neuropsychological assessment. After spending the allotted time with the Candidate, each examiner will record his/her ratings. At the end of the four-hour examination period, the examiners meet and discuss each Candidate whom they have examined. Although each examiner has rated the Candidate during his/her particular portion of the examination, the decision to pass or fail is an overall decision of the examiners, reached after a thorough discussion of the Candidate’s performance across all three parts of the Oral Examination. The Candidate does not pass or fail the individual parts of the Oral Examination.

Candidates should be aware that many steps are taken to ensure the Oral Examination is done in an objective and consistent fashion. Examiners disqualify themselves from examining Candidates with whom they have had substantial contact or when there might be a conflict of interests. Before the examination starts, Candidates are also asked about any potential concerns regarding their examiners, and steps are taken to resolve conflicts. Frequently, ABCN designated observers will be present in the examination to monitor the quality and consistency of the examination process. At times, ABCN examiner-trainees may be present during the examination as a required part of the experience.

The candidate will not be allowed to take the oral examination more than three times in the seven year period of candidacy.