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# Manual

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9 The Certification Process and Procedures  
10 for  
11 Specialty Board Certification in Psychoanalysis  
12 by  
13 The American Board of Psychoanalysis in Psychology  
14 a member board of  
15 The American Board of Professional Psychology  
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18 July 2006  
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## 78 I. INTRODUCTION

### 79 A. ABPP and ABPsaP

80 The American Board of Psychoanalysis in Psychology (ABPsaP) was established  
81 in 1983 with the goal of establishing formal recognition of psychologists in the  
82 specialty of psychoanalysis. The ABPsaP, having met the rigorous requirements  
83 of the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) to be recognized as a  
84 specialty in psychology and to qualify and examine psychologists meeting the  
85 criteria of the specialty, was accepted as a member board of the ABPP in 1996.

86 In order to qualify as a specialty affiliated with the ABPP, a specialty must be  
87 represented by a governance board of certified specialists which is stable, national  
88 in scope, and reflects the current development of the specialty. A specialty board  
89 is accepted for affiliation following an intensive self-study and a favorable review  
90 by the ABPP affirming that the standards for affiliation have been met. These  
91 standards include a thorough description of the area of practice and the pattern of  
92 competencies required therein as well as the requirements for education, training,  
93 experience, research bases of the specialty, practice guidelines, and a  
94 demonstrated capacity to examine candidates for the specialty on a national level.

95 Specialty Board certification by the ABPsaP assures the public and the profession  
96 that psychoanalysts who [have been] are certified have completed the educational,  
97 training, experience, and professional standing requirements (licensure and no  
98 ethical/legal limitations) of the specialty. Further, all ABPsaP board certified  
99 psychoanalysts have passed an individualized performance examination by peers  
100 designed to assess the competencies which are required to provide quality  
101 services in the specialty of psychoanalysis.

102 The ABPsaP maintains accurate and current knowledge of national standards.

103 A number of professional disciplines other than psychology certify  
104 psychoanalysts. The psychoanalysts certified by the ABPsaP, as all specialists  
105 recognized by the ABPP, must include the foundation requirements of a doctoral  
106 degree from a recognized program in professional psychology. This assures a

107 broad foundation in the practice of psychology upon which the advanced level  
108 specialty practice of psychoanalysis rests.

109 B. Certification Process: Overview

110 This Manual describes in detail the process and procedures for being awarded  
111 board certification as a psychoanalyst. The Manual is organized following the  
112 outline in the Table of Contents.

113 The examination consists of two integrated components: The practice sample  
114 review and its acceptance and the oral examination by a team of three examiners  
115 who are certified in psychoanalysis.

116 Following submission of the application form and related materials, an applicant  
117 is notified of the decision regarding candidacy in one-to-two weeks. The  
118 candidate has up to one year to satisfy the practice sample/professional statement  
119 requirement and an additional year to complete the oral examination. Candidates  
120 should complete the certification process in a one to two year time-span.

121 It is helpful to think of the certification process as one in which the required  
122 professional preparation for the specialty is validated, then followed by a  
123 performance examination which evaluates competencies characteristic of the  
124 specialty.

125 A detailed presentation of the requirements for the necessary preparation to  
126 qualify as a candidate for the examination follows in Chapter II, Eligibility. The  
127 examination is described in Chapter IV, The Examination.

128

129 **II. ELIGIBILITY: DETERMINATION OF CANDIDACY**

130 A. General Eligibility Requirements

131 To attain board certification in a specialty, an applicant must meet ABPP's  
132 common eligibility requirements which include

133 Degree: A doctoral degree from a program in professional psychology which at  
134 the time the degree was granted was accredited by the APA, CPA, or was listed in  
135 the publication Doctoral Psychology Programs Meeting Designation Criteria.

136 Applicants credentialed in the most recent directory of the National Register of  
137 Health Service Providers in Psychology, the Canadian Register of Health Service  
138 Providers in Psychology, or the Certificate of Professional Qualification in  
139 Psychology (CPQ) (ASPPB) qualify as meeting the doctoral degree requirements.

140 There are a limited number of exceptions to degree requirements. Degree  
141 exceptions exist for “senior practitioners” (degrees granted prior to 1983 and  
142 wide-spread APA accreditation of programs), psychologists with completed re-  
143 education, foreign trained psychologists (other than Canadian).

144 Applicants who do not meet the degree recognition requirements under Degree,  
145 above, may request individualized exception review. Such review employs ABPP  
146 criteria similar to those used by the accrediting/credentialing organizations  
147 recognized under Degree, above.

148 Specific criteria, and procedures for exception review are available from CO.

149 Licensure: All ABPP candidates in the U.S., its territories or Canada must be  
150 licensed as a psychologist for independent practice at the doctoral level in a  
151 jurisdiction in the U.S., its territories or Canada.

152 *Note: Completion of program requirements in professional psychology must*  
153 *include completion of a recognized internship program prior to the granting of*  
154 *the degree.*

155 B. Eligibility Requirements for the Specialty of Psychoanalysis

156 The applicant for specialty board certification in psychoanalysis must be in the  
157 practice of the specialty following completion of postdoctoral education and  
158 training in psychoanalysis.

159 Postdoctoral education and training in psychoanalysis is defined as completion of  
160 a program from a recognized postdoctoral psychoanalytic training institute or  
161 organized postdoctoral program in psychoanalysis, OR, education and training  
162 secured through a planned, individualized sequence of education, supervision, and  
163 practice acceptable to the ABPsaP Board (generally applied to applicants for  
164 which institute training was not available), AND, demonstration of acceptable

165 evidence that following education and training in psychoanalysis of a practice in  
166 psychoanalysis. The applicant's practice includes a sufficient number of cases in  
167 psychoanalysis.

168 *Note 1: For any of the education and training option qualifications selected by the*  
169 *applicant, the course of education and training must be verifiable and consist of at least a*  
170 *minimum of three years of organized study in psychoanalysis, supervised analyses of a*  
171 *minimum of two patients for a minimum of two years, and a personal analysis.*

172 *Note 2: Applicants with 15 years of experience post-licensure with a minimum of 10*  
173 *years experience post graduation from a psychoanalytic training program or equivalent*  
174 *may qualify for a Senior Option to submit a modification of the practice sample in place*  
175 *of the "case analysis" practice sample. The practice sample requirements are altered to*  
176 *reflect distinctive practice patterns resulting from extended professional experience such*  
177 *as published books, articles in refereed journals; research; development of analytic*  
178 *training programs and or development of creative programs within them which makes a*  
179 *significant or meaningful contribution to psychoanalysis as well as furthering the*  
180 *acceptance of psychoanalysis in the broader community.*

### 181 C. Application & Candidacy Determination

182 The application fee to establish candidacy is \$125.00 which must be paid with the  
183 Application.

184 The application form may be obtained from the ABPP Web site: [www.abpp.org](http://www.abpp.org)  
185 by going to the psychoanalysis specialty Web page, click on Application or by  
186 requesting an application by mail from Central Office (CO). The completed  
187 application including three copies of the Curriculum Vitae and other required  
188 documents is forwarded to Central Office and reviewed by the Executive Officer  
189 for compliance with the common, generic doctoral degree and  
190 licensure/certification requirements. Upon meeting the generic requirements  
191 three copies of the above application materials are sent for review by the specialty  
192 board reviewer for compliance with the specialty specific requirements.  
193 Successful review results in approval as a candidate eligible for the examination  
194 in psychoanalysis. The candidate's file is forwarded to the ABPsAP National  
195 Examination Chairperson.

196 **III. PSYCHOANALYSIS: DEFINITION: THE COMPETENCIES**

197 The Competency Approach is the process used to, define operationally the  
198 competencies characteristic of the specialty. An examination of these competencies  
199 is a significant part of the examination.

200 Competencies involve knowledge and skills as well as values which blend together as  
201 a coherent whole in specialty practice

202 Competency in professional psychology is defined as a key, related cluster of practice  
203 activities that is fundamental to practice in a specialty. Competencies may be defined  
204 at different levels of education and training and career points, as generalist or  
205 specialist, basic or advanced. The competencies which define psychoanalysis as a  
206 specialty, are at the advanced level involving post-doctoral preparations and  
207 experience. The practice activities defining a competency area are those more  
208 specific, practical actions, methods or techniques which characterize the day-to-day  
209 pattern of practice in a specialty. These defined competencies lead to the  
210 organization of the examination.

211 The ABPP has identified eight or nine competencies applicable to all specialties:  
212 Assessment, Intervention, Consultation, Application of Research and Theory,  
213 Application of Ethics and Legal Standards, Individual and Cultural Diversity,  
214 Interpersonal Interactions and Professional Identification. Where applicable to the  
215 specialist, Supervision/Teaching may be recognized as a competency area.

216 In effect, the ABPP Competency Approach to certification starts with a functional  
217 definition of the specialty followed by operational definitions of the specific  
218 competencies which are characteristic of the specialty

219 The definition of psychoanalysis, as carefully determined by the national ABPsaP,  
220 shall be followed by the competency area definitions. This definition leads to an  
221 organization and implementation of the examination which evaluates the  
222 representative sample of activities which define the competencies. In order to  
223 provide a comprehensive description of the examination process, a summary of the  
224 overall examination process shall be followed by detailed, comprehensive  
225 descriptions and instructions related to the examination components.

226 A. Definition of Psychoanalysis

227 Psychoanalysis is a means of understanding human motivation and behavior  
228 based upon an understanding of factors outside of a person's awareness. It  
229 informs both scholarly study and practice. This deep perspective toward  
230 psychological intervention emphasizes the relationship between analysand and  
231 analyst. It necessarily continues over some extended time, in that understanding  
232 of the relationship reflects reinstatement of the life history of the analysand. This  
233 reveals the dynamics of the treatment process, leading to reduction of personal  
234 distress.

235 Technical facets such as working with dreams, slips of the tongue, fantasies and  
236 other symbolic material, frequency of sessions per week, use or non-use of the  
237 couch, or such issues as the neutrality of the analyst the use of the fundamental  
238 rule may be regarded as criteria of importance, aligned with some theoretical  
239 approaches, but may not be regarded as requirements common to all approaches  
240 to psychoanalysis. What distinguishes psychoanalysis is bringing the analysand  
241 into touch with motivations and wishes of which s/he is only partially aware or  
242 completely unaware before treatment. It thus enables the analysis and to achieve  
243 greater inner harmony and frees ability to live more constructively and  
244 satisfyingly.

245 It is expected that the candidate will demonstrate sensitivity to and skills in  
246 dealing with multicultural/diverse populations. In this Manual, the terms  
247 multicultural and diversity will be used interchangeably. Multiculturalism  
248 recognizes the broad scope of such factors as race, ethnicity, language, sexual  
249 orientation, gender, age, disability, class status, education, religion/spiritual  
250 orientation, and other cultural dimensions.<sup>1</sup>

251 B. Competencies for the Specialty of Psychoanalysis

252 The following competencies are defined as examples of fundamental practice  
253 activities characteristically associated with the specialty of psychoanalysis: These  
254 definitions are not exhaustive and may be modified in keeping with the theoretical

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<sup>1</sup> American Psychological Association (2002). Guidelines on multicultural education, training, research, practice, and organizational change for psychologists.

255 and technical approach of the analyst. These competencies are the core of the  
256 examination.

257 **1. Functional Competencies**

258 **a) Assessment**

259 Competency in the specialty of psychoanalysis includes a  
260 conceptualization of an analysand's core problems, strengths,  
261 vulnerabilities, issues or goals from a psychoanalytic diagnostic  
262 perspective. Interview methods, observations, attention to the  
263 analysand's history and adaptive or character styles are the major  
264 areas of the early and continuing process of assessment.  
265 Evaluation is directed by the analyst toward the analysand's degree  
266 of psychological mindedness and ego strengths as well as  
267 psychopathological manifestations, and qualities of the analysand's  
268 patterns of relating to others and their discontentments with self  
269 and their level of comfort or discomfort with feelings. Evaluations  
270 should be consistent and coherent with the analysand's personality  
271 structure and developmental history. The candidate's knowledge  
272 of transference, countertransference, dream analysis, resistance and  
273 other technical and theoretical concepts are necessary for a  
274 competent psychoanalytic assessment.

275 **b) Intervention**

276 Competency in the specialty of psychoanalysis includes the  
277 application of skillful and flexible treatment, knowledge and  
278 proficiency in providing specific psychoanalytic interventions.  
279 Specific therapeutic interventions that promote change are the  
280 analytic transference/counter transference relationship,  
281 interpretation to promote insight, dream analysis, thought or word  
282 association, and various techniques to improve cognitive and  
283 affective recall and re-integration, affective release, and the  
284 amelioration of self-defeating patterns. Interventions appropriate  
285 for the analysand and integral to the analyst's theoretical

286 foundations guide the interventions that encompass psychoanalytic  
287 treatment as well as addressing the analysand's primary concerns.

288 **c) Consultation**

289 Competency in the specialty of psychoanalysis requires  
290 supervision of psychoanalysts in training and in practice and  
291 requires evidence of mastery of the above competencies.  
292 Consultation and supervision have emerged as a significant area(s)  
293 of practice for the specialty of psychoanalysis.

294 **d) Application of Research and Theory**

295 Knowledge of the research and theoretical bases of the specialty of  
296 psychoanalysis is necessary for the competent practice of  
297 contemporary psychoanalysis. Practice of the specialty of  
298 psychoanalysis requires an understanding of theory and research  
299 specific to issues of personality development and diversity, e.g.,  
300 ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and family cultural issues.

301 **e) Supervision/Teaching.**

302 This competency will be addressed only for those Candidates who  
303 engage in supervision and teaching. With regard to Supervision, a  
304 successful Candidate demonstrates the ability to communicate and  
305 apply his/her knowledge in supervision with others, especially to  
306 trainees in psychoanalysis in post doctoral settings. In terms of  
307 Teaching, a successful Candidate demonstrates the capacity to  
308 effectively teach psychoanalytic principles and techniques to  
309 undergraduate or graduate students, interns and postdoctoral  
310 trainees, and colleagues.

311 **2. Foundational Competencies**

312 **a) Application of Ethical and Legal Standards**

313 Competency in the practice of the specialty of psychoanalysis  
314 includes awareness and appropriate exercise of ethical and legal  
315 standards according to the APA Ethical Principles and current  
316 national, state or provincial statutes, and case law precedents

317 applicable for the protection of the interests of analysands,  
318 families, groups, organizations, the profession, and society.

319 **b) Individual and Cultural Diversity**

320 Awareness and sensitivity in working professionally with diverse  
321 individuals, groups, and communities who represent various  
322 cultural and personal background and characteristics.

323 **c) Interpersonal Interactions**

324 The ability to relate effectively and meaningfully with individuals,  
325 groups, and/or communities. Effectiveness in interdisciplinary  
326 systems.

327 **d) Professional Identification**

328 Competency in the specialty of psychoanalysis includes  
329 meaningful involvement with the profession of psychology in  
330 general and psychoanalysis in particular. This is demonstrated by  
331 membership and participation in local, state, national, and  
332 international psychological and psychoanalytic organizations.

333 **IV. THE EXAMINATION**

334 A. General Rationale for the Examination

335 The examination consists of the candidate's practice sample, professional  
336 statement and related materials which are reviewed prior to the oral examination.  
337 These forms and related materials serve as the major focus of exploration by the  
338 oral examining team. This team consisting of a chairperson and two additional  
339 examiners, all of whom are board certified psychoanalysts. The oral examination  
340 is administered within a single day.

341 Candidates are expected to be familiar with professional issues currently  
342 impacting the profession, with particular reference to psychoanalysis, as well as  
343 APA Ethical Principles. Ethical vignettes are presented to the candidate to  
344 evaluate issues that arise in psychoanalytic as well as general clinical work.  
345 Evidence of involvement with continuing development and professional growth is  
346 also required.

347 The Board understands that there is a diversity of theoretical orientations at this  
348 time in psychoanalytic practice. The candidate is examined within his/her own  
349 theoretical orientation. The National Examinations Chairperson works with the  
350 candidate throughout the certification process. A mentor from the Academy of  
351 Psychoanalysis, the fellowship of ABPsaP certified specialists, is available to  
352 assist the candidate for part or all of the certification process.

353 The Candidate is given a year from the time of acceptance for examination, in  
354 which to submit his/her Practice Sample and Professional Statement.

355 Candidate must submit three (3) copies of Curriculum Vitae, a Practice Sample  
356 and Professional Statement to the ABPsaP Practice Sample Coordinator. The  
357 Practice Sample Review fee (\$250) must be submitted to ABPP Central Office.

358 Upon acceptance of the practice sample/professional statement, the Candidate  
359 moves on to the Oral Examination.

360 B. **Instructions/Guidelines for: the Practice Sample and Professional**  
361 **Statement**

362 The candidate must submit a Practice Sample that consists of a descriptive case  
363 study. The selected case must be held person to person in the analyst's office.  
364 The Practice Sample should be representative of the Candidate's practice and  
365 representative of the practice of the Specialty of Psychoanalysis.

366 The Professional Statement must accompany the Practice Sample. The  
367 Professional Statement consists of a summary of the candidate's professional  
368 practice and involvement.

369 Candidates who qualify for the senior option must submit both a Professional  
370 Statement and a Practice Sample that consist of publications or list other  
371 contributions to psychoanalysis as a specialty thus meeting the senior option  
372 requirements. For both levels, prior to the oral examination, a "blind" analytic  
373 case is forwarded by mail to each candidate for review, to be explored during the  
374 oral examination. In addition, ethical vignettes are presented to the candidate to  
375 evaluate ethical issues which arise in psychoanalytic work.

376 1. The Psychoanalytic Case Format:

- 377 a. General Requirements
- 378 i. Selection of case to be presented
- 379 i.a The case must be clearly a psychoanalytic treatment  
380 according to the generally accepted criteria of one of the  
381 major schools of psychoanalysis (i.e., Freudian, Object  
382 Relations/British Middle School, Kleinian,  
383 Interpersonal, Intersubjective, or Relational)..
- 384 i.b The session of the case which is submitted must be  
385 representative of the work with the patient and must have  
386 taken place person to person.
- 387 i.c Case may be one of a continuing therapeutic relationship  
388 of at least two (2) years in duration. If the case has already  
389 terminated, it must be one in which not more than three (3)  
390 years have elapsed since the last formal analytic session.
- 391 i.d All requested information must be provided as detailed  
392 below.
- 393 b. Format
- 394 i. Three (3) typewritten copies are required
- 395 ii. On title page to provide
- 396 -Document title
- 397 -Name of candidate
- 398 -Date of submission
- 399 iii. Pages must be 1.5 line-spaced; in Arial, Tahoma, Times  
400 New Roman or an easy-to-read non-condensed font, no less  
401 than 12 point size.
- 402 iv. All pages must be numbered with title page as #1.
- 403 v. Page quantity should not exceed 20.
- 404 c. Verbatim Script of One Taped Session

- 405 i. Identify the number of the sessions within patient's entire  
406 course of treatment.
- 407 ii. Describe phase of treatment which presented session  
408 illuminates.
- 409 iii. Describe issues or dynamics that led up to that session.
- 410 d. Demographic and Significant History
- 411 i. Pseudonym for patient
- 412 ii. Presenting problems and/or symptoms
- 413 iii. Physical appearance
- 414 iv. Demographics
- 415 v. Any significant medical/physical and/or developmental history  
416 of patient and/or family
- 417 vi. Significant psychological history
- 418 vii. History of prior treatment - type and duration
- 419 viii. Duration of treatment with candidate - ongoing or terminated  
420 case
- 421 ix. Frequency of sessions - use of couch and/or chair
- 422 e. In the Analysis/Critique of the Case, briefly provide the following  
423 material:
- 424 i. Theoretical orientation, if and where you differ from the  
425 mainstream of the theory and discussion of typical approach
- 426 ii. Underlying issues of presenting problems
- 427 iii. The personality structure of the patient (diagnosis, if indicated,  
428 major coping and defensive patterns)
- 429 iv. Core issues and how manifested
- 430 v. Manifestations of transference and counter-transference  
431 material and how handled

- 432 vi. The extent to which the patient's core issues and personality  
433 structure were or were not compatible with the preferred  
434 theoretical orientation and treatment approach. If not  
435 compatible, how was it handled?
- 436 vii. Outcome - the goals of treatment and whether they are being or  
437 have been met
- 438 viii. Any subsequent and relevant information about the patient as  
439 to his or her present psychological status

440 2. The Senior Option

441 Candidate must submit three (3) copies each of a Curriculum Vita, the  
442 Professional Statement and either two (2) published articles or a book or  
443 evidence of significant contribution to psychoanalysis as a specialty. Refer to  
444 page 5, Note 2.

445 The Candidates qualifying as a senior candidate will have more complex and  
446 programmatic training contributions. The option for seniors allows more  
447 latitude in the submission of Practice Samples and the examination thereof.

448 *Please note that a case analysis is not to be submitted if the senior option is taken.*  
449 *See outline for Professional Statement under Practitioner Level.*

450 3. Professional Statement Format

451 a. General Requirements

452 i. Respond only to those items that are relevant to you

453 ii. Brevity is desirable

454 iii. Format

455 (i.) Three (3) typewritten copies are required

456 (ii.) On title page to provide

457 -Document title

458 -Name of candidate

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-Date of submission

- (iii.) Following pages must be 1.5 line-spaced; in Arial, Tahoma, Times New Roman or an easy-to-read non-condensed font, no less than 12-point size
- (iv.) All pages must be numbered with title page as #1
- (v.) Pages may not exceed 20 in number

b. Participation as a Professional Psychologist

- i. List of the professional psychological organizations to which candidate belong. (i.e., APA, Divisions of APA, State Psychological Associations, Regional Psychological Associations, etc.)
- ii. Summary of candidate's active participation in any of the above organizations (i.e., offices held, committee membership, presentations at conferences, professional events, etc.)
- iii. Summary of participation as a psychologist in the general community e.g. on a volunteer basis, presentations to community and/or religious organizations; written articles; appearance in the media; consultation, liaison or presentations to any governmental group.

c. Professional Psychologist and/or Psychoanalyst Practice

- i. Describe the range of activities candidate performs as part of professional practice and if there have been any significant changes in the last three years. (Professional activities include both paid employment and independent practice. The range of activities includes intervention, diagnosis, college or university teaching, consultation, supervision, etc.)
- ii. List consultations with colleagues.
- iii. List pro-bono or reduced fee services and describe circumstances
- iv. Has any ethical/legal action taken place against candidate since

- 488 admission to candidacy?
- 489 d. Participation as a Psychologist/Psychoanalyst
- 490 i. Theoretical orientation
- 491 i.a Describe theoretical framework
- 492 i.b List thinkers/theorists in psychoanalysis who have significant  
493 influence on candidate's thinking
- 494 i.c If an eclectic or integrationist in orientation, please briefly  
495 describe three major themes of candidate's thinking
- 496 ii. Describe the continuing education in psychoanalysis  
497 undertaken in the past two years (i.e., workshops, attendance or  
498 participation at psychoanalytic conferences, books or articles on  
499 psychoanalytic material that have been especially stimulating, etc.)
- 500 iii. Describe activities within psychoanalysis (i.e., membership in  
501 psychoanalytic associations, role or position in analytic training  
502 institutes, attendance or presentations at psychoanalytic  
503 conferences)
- 504 iv. Describe candidate's view(s) on the future of psychoanalysis as a  
505 field of psychological practice
- 506 v. Describe reasons for applying for the Diploma in Psychoanalysis?
- 507 vi. Please comment on the principle that diplomates support the  
508 mission of ABPsaP and ABPP with volunteer activity and payment  
509 of annual fees.

510

511 *Note:* Acceptance of the Practice Sample and Professional Statement: These  
512 documents are preliminarily inspected for completeness and reviewed for  
513 acceptance as a sample representative of the practice of psychoanalysis and  
514 professional involvement at the specialty level. The candidate is notified by the  
515 Central Office of the results of the review. Upon acceptance of the practice  
516 sample and Professional Statement, the candidate is sent a form to arrange for the

517 oral examination. The form and the examination fee of \$450 are sent to ABPP.  
518 ABPP notifies the ABPsaP National Examination Chairperson who works with  
519 the candidate to schedule the examination.

520 Oral Examination

521 The Oral Examination emphasizes presentation of the candidate’s Practice  
522 Sample and critique of a blind psychoanalytic case. Candidates will  
523 demonstrate an awareness of current issues in professional psychology and  
524 professional experience, which also includes an awareness of diversity issues;  
525 and sensitivity to ethical, professional and legal standards of practice.  
526 Candidates will also be asked about professional memberships in both  
527 psychological and psychoanalytic organizations and activity on their national,  
528 state and local levels as well as awareness of current issues and problems in  
529 the development of a creative and responsible profession. The national  
530 chairperson of examination will consult with the candidate to arrive at a  
531 mutually agreeable place and time for the oral examination. ABPsaP holds  
532 oral examinations at Division 39 Spring meetings and individually throughout  
533 the year if necessary.

534 *Note: The Oral Examination procedures apply to the “senior option”*  
535 *candidate except that the senior option practice sample substitutes for the*  
536 *case analysis sample.*

537 C. The Examination Process

538 1. Examination Format

539 In order to assure standardization of the examination process, ABPsaP  
540 sets forth the following schedule. The general pace and sequence of  
541 topics must be faithfully followed so as to reduce to an absolute  
542 minimum the possibility that that candidate might receive differential  
543 treatment. However, within each segment, there is room for variation  
544 of the immediate situation, as the best judgment of the examination  
545 committee warrants. Obviously, related topics will be interwoven  
546 throughout the examination. The Chairperson must guard against the

547 dialogue wandering too far a field. A topic may receive more cursory  
548 exploration when it appears on the schedule and has been sufficiently  
549 covered earlier. This schedule serves as a check-list to ensure  
550 coverage of all topics [and have acquired information] necessary to  
551 rate all areas on the rating scale.

552 ABPP and ABPsaP endorse the concept of a broad perspective within  
553 psychoanalysis, together with more specifically defined competence  
554 within particular areas of psychoanalytic intervention. The  
555 examination shall be oral and consist of four sections:

556 a. Discussion with the candidate of the literature on clinical  
557 theory and technique pertinent to their particular orientation  
558 and a detailed review of a case in which the candidate  
559 demonstrates a psychoanalytic understanding and intervention  
560 skills within his/her clinical-theoretical orientation.

561 b. Critique of a “blind” analytic case that the candidate reviews  
562 prior to the examination.

563 c. Analysis of vignettes relating to ethical issues as it pertains to  
564 APA’s ethical principles to evaluate the candidate’s knowledge  
565 of ethical issues that arise in psychoanalytic work.

566 d. Demonstration of knowledge of professional issues currently  
567 impacting the profession, particularly relevant psychoanalysis,  
568 as well as identification with the profession and the specialty  
569 by expressing a value for continued training and  
570 psychoanalytic literature in general. The candidate’s pattern of  
571 current practice and direction of his/her practice will also be  
572 discussed. The candidate’s level of understanding of theory  
573 and technique should be sufficiently sophisticated and that the  
574 candidate will be able to explain the relationship between  
575 his/her particular orientation and schools of psychoanalysis  
576 more generally.

577 The examining committee will rate and either pass or fail the

578 candidate. The Executive Director of the Central Office of ABPP will  
579 review the report of the examining committee and make a final  
580 decision regarding the award of the-certificate. Candidates who fail to  
581 pass the examination upon the first sitting shall have the right to apply  
582 for a subsequent examination.

583 2. The ABPsaP Examination Team Selection

584 The Examination Committee consists of three (3) Board Certified  
585 examiners in Psychoanalysis, one of whom serves as Chair. No  
586 committee member may have had any significant prior or current  
587 personal, professional, or administrative relationship with the  
588 Candidate or the clients in the Practice Samples.

589 The ABPsaP recognizes that specialists in psychoanalysis use a variety  
590 of approaches and techniques and have differing conceptual frames of  
591 reference. ABPsaP also recognizes that the effectiveness of  
592 professional practice is a function of many factors, including personal  
593 factors, level of experience and theoretical understanding. The  
594 Chairperson shall be an experienced senior member responsible for  
595 reviewing practice samples, communicating with the candidate, setting  
596 up the Examination Committee, acquiring a location for the  
597 examination, making the necessary arrangements, and disseminating  
598 examination materials. The Chairperson shall seek to select  
599 representatives of the examinee's theoretical orientation. The  
600 Examination Committee Chair and Member Examiners will be  
601 selected with consideration of the theoretical orientation, knowledge  
602 base, professional interest and experience expressed in the Candidate's  
603 Professional Statement. However, this is not required and is not a  
604 basis for appeal. One of the three (3) committee members shall be of  
605 the same orientation and the others shall be of an orientation close to  
606 the candidate's orientation. S/he shall establish the level of  
607 competence within any legitimate conceptual frame of reference the  
608 candidate espouses. The Chairperson shall represent ABPsaP, need

609 not necessarily represent the examinee's orientation, and s/he shall be  
610 entitled to vote. Since the Chairperson does vote, s/he shall have input  
611 into the Award/No Award determination.

612 The Chairperson will inform the Candidate of the choices for the  
613 Examination Committee. The Candidate has one week from  
614 notification to raise any concerns or objections about the proposed  
615 Examination Committee to the Chair. If the Candidate does not  
616 contact the Chairperson within one week, it will be assumed the  
617 proposed Examination Committee is acceptable.

618 3. Role of the Examination Committee Chairperson

619 The Examination Committee Chairperson is an experienced examiner  
620 responsible to:

- 621 a. Approve the Examination Committee (appointed by the  
622 National Examination Chairperson). Committee selection  
623 should consider diversity in regard to gender and ethnicity, etc.,  
624 as well as general professional orientation of the Candidate.
- 625 b. Coordinate the approval of the Practice Samples. The  
626 committee members vote on the acceptability of the Practice  
627 Samples. Two affirmative votes are required for Practice  
628 Sample acceptance.
- 629 c. Submit Practice Sample Review Results Form within one  
630 business day of the completion of the review by Fax to the  
631 ABPP Central Office (919-537-8034) and to the National  
632 Examination Chair. This notification must also be at least  
633 three weeks prior to the scheduling of the Oral Examination.  
634 In the case of a failure, the Chair shall, within seven days, fax  
635 the Practice Sample Review Result Form to the Central Office  
636 and to the National Examination Chair. The Fax Forms are  
637 available on the ABPP Web site ([www.abpp.org](http://www.abpp.org)) The  
638 Committee members do not communicate examination results  
639 directly to the Candidate.

- 640 d. Communicate with the Candidate about the time, place and  
641 other details of the examination arrangements. The  
642 responsibility for the initial contact between Chair and  
643 Candidate is the Chair's.
- 644 e. Conduct examination, collect and disseminate examination  
645 materials.
- 646 f. Advise Examination Committee members to fill out a form  
647 from Central Office regarding expenses: transportation,  
648 lodging, and food to the ABPsaP Treasurer for the purpose of  
649 obtaining reimbursement from ABPP.
- 650 g. See that both the candidate and Examination Committee  
651 members complete Evaluation Forms. Immediately following  
652 the examination the candidate will be given an evaluation form  
653 in a stamped addressed envelop to be sent to the Central Office.
- 654 h. Immediately following completion of the oral examination,  
655 notify the Central Office and the National Examination Chair  
656 of the exam decision (Pass or Fail). This notification should be  
657 within one business day after the exam is completed. Upon  
658 completion of the oral examination, the Chair completes and  
659 submits "Oral Examination Result Form" by confidential email  
660 ([office@abpp.org](mailto:office@abpp.org)) or by Fax to ABPP Central Office (919-  
661 537-8034). The candidate's file is mailed to the National  
662 Examination Chair who removes the Ethics Vignettes and  
663 mails the file to the Central Office. In the case of a failure, the  
664 Oral Examination Result Form should be sent via email or fax  
665 to Central Office by the chair within seven days. The Fax  
666 Forms are available on the ABPP Web site ([www.abpp.org](http://www.abpp.org)).
- 667 i. Advise the candidate who wishes to appeal his/her practice  
668 sample review or oral examination outcome, to fill out an  
669 Appeals Form. This form must be sent to the Central Office  
670 within 30 days of the date the candidate received notification of  
671 the outcome of his/her examination. It is not appropriate for

672 the candidate to communicate directly with his/her committee.  
673 Any questions the candidate might have should be directed to  
674 the Executive Director at the ABPP Central Office. The  
675 candidate's committee will be asked to write an independent  
676 response to his/her letter directly to the Appeals Committee.

677 4. Examination Members' Responsibility

678 Subsequent to reviewing the Practice Samples, the Member Examiner  
679 votes to approve/disapprove, thus completing the Practice Sample  
680 Review of the examination process.

681 The ABPsaP requests that the oral examination be conducted in a  
682 courteous, professional, and collegial manner consistent with the  
683 policies and procedures stated in this manual. An examiner serves as a  
684 representative of ABPsaP and accepts responsibility to protect the  
685 welfare of the Candidate, the confidentiality of the Practice Samples  
686 and the integrity of the examination. The relationship between the  
687 Candidate and the examiners should be considered a collegial one in  
688 which the Candidate is respected as a mature professional  
689 psychologist.

690 Board Certification Examiners should recognize that most candidates  
691 will experience anxiety in a face-to-face situation in which they are  
692 being evaluated by peers. This anxiety will be more apparent in some  
693 than in others. Each Examiner should be supportive and create a  
694 favorable situation in order that the Candidate may demonstrate his/her  
695 specialized clinical competencies.

696 Prior to the Oral Examination, Examiners should:

- 697 a. Become familiar with the professional statement, Curriculum  
698 Vitae/Resume, and other biographical data,
- 699 b. Prepare meaningful questions that relate to important theoretical  
700 and research concepts and professional issues generated by the  
701 Practice Samples and Professional Statement.

702 The examination is a confidential and professional process. An Examiner will not

703 disclose what is learned about a Candidate during the examination, except in the  
704 official report the ABPP Central Office. All communications concerning the  
705 results of the examination shall be addressed to ABPP via the Chair of the  
706 Examination Committee. It is not appropriate for a Candidate to communicate  
707 with the Examiners about the outcome of the examination prior to receiving  
708 information about the outcome from the Central Office. If an Examiner receives a  
709 written communication from a Candidate, it should be forwarded to ABPP via the  
710 Committee Chair.

711 5. The Training of Chairperson and Examiners

712 The high-quality, collegiality, relevance and standardization of the  
713 ABPsaP Board Certification process are maximized by a clear and  
714 explicit examiner's manual and the training of Chairs and Board  
715 Certified Examiners. Any Board Certified Psychologist/Psychoanalyst  
716 may have the opportunity to become an Examiner after appropriate  
717 training or become a Chair after appropriate experience. Interested  
718 Board Certified Psychologists/Psychoanalysts should contact the  
719 ABPsaP Board of Directors or Regional Examination Coordinator.

720 D. Schedule

721 1. Examination Schedule

722 The examination will take approximately two and one half (2 ½) hours for the  
723 examinee and three (3) hours for the examiners.  
724

725

**SUMMARY SCHEDULE FOR EXAMINATION**

726

*This schedule requires that the examiners have reviewed all the written materials*

727

**IN ADVANCE**

728

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>TIME ALLOTTED (min.)</b>
Committee Meets and Organizes Committee Greets Candidate	20
Examination on Practice Sample	30
Examination on Blind Case Sample	40
Examination on APA Ethics Code (two Vignettes) <i>*(Candidate has up to 10 minutes to review the ethical vignettes.)</i> COLLECT VIGNETTES	*30
Examination on professional statement, as well as professional legal issues and research awareness. Return practice sample to Candidate	30
Examination wrap-up and Discussion Examination Chair COLLECTS BLIND STUDY and gives Candidate Evaluation Form with a stamped addressed envelope to mail to Central Office. Committee Completes Rating Scale, Votes and Writes Report if necessary	30
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Note:</b></p> <p>Time allotments are guidelines that should be followed as closely as possible.</p>	

729

730

731 2. Appeals Committee

732

733 a. The Appeals Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors  
734 of ABPSaP. It will be comprised of three [Trustees] Fellows of the  
735 Academy of Psychoanalysis serving staggered terms to insure  
736 consistency and continuity.

737 b. The Appeals Committee will act on all appeals from the Candidate for  
738 the Certificate with respect to validity of their examination procedures.

739 c. The Appeals Committee will develop forms for evaluating the appeal  
740 within guidelines of the American Board of Professional Psychology  
741 procedures.

742 d. The Appeals Committee will make recommendations with regard to  
743 validity of the appeal.

744 V. Acknowledgements

745 Thanks! To the applicants/candidates for taking the important step, as a responsible  
746 professional, to be identified as a board certified specialist in psychoanalysis.

747 And to those many ABPP certified psychoanalysts whose voluntary participation as  
748 peer examiners makes the certification process possible.

749

750 The American Board of Psychoanalysis in Psychology 2008

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