

In Stage II, the practice sample is completed and submitted. During this stage, a mentor is available to the candidate. Although not a requirement, candidates are strongly encouraged to utilize their mentor during the practice sample selection and write-up process. Practice samples should reflect the Candidate's usual practice of rehabilitation psychology. The practice sample is reviewed by a committee comprised of three ABPP Certified Specialists in Rehabilitation Psychology. Upon final acceptance of the practice samples, including any requested revisions, the Candidate then moves to the oral examination.

At Stage III, the candidate typically sits for the next available oral examination. Oral exams are conducted 1 or 2 times per year, in various locations. The previously described competencies are the focus throughout the oral examination. The oral exam in rehabilitation psychology consists of 4 parts. For the first two parts of the exam, the candidate reviews a number of clinical vignettes that have been selected by the board, and selects two for examination. After reading the case materials, the candidate meets with the first examiner and is examined on the vignette. The goal of this exercise is to evaluate the candidate's ability to investigate the areas relevant to the vignette, draw reasonable conclusions based upon the information available and develop appropriate treatment interventions or planning. It is not crucial that the candidate reaches the same conclusions as the preparer of the vignette; it is only crucial that the candidate's conclusions be reasonable and defensible on the basis of the data available in the vignette record. The candidate then proceeds to the second examiner for examination on the second vignette. With the third examiner, candidates are examined on their practice sample. The practice sample serves as a base from which to review the candidate's pattern of practice as a rehabilitation psychologist, including theoretical, empirical, and practical foundations. Finally, the Candidate is examined on ethical and legal issues related to rehabilitation. This is accomplished primarily through the discussion of several vignettes, each of which presents various ethical considerations. In addition, the Candidate's knowledge and ability to apply the requirements of Americans with Disabilities Act is examined.

The results of the examination are forwarded to the Executive Officer for notification to the Candidate.

## FEES

The application fee to establish candidacy is \$125.

The fee for Stage II is \$250 and for Stage III \$450. Upon granting Board certification a yearly fee of \$165 is assessed to support the many services of the ABPP and the representation of the organization to the public and the profession. The ABPP is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The ABPP maintains responsibility for this program and its content. Certified Specialists receive the ABPP publication The ABPP Specialist, are part of the on-line Directory of Specialists in Psychology representing ABPP specialists and the availability of specialty services to the public, qualify for reduced professional liability protection, and a number of other benefits (see the ABPP Specialty Certification in Professional Psychology general brochure).

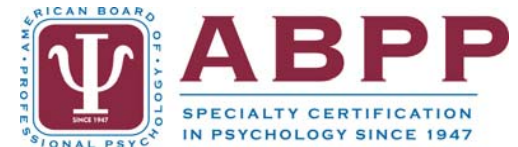
## SENIOR PSYCHOLOGIST CERTIFICATION PROCESS

In some specialties, psychologists who are in practice for at least 15 years following licensure may qualify for certain modifications in the examination process which take into account extensive experience as a practitioner. Please contact Central Office if you believe that you may qualify.

### ABPP Central Office

David R. Cox, PhD, ABPP, Executive Officer  
American Board of Professional Psychology  
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# SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION IN REHABILITATION PSYCHOLOGY



An invitation to apply for board  
certification in a specialty  
affiliated with the

**American Board  
Of  
Professional Psychology  
ABPP**

## THE AMERICAN BOARD OF REHABILITATION PSYCHOLOGY

The American Board of Rehabilitation Psychology (ABRP) was incorporated in 1995 to conduct examinations leading to the Board Certification in Rehabilitation Psychology. ABRP emerged from early efforts by the Specialty Designation Committee of Division 22 (Rehabilitation Psychology) of the American Psychological Association. In 1997, ABRP became fully affiliated with the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) and now operates within the ABPP guidelines.

## REHABILITATION PSYCHOLOGY

Rehabilitation psychology is that area of psychological practice concerned with assisting individuals with disabilities (congenital or acquired) in achieving optimal psychological, physical, and social functioning. Rehabilitation psychologists consider the entire network of biological, psychological, social, environmental, and political factors that affect the functioning of persons with disabilities. Rehabilitation psychologists are active in the areas of clinical practice, research, advocacy, administration, and education.

## CERTIFICATION IN REHABILITATION PSYCHOLOGY

Board certification assures the public and the profession that the rehabilitation psychology specialist has successfully completed the educational, training, and experience requirements of the specialty, including an examination designed to assess the competencies required to provide quality services in rehabilitation psychology. Specialties, by definition, are advanced levels of practice that include doctoral and post-doctoral preparation. A description of the general doctoral and licensure requirements for certification follows, along with the additional requirements of the rehabilitation psychology specialty.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION

### General Eligibility Requirements

To attain board certification in a specialty an applicant must meet the common eligibility requirements which include:

- A doctoral degree from a program, in professional psychology which at the time the degree was granted was accredited by the APA, CPA, or was listed in the publication Doctoral Psychology Programs Meeting

Designation Criteria. Applicants credentialed in the most recent directory of the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology or the Canadian Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology qualify as meeting the doctoral degree requirements as well as those holding the Certificate of Professional Qualification in Psychology (CPQ).

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

### Specialty Specific Eligibility Requirements

In addition to the above general requirements, each specialty requires appropriate education and training as the foundation for the specialty, and such post-doctoral preparation as necessary to meet the standards of the specialty.

A recognized internship program; **and**

In the specialty of Rehabilitation Psychology, the applicant must have at least two years of supervised post-doctoral experience; **or**

One year of post-doctoral experience and successful completion of a recognized post-doctoral residency program in Rehabilitation Psychology

## STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION

Board certification assures the public and the profession that the specialist in rehabilitation psychology has met the education, training and experience requirements, as well as demonstrating the advanced competencies required by the specialty through an individualized, peer reviewed examination.

The examination encompasses the following interrelated domains of professional competency.

### Assessment and Intervention

The assessment and intervention competencies related to the practice of rehabilitation psychology are fundamental aspects of the examination. Two samples of the candidate's practice are submitted and reviewed together. In addition, assessment and intervention competencies will be assessed

through examination of clinical vignettes that are presented at the time of the exam.

### Science Base and Application

The science or discipline basis of the specialty is the appropriate application of that base to the contemporary practice of rehabilitation psychology, including the applicant's awareness of theory and research pertaining to issues of disability and rehabilitation.

### Ethics and Legal Foundations

Awareness and appropriate adherence to ethical and legal standards are critical in the practice of rehabilitation psychology. These include the ethical principles of the APA,

the standards and requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and current statutory provisions and state law where applicable.

### Professional Identification

The candidate is expected to demonstrate meaningful involvement with the profession in general, and the specialty of rehabilitation psychology in particular.

### Consultation and Supervision

These competency areas have emerged as significant areas of practice in rehabilitation psychology and are applicable when the specialist's pattern of practice include them in an important way.

## APPLICATION THROUGH EXAMINATION PROCESS

Application forms can be obtained from the ABPP Central Office or the ABPP web site at [www.abpp.org](http://www.abpp.org).

Having met the eligibility requirements, a candidate must pass an examination administered by the specialty board. The examination is a collegial process by board certified examiners and is designed to allow the candidate the opportunity to demonstrate the defining competencies required to practice the specialty. By definition, all specialties are at an advanced level of competency. The purpose of the examination is to affirm that the candidate has met the criteria of the specialty.

The applicant will also be required to have written endorsements from two previous supervisors, as well as written endorsements from two additional professional colleagues. Membership in professional organizations that have identifiable purposes and policies that are congruent with those of ABRP is highly desirable.