

PRACTICE SAMPLES

The Practice Sample provides the opportunity for Candidates to demonstrate that their professional activity is based on the principles and practices of Rehabilitation Psychology and that they have the competencies required of a specialist in Rehabilitation Psychology. The Practice Sample also provides an opportunity for Candidates to articulate their identities as Rehabilitation Psychologists, positioning them to advance to the Oral Examination. Practice Sample instructions and Registration Form can be retrieved on the ABPP website via <http://www.abpp.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3361>.

A. Selection of Practice Sample Materials

The Practice Sample consists of two examples of the Candidate's recent work in Rehabilitation Psychology. Candidates are encouraged to select samples representing their work within the past five years. This helps to ensure that their competencies are up to date. **Materials should be selected to give evidence of a variety of competencies and to reflect one's usual practice. At least one portion of the Practice Sample must be clinically focused.** The two sections should be sufficiently different from each other to reflect breadth of expertise.

The Candidate is given leeway in selecting examples of their work. Possible case types include:

- Clinical case studies
- Supervision of a trainee's clinical case
- Consultation reports
- Teaching/training curricula
- Research programs
- Instrument development
- Program development

Candidates should consider the competency list as they select and write the Practice Sample, and include information that can demonstrate competence in the several aspects of assessment, intervention, consultation, and consumer protection. Demonstrating these competencies may require more thought and creativity when presenting non-clinical work, but this is possible to accomplish. **A submission that allows for demonstration of a majority of the competencies may be the best choice for the Practice Sample portion of the ABRP examination.**

B. Writing the Practice Sample Cases

The two portions of the Practice Sample should not exceed 50 double-spaced written pages. These limits include any supplementary materials. Practice Samples consist of a written narrative as well as supplementary materials. The following description is meant to provide helpful guidance, but is not designed to be prescriptive or restrictive.

It is recommended (but not required) that each portion of the Practice Sample narrative begin with a brief (1-2 page) introduction that offers the context, purpose, and rationale for the selection of that Practice Sample. Candidates should include a brief abstract of the case. It is helpful for this section to include a statement of the specific competencies that the Candidate believes the sample demonstrates. On the first portion (no need to duplicate on the second portion) of the practice sample a brief description of their work setting is recommended.

It is helpful for this section to include a statement of the specific competencies that the Candidate believes the sample demonstrates. The sample should be written in the active voice, and the Candidate should clearly indicate who performed the work (e.g., “I performed a cognitive assessment,” “The team’s speech therapist performed a cognitive screen and I consulted with her about the findings,” etc.)

The narrative portion of the Practice Sample outlines the Candidate’s rationale for the work. The format for Case 1 includes an overview, narrative, outcome (emphasizing how candidate impacted the outcome), and explanation/justification for limitation of the

case. This is then followed by supporting materials for Case 1. Case 2 follows the same form. The narrative portions of the Sample sections provide an opportunity for Candidates to demonstrate how they apply Rehabilitation Psychology principles to the questions and decisions that are involved in working through the case. It also provides an opportunity for the Candidate to integrate, as applicable, pertinent medical, psychosocial, theoretical, and research information into his/her conceptualization and actions. Citing of pertinent research in the field is encouraged and helps the candidate demonstrate their contemporary knowledge base. While there is no “right” number of references to cite, a typical number of references might be in the range of 10 to 15 references. The idea is to cite those references that reflect the “why” and “how” of what you do in your practice.

The Supplementary materials provide data that indicate that the patient or other work is “real”, and that the Candidate is using data in ways that are consistent with contemporary Rehabilitation Practice. Supplementary materials should be carefully selected to assist the Candidate in demonstrating competencies. The Supplementary materials alone, however well constructed, do not constitute a Practice Sample case. The Practice Sample must include statements on the part of the Candidate explaining and supporting the rationale for the work that was done.

Supplementary materials **must be deidentified** and may include (but are not limited to)

- Brief components of test reports (such as selected pages) or test score summary sheets
- Chart, office or progress notes (include copies of original, if possible, and typewritten text with facility logo or letterhead on materials)
- Team conference summaries, or portions thereof
- Selective portions of medical documentation
- Correspondence related to Practice Sample case chosen
- Copies or selected portions thereof, of articles, grant proposals, curricula, program materials, etc.

Clinical Cases. Clinical cases should be selected and written in a way to demonstrate the “Rehabilitation” focus of the case and the Candidate’s actions. Cases in which the Candidate functioned solely in a diagnostic role, for example, would not typically be suitable for a Practice Sample. Clinical practice samples should demonstrate competent rehabilitation practice. **Any potentially identifying information should be eliminated.** The case should typically include information about patient characteristics, assessment strategies, diagnostic impressions, treatment recommendations, clinical interventions, recommended consultation with other professionals, follow-up care, and consumer protection issues. Medical, psychosocial, emotional, and mental and chemical health information should be reported and integrated into the case conceptualization, as available. The rationale for the assessments, interventions, and recommendations should be clear and supported by data or scientific literature. The case must conform to APA ethical standards, state laws of practice, and any other relevant standards (e.g., the ADA). If the case study involves the supervision of a trainee, the Candidate needs to clearly explain what work was the trainee’s and what was the Candidate’s. When possible, it is preferable to report on the Candidate’s own clinical case material. However, in some cases the Candidate’s current work role may preclude this possibility.

Consultation Reports. Like clinical cases, consultation reports should demonstrate the Rehabilitation Psychology principles and practices underlying the consultation, and describe the Candidate’s activities and rationale. The case should typically include information about patient characteristics, the setting and reason for the consultation, assessment strategies, diagnostic impressions, and treatment recommendations. The rationale for the assessments and interventions should be clear and supported by scientific literature. The consultation must conform to APA ethical standards, state laws of practice, and any other relevant standards (e.g., the ADA).

Teaching/Training Curricula. Candidates who choose to use teaching/training curricula example as a portion of their Practice Sample should describe the rationale for the curriculum, and indicate how the curriculum relates to and includes the principles and practices of Rehabilitation Psychology. The example should be clear about the Candidate’s role in designing and implementing the curriculum. Course or program

outlines alone do not constitute an acceptable Practice Sample portion. The curriculum must conform to APA ethical standards, state laws of practice, and any other relevant standards (e.g., the ADA).

Research-Based Samples. Candidates who choose to submit research-based work as one of their examples should provide a description of the research program and detail how it relates to the principles and practices of Rehabilitation Psychology. Abstracts may be used as supplementary material. **Submission of reprints alone or a grant proposal alone does not constitute an acceptable practice sample.** Candidates must discuss their rationale in planning and implementing the research, especially as it relates to Rehabilitation Psychology. The research program must conform to APA ethical standards, state laws of practice, and any other relevant standards (e.g., the ADA).

Instrument Development. Candidates may describe the development of an instrument. The sample should discuss the rationale for developing the instrument, the Candidate's role in the conceptualization, development, and validation, and how this instrument relates to the principles and practices of Rehabilitation Psychology. Submission of the instrument alone or articles about the instrument along does not constitute an acceptable Practice Sample. The instrument development process must conform to APA ethical standards, state laws of practice, and any other relevant standards (e.g., the ADA).

Program Development. Candidates who choose to use a program development example as a portion of their Practice Sample should describe the rationale for the program, and indicate how the program relates to and includes the principles and practices of Rehabilitation Psychology. The example should describe clearly and in detail the Candidate's role in designing and implementing the program. Promotional materials, advertisements, or testimonials should ordinarily not be submitted as supplemental material. The program must conform to APA ethical standards, state laws of practice, and any other relevant standards (e.g., the ADA).

The Practice Sample should be carefully proofread for spelling, grammar, and clarity. Formats for the narrative and references need to be in accordance with APA style. Each of the two cases of the practice sample must be bound separately. Four copies of each case of the Practice Sample should be sent to the corresponding Secretary. The registration and fee of \$250 should be paid online at <http://www.abpp.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3361>.