

Oral Examination

The Oral Examination can be scheduled following acceptance of the practice samples. The notification letter of acceptance explains the necessary steps to register for the oral examination and includes the fee/registration form (with \$450 fee) which must be sent to the ABPP CO before the oral examination can be scheduled.

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.

Following the oral examination the examination team returns the practice materials to the candidates. The candidate is then dismissed and the team discusses the candidate's response and ratings to the examination and votes to confer or not confer certification. If the vote is negative the candidate may appeal the decision based upon procedural grounds only by notifying the Board within 30 days of his/her intent to appeal. The Board forwards appeal procedures to the candidate. If the vote is to confer certification, the certified specialist is notified of the pass by the ABPP Executive Officer immediately upon notification of the recommendation (via Fax) to Central Office from the Oral Examination Chair.