

APPLICATION THROUGH EXAMINATION PROCESS

Application forms can be obtained from the ABPP Central Office or the ABPP web site at www.abpp.org.

The completed application is reviewed by the ABPP Executive Officer for compliance with general doctoral degree and licensure/certification requirements, and the School Psychology Specialty Board for specific requirements of the specialty. Following favorable review and verification, the applicant becomes a Candidate for certification and moves to Stage II, or the practice sample stage of the process.

In Stage II, two practice samples and a professional statement are completed, with assistance from a mentor assigned by the American Academy of School Psychology if the candidate so desires. Practice samples are reviewed for appropriateness by the Specialty Board, and upon approval, the candidate moves to the oral examination stage. Candidates provide two practice samples that represent the nature and scope of their stated professional practice. The first sample must be a videotape of good quality in which elements of problem solving are applied with an individual, group or system through assessment; intervention; consultation; applied research; teaching and supervision; ethical/legal compliance; and professional development. Linkages between these elements should be evident. Examples of ethics/legal applications and professional development are expected in either this or the second sample. The second sample should illustrate dimensions of practice that differ from the first sample, in terms of competencies, procedures, problems and/or populations. The second sample may be presented by any means that provides recoverable documentation: video-, audio-recording, transcripts, case studies, etc. Practice involving assessment, counseling and psychotherapy, forensic work, consultation, supervision, or educational activities may serve as practice samples, providing they offer sufficient information to the examining committee. Senior candidates (15 or more years of practice post-licensure) have the option to substitute the videotape case oriented practice sample #1 with an additional practice sample such as a book, publication, program development, training program that represents solid contributions to the practice of School Psychology

At Stage III, the Examination Coordinator of the Specialty Board forms an examination committee of

three Board Certified Specialists in School Psychology and schedules the date and time of the oral examination. The oral examination explores the Professional Statement for evidence of the nature and scope of the candidate's pattern of practice, including the theoretical and empirical bases of that practice. The examining committee explores the description provided by the Candidate of ways in which the practice samples illustrate approaches, rationales, methods and issues. Candidates are expected to be familiar with professional issues currently impacting the profession and give evidence of involvement with continuing development and professional activities which maintain and enhance professional growth is expected. Candidates are provided with a written manual well before the practice samples and oral examination are scheduled.

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 SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

Additional information on the Senior Option and ABSP may be found at the ABSP Web site: TheABSP.org or the ABPP Web site at www.abpp.org

ABPP Central Office

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SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY



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

**American Board
Of
Professional Psychology
ABPP**

THE AMERICAN BOARD OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

The American Board of School Psychology (ABSP) is a member board of the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP). The ABPP oversees and authorizes the credentialing activities of thirteen specialty boards. The ABSP is responsible for establishing criteria related to the definition and requirements for education, training, competencies, and the examination, which leads to Board Certification in School Psychology. The ABSP is governed by a Board of six Directors who are certified in School Psychology and are representative of the specialty on a national basis.

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

School psychology is a general practice and health service provider specialty of professional psychology. School psychologists apply the science and practice of psychology to youth, families, learners of all ages, and the schooling process. School psychology practice promotes the protection and fosters the promotion of the educational and personal development of students. The practice of school psychology includes psychological and psycho-educational evaluation, individual/group/family intervention with students and parents, health promotion, consultation with educators and parents, program development and evaluation, and research. School psychologists intervene at the individual and system levels to develop, implement, and evaluate preventive programs. School psychologists practice in public and private schools, clinics and hospitals, forensic settings, universities and in independent practice.

CERTIFICATION IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

Board certification assures the public and the profession that the School Psychology Specialist has successfully completed the education, training, and experience requirements of the specialty, and through an examination has provided evidence of the competencies required to provide quality services in School Psychology. Specialties, by definition, are advanced levels of practice including doctoral and/or post-doctoral preparation with three or more years of qualifying experience.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

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

The applicant must have completed a one-year (or two-half-years) internship of at least 1500 hours. The internship is acceptable if approved by the APA/CPA, is listed in the National or Canadian NRs, CDSPP or has been a documented part of accredited professional psychology training program in School Psychology.

The specialty requires at least one year of supervised experience as a licensed/certified psychologist, preferably supervised by a school psychologist. In addition to the generic professional doctoral level curriculum criteria met by the above generic requirements, it is preferred that the applicant has completed an APA/CPA accredited program in School Psychology, and has additional coursework in developmental (or child) psychopathology, effective instructional practice, psycho-educational assessment, and school related consultation and program development.

Two letters of endorsement must be sent with the application from psychologists attesting to the applicant's practice as a School Psychologist and professional. An endorsement (s) from an ABPP Diplomate or APA Fellow is welcomed.

STANDARDS FOR BOARD CERTIFICATION

Board certification assures the public and the profession that the specialist in school 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 school psychology specialty are fundamental competencies and must reflect a base in the discipline of psychology and the practice of those competencies as a School Psychologist.

Science Base and Application

The science or discipline base of the specialty is the appropriate application of that base to the contemporary practice of school psychology, including the applicant's awareness of theory and research pertaining to issues of diversity e.g. ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, family cultural issues, and family populations.

Ethics and Legal Foundations

The awareness and appropriate exercise of ethical and legal standards. This includes the APA Ethical Principles, current statutory provisions, and case law precedents applicable for the protection of the interests of individuals, groups, organizations, the profession, and society.

Professional Identification

Meaningful involvement with the profession in general and the specialty in particular as evidenced through participation in professional organizations and activities, associated with the specialty.

Consultation and Supervision

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