

ORAL EXAMINATION

The three members of the Candidate's Examination Committee review the Practice Samples and determine whether or not the Candidate passes the Practice Sample phase of the examination process and can be scheduled for the Oral Examination. If the Candidate passes this step, the Chair of the exam team notifies ABPP Central Office and the Candidate (as well as the President of ABSP and Practice Samples Coordinator). At the time, the Candidate must send the Oral Examination fee to the ABPP Central Office before an examination date can be finalized.

SCHEDULING

ABSP schedules oral examinations as Candidates are ready. The Board typically tries to schedule more than one at a time without inordinately delaying the process for Candidates. When possible, exams are held in conjunction with meetings such as the CDSPP, NASP, or APA or other scheduled governance meetings to minimize travel expenses of examiners.

EXAMINATION SEQUENCE

To assure standardization of the examination process, the ABSP has established an **Oral Examination Sequence (see below)**. The general pace and sequence of topics provide guidelines to minimize the possibility that Candidates might receive differential treatment. The Oral Examination process is designed to be completed between three to four hours. It is a competency-based examination and the Examination Committee is expected to explicitly address each competency domain with the Candidate. Within each segment, there is room for variation according to the judgment of the examination committee. **Many topics will be inter-woven throughout the examination, and flexibility should be allowed if relevant to the discussion.** A topic may receive more cursory exploration in its scheduled time period if it has been sufficiently covered earlier. It often is useful to utilize hypothetical examples or situations to ascertain if the individual meets the criterion for passing each competency domain. The Oral Examination process should be collegial in nature.

The result is faxed to ABPP Central Office using **Form J**, or, if necessary **Form I** (failure). Again, **Form I** must include the ethics vignette(s) used, specific reasons for the failure, and positive aspects of the oral examination if applicable.

Sequence and Timeline for Oral Examination

Examiners are required to review the videotapes/DVDs And all the written materials <u>IN ADVANCE</u> .	Approximate Time allotted (min.)
Team Meets and Organizes	10
Team Greets Candidate – Each team members introduces self, time frame is explained, and the nature of the exam as collegial and as competency-based is highlighted.	10
Examination on Curriculum Vitae, Professional Statement and Practice Samples is conducted, explicitly covering each of the competency domains: science base and application, assessment, intervention, consultation, and supervision/teaching/management (the latter if applicable)).	90-120
BREAK – THE CANDIDATE SHOULD NOT BE ASKED TO DO ANY WORK DURING THIS TIME	10
Examination explicitly addresses each of the following competency domains: Interpersonal Interactions, Individual and Cultural Diversity, Ethics and Legal Foundations, and Professional Identification The examination on Ethics and Legal Foundations must include: (a) 10 minutes for the Candidate to review the first selected ethical vignette and to discuss the Candidate’s responses to the ethical vignette provided by the Examination Team (b) 10 minutes for the Candidate to review the second selected ethical vignette and to discuss the Candidate’s responses. (c) exploration of the ethical vignette provided by the Candidate in the Professional Statement (d) confirmation that no ethical or legal action has been taken against the Candidate since submission of Practice Sample Specific questions (including hypothetical case examples) are posed to address areas of individual and cultural diversity, interpersonal interactions and professional identification.	45-60
Exam Wrap-up and Discussion – Candidate is asked if he or she would like to provide more information about any competency domain(s) and asked for feedback about the examination process. The Candidate is encouraged to complete the feedback form and is informed that notification regarding the outcome of the examination will be given by the CO in a timely fashion. Practice Samples are returned to the Candidate who is then reminded that CE credits will be provided if he or she passes the examination.	5
Team Votes, Completes Forms, and Writes Report if necessary	10-25
Note: Time allotments are guidelines to be followed reasonably closely. Significant variations from the exam format or schedule must be by mutual agreement between Candidate and Chair and documented in a written statement describing the variations and stipulating that they shall NOT serve as grounds for the appeal of a failed examination.	

Both the Candidate and Chair will sign the statement.

ETHICS VIGNETTES

A file of prepared vignettes is maintained for standardization of the Ethics segment of the Oral Examination. Usually two vignettes are selected for the Candidate to discuss. When possible, it is suggested that vignettes be chosen that relate to the Candidate's Professional Practice (based on the Professional Statement, CV, Samples). Otherwise, they may be selected on a random basis. Three copies, with points to be addressed, are sent to the Examination Committee Chair to be distributed to Committee members, and one, without important points, is to be given to the Candidate.

During the Ethics segment of the Oral Examination, the Examining Committee does not necessarily expect a "right" answer, but anticipates that the Candidate will present relevant options and demonstrate the ability to thoughtfully weigh them in the light of the APA ethics principles, professional practice standards, and relevant statutes. The Candidate has also submitted, in the Professional Statement, a non-identifying ethics quandary from his/her own professional experience and will discuss this vignette in the same manner.

No outside materials may be used to aid the Candidate during this section of the Oral Examination.

At the conclusion of the Oral Examination, all copies of the Ethics vignettes are collected by the Chair and destroyed. The use of each vignette will be tracked so that in the case of a Candidate's failure, a new vignette will be used for re-examination.

Examiners and Candidates will treat the vignettes as confidential.

Candidates are notified of the Oral Examination outcome within one week of taking the examination. If they pass, they can immediately use the title of Board Certified School Psychologist. They are encouraged to participate in activities associated with the ABSP Examination process and American Academy of School Psychology (AASP) projects.