

The ABOBCP Examination

The ABOBCP Examination, typically held twice a year, is designed to reflect and implement the policies and procedures of ABPP and this specialty. Following admission to candidacy and submission of appropriate practice sample(s), ABOBCP appoints an examination committee. The committee consists of three or more Diplomates; at least one of who shares an orientation, approach, and experience in professional practice similar to that of the candidate. The Chair of the committee is an experienced senior examiner. The structure and content of the exam is as follows:

1. **Review of practice sample.** A detailed discussion of the candidate's practice sample will be conducted. With the possible exception of "senior" candidates, questions will cover identification and formulation of the problem, assessment of the situation, design and implementation of data collection or other relevant procedures, analysis and interpretation of information, formulation of conclusions or recommendations, the intervention or action taken, evaluation of results and/or other follow-up activities, and awareness and handling of relevant ethical, professional, or legal issues.
2. **Content examination.** Prior to the examination, the candidate will have indicated his/her choice of at least three areas (2 for senior option) from the seven Specialty Specific Requirements. These areas, noted (pp 3-4, a-g) on a separate form submitted with the practice sample, will then comprise the science base and content domain for the examination. The candidate may be questioned on any of these topic areas; they will not necessarily all be represented or represented equally.
3. **Ethical issues.** The examination will cover the candidate's familiarity with relevant codified ethical principals (e.g., APA), legal standards and their applicability to professional specialty practice. This will be assessed, in part, by an evaluation of the candidate's responses to two or more ethical case vignettes presented during the examination. Competence in this realm will also be assessed, in part, by the candidate's presentation of the ethical implications, if any, of the practice sample.
4. **Final assessment of the candidate.** The committee will discuss the candidate's general and specialty specific professional identification, and where appropriate, competency in consultation and supervision. After completion of the entire examination, the candidate will be evaluated independently by each of the examiners on the extent to which he or she demonstrates advanced competency in this specialty. A final determination of pass/no pass will be made by a majority vote of the examiners.

Notification of award of the diploma. Each candidate will receive formal notification of the Board's judgment within 30 days of the examination. Unsuccessful candidates may request a second examination within one year. A completely new committee will be

formed and an additional \$450 examination fee charged. If the examination has been twice taken unsuccessfully, the candidate must wait three years before reapplying for a third and final examination. Evidence of continuing education in the candidate's area of practice may be required before the third examination can be scheduled.

Annual Fees

Candidates who pass the examination are Board certified in their specialty. They will be required to pay an annual fee until they have retired from all practice of psychology. Fees are currently set at \$165 per year; \$35 for retired Diplomates.