The American Board of Counseling Psychology (ABCOP)
is one of the original specialties recognized in 1947 when the American
Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) was founded. The ABCOP is
responsible for establishing criteria related to the definition, education,
training, competencies, and examination leading to certification as a
specialist in Counseling Psychology. The ABCOP is governed by a board
composed of members certified in Counseling Psychology who represent
the specialty on a national basis.

Counseling Psychology
A Counseling Psychologist facilitates personal and interpersonal
functioning across the life span with a focus on individual, group, and
community interventions for emotional, behavioral, vocational, and
mental health problems using preventative, developmental, and remedial
approaches, and in the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of psycho-
pathology. Counseling Psychologists participate in a range of activities
including psychotherapy, assessment, teaching, research, supervision,
career development, and consultation. They employ a variety of meth-
ods closely tied to theory and research to help individuals, groups and
organizations to function optimally as well as to remediate dysfunction.
A Counseling Psychologist is mindful of diversity and multiculturalism
and recognizes the contribution of such broad factors as race, ethnic-
ity, language, sexual orientation, gender, age, disability, class, education,
religion/spiritual orientation, and other cultural dimensions to the
formulation of the personality and social and mental health problems. A
Counseling Psychologist is also aware of issues resulting from physical
and mental health concerns.

Certification in Counseling Psychology
Specialties, by definition, are advanced levels of practice including doc-
toral and post-doctoral preparation. Board certification assures the public
and profession that a Counseling Psychologist has met the educational,
training, competencies, and examination leading to certification as a
specialist in Counseling Psychology. The certification process encompasses the following inter-
related domains of professional competency.

Requirements for Board Certification
Board certification assures the public and the profession that a specialist
in Counseling Psychology has met the educational, training and
experience requirements, and has demonstrated advanced competen-
cies required by the specialty through an individualized, peer reviewed
examination. The certification process encompasses the following inter-
related domains of professional competency.

Theory, Research and Practice
A competence-based practice relies on the appropriate application of
therapy and research in order to warrant effective and efficacious out-
comes. Included in the competent contemporary practice of Counseling
Psychology is an awareness of theory, research and practice pertaining
to issues of diversity, e.g. ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, family,
cultural issues, family populations, and disability.

Assessment and Intervention
The assessment and intervention competencies related to the practice
of the specialty of Counseling Psychology are fundamental aspects of
the certification. A sample of the candidate's practice is submitted and
reviewed together with the candidate's pattern of practice through his/her
professional statement. This constitutes the practice sample.

Consultation and Supervision
Demonstrate the ability to communicate and apply knowledge of consul-
tation, program evaluation and/or supervision with others.

Individual and Cultural Diversity
Demonstrates awareness of all aspects of individual and cultural diversity.

Ethics and Legal Foundations
The awareness and appropriate exercise of ethical and legal standards in-
cludes the APA Ethical Principles for Psychologists and Code of Conduct
and current statutory provisions and case law precedents applicable for
the protection of the interests of diverse individuals, groups, organiza-
tions, the profession, and society.

Interpersonal Interactions
Demonstrates sensitivity to the welfare, rights, and dignity of others,
as well as an ability to relate to clients/patients and others in ways that
enhance the effectiveness of services provided

Professional Identification
Candidates are expected to demonstrate meaningful involvement with
the profession in general and the specialty in particular.

Fees
$125 fee for application and credential review to establish candidacy.
$250 fee for the practice sample review and establishment of the oral
examination team.
$450 for the oral examination.

These fees are due sequentially over the time span necessary to com-
plete all of the candidacy and examination steps. Upon granting Board
certification a yearly fee of $185 is assessed to support the many services
of the ABPP and the representation of the organization to the public and
the profession.