

clinical psychology defined:

The American Board of Clinical Psychology (ABCP) is a member board of the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP). The ABPP oversees the standards and operations of its member boards.

The ABCP is responsible for establishing criteria related to the definition, education, training, competencies, and the examination leading to certification as a specialist in Clinical Psychology. The ABCP is governed by members who are board certified in clinical psychology and representative of the specialty on a national basis.

Clinical Psychology

Clinical Psychology is both a general practice and a health service provider specialty in professional psychology. Clinical Psychologists provide professional services related to the diagnosis, assessment, evaluation, treatment, and prevention of psychological, emotional, psychophysiological, and behavioral disorders in individuals across the life-span.

In addition to the generic requirements for board certification, the Clinical Psychology specialty requires completion of an organized doctoral education and training program in Clinical Psychology, including an internship. The specialty also requires postdoctoral supervised practice and experience in the specialty.

Certification in Clinical Psychology

Board certification assures the public and profession that the Clinical Specialist has successfully completed the education, training, and experience requirements of the specialty including a peer-reviewed, performance-based examination designed to assess the competencies required to provide quality services in Clinical Psychology.

Specialty level standing is understood as higher than the basic level of competence certified by state licensure.

Requirements for Board Certification

The applicant must demonstrate competence in the following interrelated foundational and functional areas.

Relationships

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.

Individual and Cultural Diversity

Demonstrates awareness of all aspects of individual and cultural diversity

Ethical and Legal Standards/Policy

Conveys an awareness of current ethical principles, practice standards, statutory and regulatory provisions, and the implications of these.

Professionalism

Demonstrates professional values, attitudes, and behaviors that adhere to professional standards.

Reflective Practice/Self- Assessment/Self-Care

Practices ongoing self-reflection and routine assessment of clinical practice. Practices with self-awareness and engages in appropriate self-care.

Science, Knowledge, and Methods

Conversant with scientific developments and applies them to professional practice.

Interdisciplinary Systems

Possesses an understanding of key interactions with other agencies, settings, disciplines, and professionals.

Evidence-Based Practice

Demonstrates a capacity to integrate current research literatures into clinical practice.

Assessment/Diagnosis/ Conceptualization

Demonstrates case-conceptualizations and conducts diagnostic assessments that are grounded in science-based theory, research and practice.

Intervention

Demonstrates case-conceptualizations and conducts diagnostic assessments that are grounded in science-based theory, research and practice.

Consultation

Demonstrates case-conceptualizations and conducts diagnostic assessments that are grounded in science-based theory, research and practice.

Research and/or Evaluation (if applicable)

Makes scholarly contributions that inform the practice of clinical psychology.

Supervision (if applicable)

Demonstrates the ability to communicate and apply his/her knowledge in supervision with others.

Teaching (if applicable)

Demonstrates the capacity to effectively provide instruction to others.

Management/Administration (if applicable)

Demonstrates an ability to effectively carry out management and administrative activities.

Advocacy (if applicable)

Engages in systemic advocacy designed to impact policy, law, and public reform activities.

"My motivation to seek board certification was to prepare myself for continued practice. Psychologists tend to enjoy lengthy professional lives and, I'm no different. I would like to remain engaged in some professional endeavors for at least another two decades. In order to remain professionally viable, it's important to not only continue the learning process but, to highlight my knowledge and skills in a manner that is respected by my peers and, meaningful to consumers. Board certification signifies that I have attained an advanced level of clinical accomplishment."

-Katherine Jones, PhD, ABPP

ABPP Central Office

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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 complete 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.

