



An Informative Look at ASPPB for
Students, Licensure Applicants
and Licensed Psychologists



Association of State & Provincial Psychology Boards

*The foremost authority in regulation
and credentialing of psychologists*



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What is ASPPB?

What is the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards?

An Informative Look at ASPPB

The Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) is the alliance of state, provincial, and territorial agencies responsible for the licensure and certification of psychologists throughout the United States and Canada. ASPPB was formed in 1961 to serve psychology boards in the two countries. Much of the impetus for its founding related to mobility for practitioners. By consensus, the first step was to create and maintain a standardized written Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP). ASPPB has done so since 1965. Currently, the psychology boards of all fifty states of the United States, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam and all ten provinces of Canada are members of ASPPB. ASPPB maintains a roster of contact information for member boards on its website.

The affairs, business, government, and management of ASPPB is vested in its seven member Board of Directors, which includes a president, past-president, president-elect, secretary/treasurer, and three members-at-large. The ASPPB Central Office is located in Peachtree City, Georgia. The Central Office facilitates the day-to-day activities of ASPPB, the Board of Directors, and the various committees and task forces.

ASPPB creates and maintains the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP). The EPPP is used by 61 agencies in assessing entry-level knowledge to practice. ASPPB has an ongoing research and development program to ensure that the EPPP is valid and legally defensible. Through its EPPP Score Transfer Service, ASPPB provides individuals the ability to report their EPPP score to states and provinces in addition to those where they were initially licensed. The score report is coupled with a disciplinary data check on the transferee. ASPPB provides this service in an effort not only to serve its member boards, but also to protect consumers of psychological services.

Professional mobility is a critical issue for psychologists, employers, and licensing boards. However, licensing procedures frequently conflict with the professional psychologist's need to move quickly and easily from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. ASPPB works to facilitate mobility through four methods: 1) the Certificate of Professional Qualification in Psychology (CPQ); 2) the ASPPB Agreement of Reciprocity (AOR); 3) the ASPPB Credentials Bank, and 4) the Interjurisdictional Practice Certificate (IPC).



**From the Desk of
ASPPB Executive Officer,
Stephen T. DeMers, Ed.D.**

On behalf of the Board of Directors and our staff, it is with much pleasure that I invite you to learn more about the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB). I encourage you to take a moment to review the information in this brochure and also visit our website for a more comprehensive view of ASPPB.

Please feel free to provide any feedback related to this brochure and our website by emailing us at asppb@asppb.org.

Again, welcome to ASPPB. We look forward to working with you.



Mission, Values, Vision

ASPPB Mission Statement

To enhance services and support its member jurisdictions in fulfilling their goal of advancing public protection by:

1. offering exemplary examination and credentialing programs;
2. providing state of the art programs and services to all our stakeholders;
3. serving as the source for the most current and accurate information about the regulation of psychologists; and
4. contributing to the critical consumer protection perspective in the on-going development of the profession.

ASPPB Values Statement:

ASPPB is committed to:

- Quality
- Respect
- Responsiveness
- Accountability
- Transparency

ASPPB Vision Statement:

ASPPB is the foremost authority in regulation and credentialing of psychologists.



Psychology Overview

The Practice of Psychology is *"The observation, description, evaluation, interpretation, prediction and modification of human behavior by the application of psychological principles, methods, and procedures, for the purpose of:*

1. preventing, eliminating, evaluating, assessing or predicting symptomatic, maladaptive, or undesired behavior;
2. evaluating, assessing and/or facilitating the enhancement of individual, group and/or organizational effectiveness--including personal effectiveness, adaptive behavior, interpersonal relationships, work and life adjustment, health, and individual, group and/or organizational performance; or
3. assisting in legal decision-making.

The practice of psychology includes, but is not limited to,

1. psychological testing and the evaluation or assessment of personal characteristics, such as intelligence, personality, cognitive, physical, and/or emotional abilities, skills; interests; aptitudes; and neuropsychological functioning;
2. counseling, consultation, psychoanalysis, psychotherapy, hypnosis, biofeedback, and behavior analysis and therapy;
3. diagnosis, treatment, and management of mental and emotional disorder or disability, substance use disorders, disorders of habit or conduct, as well as of the psychological aspects of physical illness, accident, injury, or disability;
4. psychoeducational evaluation, therapy, and remediation;
5. consultation with other psychologists, physicians, other health care professionals and patients regarding all available treatment options, including medication, with respect to provision of care for a specific client or patient;
6. provision of direct services to individuals and/or groups for the purpose of enhancing individual and thereby organizational procedures to assess and evaluate individuals on personal characteristics for individual development and/or behavior change or for making decisions about the individual, such as selection; AND
7. the supervision of any of the above.

Psychological services may be rendered to individuals, families, groups, systems, and/or organizations. The practice of psychology shall be construed within the meaning of this definition without regard to whether payment is received for services rendered or if the practice was conducted in person or via electronic means.

Obtaining a License

The Purpose of Licensure or Certification

The practice of professional psychology is regulated by law in 50 states of the U.S., the territories of Guam, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia, and in 10 provinces of Canada. The laws are intended to protect the public by limiting licensure to persons who are qualified to practice psychology as defined by state or provincial law. The legal basis for licensure lies in the right of a jurisdiction to enact legislation to protect its citizens. The concept of

caveat emptor, or buyer beware, is considered an unsound maxim when the consumer of services cannot be sufficiently informed to beware. Hence, jurisdictions have established regulatory boards to license qualified practitioners.

As a state or provincial agency, a psychology board acts to protect the public rather than serve the profession. However, by ensuring high standards for those who practice, the board serves the best interests of both the

public and the profession. The major functions of a professional regulatory agency are: 1) to determine standards for admission into the profession and to administer appropriate procedures for selection and examination, and 2) to regulate practice and to conduct disciplinary proceedings involving violations of standards of professional conduct embodied in the law and regulations of the board.

A practitioner who offers psychological services to the public must be licensed. There are exemptions from licensure requirements that vary across jurisdictions; for example, those who practice psychology in a state or federal institution or agency, in a college or university, or in a research laboratory may be exempt from licensure in some jurisdictions. However, the trend is toward requiring licensure of government agency employees to ensure the same level of protection for consumers of services in both the public and private sectors.



Requirements

Requirements to Practice Psychology: Typical Requirements to Become a Licensed or Registered Psychologist in the United States & Canada

To practice psychology in a state, province or territory of the U.S. or Canada, an individual must be licensed or registered as a psychologist according to the laws and regulations in effect in that particular state, province or territory. The legal basis for licensure lies in the right of a state, province or territory to enact legislation to protect its citizens - in this case to identify qualified psychologists and to discipline or remove from practice incompetent or unethical psychologists. Licensure as a psychologist generally involves meeting requirements in three areas: education, examination(s), and supervised experience.

Education

Licensure for the independent practice of psychology requires a doctoral degree in psychology in most states, provinces, and territories of the U.S. and Canada. About half the states, provinces and territories also have a category of licensure for the practice of psychology under the supervision of a doctoral level licensed psychologist, often called Psychological Associate, which usually requires at least a master's degree in psychology. Degrees must be obtained from programs that meet specific criteria, such as regional accreditation and certain course work requirements, set out in laws and regulations.

Examinations

Sixty states, provinces and territories in the U.S. and Canada require licensure applicants to pass the multiple-choice examination known as the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology, or EPPP. An individual must be an applicant for licensure to take the EPPP. Many jurisdictions require a jurisprudence and/or oral examination in addition to the EPPP.

Supervised Experience

Psychology licensure requires supervised experience, in the majority of jurisdictions, one year during the doctoral program (internship in most cases) and another year after receipt of the doctoral degree ("postdoc"). Most states, provinces and territories have specific criteria that must be met for supervised experience to qualify.



EPPP

Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP)

The Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP), developed and owned by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards, is provided to state and provincial boards of psychology to assist them in their evaluation of the qualifications of applicants for licensure and certification. This standardized examination is constructed by ASPPB with the assistance of the Professional Examination Service (PES). The EPPP is administered continuously in computerized delivery format through the Prometric network of computer testing centers, with the support of state and provincial boards acting collectively through ASPPB. Prometric maintains a network of more than 320 Prometric Test Centers (PTCs) in the United States and Canada in order to provide access to computer-based testing (CBT) for customers.

The Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) is administered continuously at a network of more than 320 testing centers in the U.S. and Canada. The examination consists of 225 multiple-choice questions, of which 175 are scored and 50 are pretest items that are not scored. The examination covers eight content areas: biological bases of behavior; cognitive-affective bases of behavior; social and multicultural bases of behavior; growth and lifespan development; assessment and diagnosis; treatment, intervention, prevention, and supervision; research methods and statistics; and ethical/legal/professional issues.



EPPP

Applying to Take the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP)

The individual seeking licensure applies first to his or her jurisdictional licensing authority to sit for the examination. Individuals seeking licensure must apply directly to the licensing/certifying authority in an ASPPB member jurisdiction to sit for the examination. Once the licensing authority determines the applicant's eligibility to sit for the examination, the candidate is informed via mail or email on how to proceed with taking the EPPP.

ASPPB Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) Preparatory Materials

- **Information for Candidates Brochure** is intended for those individuals who are preparing to take the Examination for Professional Practice of Psychology (EPPP). It contains details about applying and taking the EPPP, scoring, receiving examination results, test specifications / summary of EPPP content areas, sample questions, and more. It is downloadable at no charge at www.asppb.net/InfoForCandidates. The brochure is also available in French/Français.



EPPP

- **ASPPB EPPP Practice Exams** consist of two different computer-delivered practice tests for the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP): the **Practice Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (PEPPP)** (delivered at Prometric centers) and the **Practice Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology Online (PEPPPO)** (delivered at any location with a computer and internet connection) were developed by ASPPB and are comprised of questions that appeared on recent forms of the EPPP. Candidates receive immediate feedback on their performance upon completion of the practice exams, including an overall scaled score, and a separate percent score for each domain. This will give candidates an indication of where they might want to concentrate some of their remaining study time.



ASPPB Mobility Program

The ASPPB Mobility Program was established to facilitate professional mobility of licensed psychologists through the recognition by ASPPB member boards of professional psychology licenses duly issued by other ASPPB member boards.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES DESCRIPTIONS

The ASPPB Credentials Bank: A Credentials Verification and Storage Program is a service whereby students, trainees, and licensed psychology practitioners may deposit information about their educational preparation, supervised experience, examination performance and work history. Information in such a record is electronically stored, primary source verified, maintained by ASPPB and then forwarded to member boards or other credentialing bodies upon request by the individual opening the credentials record.

Certificate of Professional Qualification in Psychology (CPQ) is a means by which an individual doctoral level licensed psychologist can easily demonstrate to a psychology board that he or she has met ASPPB recommended standards for licensure which include specific educational, supervised experience, and EPPP performance requirements.

Interjurisdictional Practice Certificate (IPC) promotes standardization in criteria for short-term practice and interjurisdictional mobility by facilitating the process for licensed psychologists to provide short-term psychological services across jurisdictional lines without obtaining an additional license. The IPC also provides more consistent regulation of interjurisdictional practice and allows consumers of psychological services to benefit from regulated interjurisdictional practice.



ASPPB Mobility Program



The ASPPB Agreement of Reciprocity (AOR) is a cooperative agreement between ASPPB member jurisdictions whereby any individual holding a license in one AOR member jurisdiction for a minimum of five (5) years can be licensed in another participating jurisdiction without further demonstration of educational or experience credentials. Entrance into the ASPPB AOR is dependent on a state, province, or territory demonstrating that their requirements for licensure meet the standards required by other participating jurisdictions.

EPPP Score Transfer Service maintains a permanent record of EPPP scores and, at a candidate's request, the service will report the candidate's EPPP score to the licensing board of another state or province in which the candidate seeks licensure or certification. The EPPP score report will also include a review of ASPPB's Disciplinary Data System to determine if a disciplinary sanction imposed on the candidate's license has been reported by a psychology licensing board.

Closed Training Program Verification Service maintains the records of psychology training programs that have closed. ASPPB has agreed to be the agent of record for these programs upon the programs request and maintains and verifies the training program records.



ASPPB Resources

ASPPB acts as a voice for those responsible for the regulation of the practice of psychology. ASPPB has drafted a Model Act, Model Regulations, a Code of Conduct, and guidelines for the use and/or adoption by state and provincial psychology boards. ASPPB also generates a number of publications to aid psychology students in preparing for licensure, as well as publications for practitioners. Several of ASPPB's publications have proven to be of great interest to individuals preparing to practice psychology, to licensed psychologists, and to academic and private institutions.

Resources

ASPPB Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) Preparatory Materials

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ASPPB Examination for Professional Practice of Psychology (EPPP) Validity Studies

- **Practice Analysis Report:** This comprehensive analysis of the practice of psychology in the United States and Canada was completed in 2010. It serves as the foundation for the test specifications for the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP). Its data may prove useful in the development of curricula and the structuring of credentialing programs. It also provides information to help practitioners modify their competency through continuing education programs. Results of the study are available at ASPPB.net in an Executive Summary and a Complete Practice Analysis Report. Previous validity studies are also available at ASPPB.net.
- **Psychology Licensing Exam Scores by Doctoral Program:** This publication contains self-report information on EPPP candidates who tested over the past five years and includes pass rate data. Only doctoral programs that are APA/CPA accredited or have met ASPPB/National Register Joint Designation criteria are listed individually by name in the table. Data for individual programs are shown only when there are 3 or more graduates in the five-year period. The pass rates included are based on the ASPPB



ASPPB Resources

recommended passing score of 500 for independent practice. Although each board sets the standard for passing in its respective state or province, at the present time the majority of jurisdictions using the EPPP accepts the ASPPB recommended passing score for independent practice.

ASPPB Model Publications

- **ASPPB Code of Conduct** is a set of suggested guidelines that jurisdictions may adopt or incorporate to govern the professional conduct of licensees. It is an interesting document that would be useful in courses on ethics and professional practice.
- **ASPPB Model Act for Licensure of Psychologists** features a licensure act template, which psychology boards may find useful when drafting their governing laws/regulations. This publication includes language regarding continuing education requirements, interjurisdictional practice, health service providers and numerous other regulatory issues.
- **ASPPB Model Regulations for Licensure of Psychologists** features a licensure regulation template, which psychology boards may find useful when drafting their rules/regulations.

Licensure and Practice Issues

- **Specific Licensure Requirements by State/Province/Territory (Handbook)** provides an overview of the psychology licensure requirements for the ASPPB Member Jurisdictions.

Contact Us

Please contact our office to learn more about the resources and services offered by ASPPB

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Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards

For more information about ASPPB services,
Visit www.asppb.net or call 800-448-4069