

# our boards { structure:

Board certification by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) provides peer and public recognition of demonstrated competence in an approved specialty area in professional psychology. In addition, ABPP board certification provides the professional with increased opportunities for career growth, including employability, mobility, and financial compensation.

ABPP was incorporated in 1947 with the support of the American Psychological Association. ABPP is a unitary governing body of member specialty examining boards which assures the establishment, implementation, and maintenance of specialty standards and examinations by its member boards.

ABPP adheres to the following criteria for the structure and purpose of an organization certifying specialists in professional psychology:

## **Purpose:**

The organization should have as its primary purpose the evaluation of specialists in professional psychology who voluntarily submit for candidacy and examination, and to certify those who qualify. The organization assures the public that the specialists it certifies have completed the education, training, experience, and professional standing required by the specialty, including an examination designed to assess the competencies required to provide quality services in that specialty.

## **The specialty certifying body should:**

- be national in scope, appropriately incorporating standards of the profession and collaborating closely with organizations related to specialization in psychology.
- have Bylaws, Operating Agreements, or similar organization structure documents, which require it to be subject to the policies, procedures, and financial conditions of the American Board of Professional Psychology, Inc., which requires that all funds be submitted to the American Board of Professional Psychology for allocation and distribution through the Board of Trustees.
- develop and implement examinations designed to assess the competencies required to provide quality services in the specialties it certifies.
- not be a governmental, membership, advocacy, or accrediting body.
- have organizational and financial stability with professional and office support staff.
- be governed by a single, national in scope, not for profit corporation comprised of a certified specialist Trustee (Board Member) from each of its multiple, Member Specialty Boards as well as public member representation. The multiple board structure provides a continuing peer review of the organization's activities. The governing board has formal procedures for the selection and tenure of Trustees.

## **Cognitive and Behavioral Psychology**

Applied behavior analysis, cognitive behavior therapy, and cognitive therapy.

## **Clinical Psychology**

Assessment and treatment of mental, physical, emotional, and behavioral disorders.

## **Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology**

Assessment and treatment of mental, physical, emotional, and behavioral disorders limited to children and adolescents.

## **Clinical Health Psychology**

The science and practice of psychology related to health, including the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of illness.

## **Clinical Neuropsychology**

Evaluation of brain behavior relationships and treatment of cognitive and psychological reactions to known or suspected impairment in the central nervous system.

## **Counseling Psychology**

Individual, group, and community intervention for emotional, behavioral, vocational, and mental health problems using preventive, developmental, and remedial approaches, and the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of behavioral disorders.

## **Couple and Family Psychology**

Intervention and assessment in Family Psychology embracing the total family system including individuals, couples, families, and the intergenerational system.

## **Forensic Psychology**

The practice of psychology as related to law and the legal system.

## **Group Psychology**

Application of general psychological and specific group principles to change, modify or adapt individual behavior as well as patterning or modifying the behavior of groups.

## **Psychoanalysis in Psychology**

A body of knowledge, a research method, and a treatment technique based on description of organized, unconscious, dynamic mental processes to aid in understanding emotions, attitudes, and belief systems to facilitate more satisfying, secure, and productive living.

## **Rehabilitation Psychology**

Assists the individual with an injury or illness to achieve optimal physical, psychological, and interpersonal functioning.

## **School Psychology**

The facilitation of learning and the promotion of mental health in schools and educational settings.

## **Organizational and Business Consulting Psychology**

Application of psychological practice and research to organizations and business environments.

(what's)the big idea(?):

# get certified

The **clearest** and **most responsible** way for a psychologist to represent herself/himself to the public, third-parties, and the profession as a specialist is to be certified through an organized peer process as meeting the standards and demonstrating the competencies required in the specialty. ABPP is the only non-profit professional unitary organization with multiple specialty board quality controls recognized by the profession as certifying specialty practitioners in psychology.



## 1 apply

initiate an application for ABPP board certification by submitting the materials to the central office

## 2 generic credentials review

the ABPP central office ensures that you have met all the generic criteria and have the appropriate licensure for certification

## 3 specialty credentials review

the application is sent to the appropriate specialty board to ensure that your credentials meet all the specialty-specific criteria for your chosen specialty

## 4 practice samples

submit practice samples representative of your work and competency

\*please note that the forensic and clinical neuropsychology boards require a written exam at this point

## 5 oral exam

sit for an oral exam with examiners in your chosen specialty

## 6 get certified

join the ranks of many of your colleagues as board certified through ABPP, and display your diploma with pride

many settings provide for salary increases and advancement if ABPP certified

### checklist basics:

- a doctoral degree from an APA/CPA accredited or ASBPP/NR designated program
- licensure as a psychologist at the independent doctoral level
- APA/CPA accredited internship

## core competencies in psychology

### functional:

assessment  
intervention  
consultation  
science base & application  
supervision / teaching / management

### foundational:

interpersonal interactions  
individual and cultural diversity  
ethics and legal foundations  
professional identification