As a Board Certified Specialist in Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology You Can Attain

• National recognition
• Distinction in the field
• Enhanced collegiality
• Increased visibility

For more information and how to apply, visit www.abpp.org and click on Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology under Member Specialty Boards

Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology Examination: What Happens in an Exam?

Length: 3½ hours

Three Parts:

1 hour: (a) Short introductions about examiners and exam format; (b) Candidates can be asked questions on submitted written materials and application, practice sample, case history (or materials from senior applicants), CV, why they want to become board certified.

1 hour (two parts): (a) In vivo supervision of actual clinical case by grad student/intern; and (b) Discussion of supervision process with candidate.

1 hour: 2 standardized vignettes, 1 involves ethical issues and 1 diversity issues; other professional issues (e.g., pressing issues and challenges for the field of psychology).

Where: Preferred at annual conventions (i.e., APA, ABCT); other locations, if an exam committee can be arranged. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual exams will be an alternative to face-to-face exams.

Committee Composition? 3 examiners usually from the Behavioral & Cognitive Specialty Board

When Do Candidates Learn About Their Results? (a) After the exam committee votes the Chair emails the committee's decision to ABPP Central Office staff who notifies the candidate within a few days; (b) Candidates are asked to complete a short survey about the exam process; and (c) Candidates who pass get 40 CE credits.

ABPP in Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology

A “WIDELY RESPECTED” SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION (Rosen et al., 2020)
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How do I know if I am qualified?
If you received specialty training in behavioral and cognitive psychology, conceptualize your clinical work, and hold a primary identity as a psychologist with expertise in using behavioral and cognitive psychology, you likely qualify to apply for board certification. Refer to the application instructions to see if you hold the minimal credentials to apply.

2. What will I gain from becoming credentialed by the American Board of Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology?
In your clinical work you will be able to educate consumers that you have advanced training in using behavioral and cognitive psychology, which can be reassuring since it is difficult for consumers to determine who is an expert in treating health and mental health issues. In addition, psychologists recognize the ABPP as a sign of excellence and are likely to refer to you.

The specialty of Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology emphasizes an experimental-clinical approach to the application of the behavioral and cognitive sciences to the understanding of human behavior and developing interventions that enhance health and well-being. Behavioral and cognitive psychologists engage in research, education, training, and clinical practice with a wide range of problems and populations.

As professions become increasingly specialized, you can achieve specialty standing and become among those in the field to be nationally recognized for your experience, expertise, research, and education as a Board Certified Specialist in Behavioral and Cognitive Psychology.

BENEFITS OF ABPP CERTIFICATION IN BEHAVIORAL AND COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

• It is the “gold standard” of professional practice across disciplines
• Provides for potential increased financial and professional recognition
• Provides a clear recognition that psychology has become increasingly specialized
• Addresses the increased demand for specialty credentials
• Reflects a higher standard of expertise over basic licensure or licensure at the generalist level
• Earn 40 CE credits from the ABPP once board certification is complete
• Board Certification is recognized in the APA Membership directory and the National Register of Health Service Psychologists
• Board certification facilitates license mobility
• Many hospitals now require psychologists to have ABPP within five years of hire.