

# clinical child & adolescent psychology defined:



## The American Board of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology (ABCCAP)

Psychology (ABCCAP) is a member board of the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP). The latter board oversees the standards and operations of its member boards. The ABCCAP is responsible for establishing criteria related to the definition, education, training, competencies, and the examination leading to certification as a specialist in Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology. The American Board of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology is governed by members who are board certified in clinical child and adolescent psychology and representative of the specialty on a national basis.

## Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology

Clinical child and adolescent psychology is a practice specialty in psychology. Clinical child and adolescent psychologists provide professional services related to the diagnosis, assessment, evaluation, and treatment of psychological, emotional, and psycho physiological, psychiatric, and behavioral disorders. Clinical child and adolescent psychologists are sensitive to developmental, contextual, and pediatric psychology factors which influence children's behavior. In addition, other services provided by clinical child and adolescent psychologists include consultation, program development and evaluation, and teaching and research.

## Certification in Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology

Specialties, by definition, are advanced levels of practice of doctorally-trained individuals whose competencies are discriminately higher than the basic level of competence certified by state licensure. Board certification assures the public and profession that the clinical child and adolescent psychologist specialist has successfully completed the education, training, and experience requirements of the specialty, including an examination designed to assess the competencies required to provide quality services in clinical child and adolescent psychology.

## Requirements for Board Certification

Board certification assures the public and the profession that the specialist in clinical child and adolescent psychology has met the education, training and experience requirements, as well as demonstrating the advanced competencies required by the specialty through an individualized, peer reviewed examination. The examination encompasses the following interrelated domains of professional competency.

## Assessment and Intervention

Knowledge and skills in these competencies are fundamental to the practice of clinical child and adolescent psychology. Among others, the ability to choose procedures appropriate for assessing the client's needs is essential, as is the ability to select intervention procedures appropriate for the client and apply these at a level of a board certified specialist.

## Individual and Cultural Diversity.

awareness of, sensitivity to, and responsiveness to individual and cultural diversity across areas of practice.

## Interpersonal Competency Relationships

A self-awareness to relate in ways that enhance the effectiveness of services is essential. In addition, sensitivity to the welfare, rights, and dignity of all clients is critical for a clinical child and adolescent psychologist.

## Science Base and Application

Producing or consuming scientific theory and knowledge relevant to areas of professional practice. Evidence for empirical bases of practice.

## Ethical and Legal Application

Demonstrated knowledge of and effective application of ethical principles, professional practice standards, and legal standards in clinical practice.

## Commitment to and Involvement in Psychology

Professional identification and the ability to actively participate in the profession are important elements in being a board certified clinical child and adolescent psychologist. Knowledge of the current issues facing the profession, particularly in regard to client welfare, is also necessary.

## Supervision/Management and Consultation Competencies.

These competency areas are significant when within the specialist's pattern of practice. Supervision/Management involves the guidance, direction, and monitoring of trainees, residents, staff, or programs. Consultation provides expert guidance or professional assistance to a consultee's needs or goals

*"Since I became board certified, I find that my consulting work has really grown. Experts in other fields are quickly appreciating the certification process for psychologists as many other disciplines have had a similar process for their experts for some time and recognize what it means to have this qualification. I find that having the certification makes it easier to communicate to other professionals what skills I bring to the table."*

*-Yo Jackson, 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.

