The American Board of Police & Public Safety Psychology (ABPPSP) was established in 2011 to provide board certification in police and public safety psychology. The certification is awarded to psychologists who have completed training and experience requirements, as well as demonstrating the advanced competencies expected of all police and public safety psychology specialists. These competencies include professionalism; reflective practice; scientific knowledge; interpersonal relationships; individual and cultural diversity; ethical standards and legal knowledge; interdisciplinary systems; evidence-based practice; and knowledge of client milieu.

Foundational Competencies
Regardless of their primary domain(s) of practice, all ABPPSP candidates are evaluated against a uniform set of knowledge and practice standards expected of all police and public safety psychology specialists. These include professionalism; reflective practice; scientific knowledge; interpersonal relationships; individual and cultural diversity; ethical standards and legal knowledge; interdisciplinary systems; evidence-based practice; and knowledge of client milieu.

Functional Competencies
All candidates are expected to demonstrate conversant knowledge relevant to each of the specialty's four domains of practice, and to demonstrate depth of knowledge in the domains and activities in which the candidate practices (e.g., preemployment psychological screening, fitness-for-duty evaluations, post-shooting interventions, hostage negotiation, police management development). The expectations for demonstration of competent practice in each domain and related activities are detailed in the ABPPSP examination manual (available for download at www.abppsp.org).

Specialty Specific Eligibility Requirements
Applicants must have completed no fewer than 100 hours of formal education and supervision in police and public safety psychology, and no less than 3,000 hours of experience in the specialty, to be eligible for board certification (for details, download the examination manual). These include professionalism; reflective practice; scientific knowledge; interpersonal relationships; individual and cultural diversity; ethical standards and legal knowledge; interdisciplinary systems; evidence-based practice; and knowledge of client milieu.

“Although board certification benefits psychologists in all specialties, it is especially vital for specialists engaged in work that exposes them, personally or vicariously, to a high incidence of trauma. Known as ‘practice in extremis,’ these specialties require a high level of competence, but they also involve a heightened potential for erosion of competence through the same kinds of emotional and psychological mechanisms that affect [public safety personnel] (e.g., post-traumatic reactions, vicarious traumatization, compassion fatigue, burnout, empathy failure).”


**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.