

Credentialing for School Psychologists in Florida



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Presented at the FASP Annual Conference, Palm Harbor, FL, November 2, 2016

Agenda



- ★ Overview of credentialing in Florida
- ★ Three types of credentialing for school psychologists
 - Certification as a school psychologist
 - Licensure as a school psychologist
 - Licensure as a psychologist
- ★ Questions

Certification as a School Psychologist



- Required for practice in schools
- Issued by the Florida Department of Education
- Five education/internship pathways to certification
- Requires passing Florida educator exams

5 Education/Internship Pathways



- Plan One. A specialist's or higher degree with a major in school psychology which includes a year-long supervised school psychology internship in an elementary or secondary school.
- Plan Two. Completion of a graduate program in school psychology which includes 60 semester hours of graduate credit in school psychology, 3 semester hours in a supervised practicum in school psychology, and 6 semester hours in a year-long supervised school psychology internship in an elementary or secondary school. No more than 12 semester hours of credit in the internship are accepted.

Plan Two requires credit in each of the following six core competency areas:

1. Psychological foundations;
2. Educational foundations;
3. Psychoeducational assessment;
4. Interventions and specialized techniques;
5. Statistics, measurement, and research design; and
6. Professional school psychology

5 Routes to Certification (Continued)



Plan Three. Completion of a graduate program in school psychology and 3 years of full-time experience as a school psychologist in an elementary or secondary school. The experience shall be acceptable provided the applicant held a valid full-time school psychologist credential issued by the state where the experience was gained.

Plan Four. A master's or higher degree with 60 semester hours of graduate credit in school psychology in specified areas; 3 semester hours in a supervised practicum in school psychology [3 years of full-time experience as a school psychologist in an elementary or secondary school will satisfy the supervised practicum requirement]; and 6 semester hours in a year-long supervised school psychology internship in an elementary or secondary school. No more than 12 semester hours of credit in the internship shall be accepted. The internship shall total at least 1200 clock hours with at least 600 clock hours in an elementary or secondary school. Three years of full-time experience as a school psychologist as will satisfy the internship requirement.

Plan Five. A valid NCSP.

Required Florida Exams



- For successful completion of a state-approved initial educator preparation program, each student must have a 2.5 GPA in the student's field of study and must have passed:
 - FTCE General Knowledge Test (must be successfully completed prior to internship),
 - FTCE Professional Education Test, and
 - FTCE Subject Area Examination (School Psychologist PK-12).
 - 120 questions
 - 2 hours, 30 minutes
 - \$200 (first try); \$220 (second try)
 - Passing score=200

Preparing for the School Psychology Exam



<http://www.fl.nesinc.com/prepPage.asp?test=036>

Test Content and Sample Questions

[Competencies and Skills and Blueprint](#)

[Test Information Guide](#)

Mapping Test Content to Courses Taken Worksheet

[Worksheet Instructions](#)

Worksheet: [PDF](#) | [Microsoft® Word](#)

Tutorials

Find out what to expect when you take a computer-based test.

[Standard Tutorial](#)

Reference Materials Provided for This Test

None

Interpreting Your Scores

[Score Interpretation Guide](#)

Application for Certification



Apply online: <http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/apply.asp>

Must submit official transcripts

\$75 application fee

If the review is favorable, the applicant will receive an Official Statement of Status of Eligibility for either a temporary or professional certificate; this is sufficient to seek employment. Candidates who report criminal history will have their application materials forwarded to Professional Practices Services.

The certificate will be issued after the individual has been 1) employed by a public district or qualifying private school and 2) fingerprinted (<http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/step2.asp>). Individuals employed by public schools (or public charter schools) will be fingerprinted by the personnel office. Individuals employed by qualifying private schools may have different procedures.

Continuing Education



Florida Certification: Validity period: 5 yrs, need 120 in-service points or 6 semester hours of college credit. Six (6) semester hours of college credit or equivalent must be earned during each renewal period to renew your certificate. Sixty (60) in-service points in an approved Florida master in-service program are equivalent to three (3) semester hours of college credit.

National Certification (NCSP): Validity period: 3 yrs, need 75 hours of CPD activities

Licensure as a School Psychologist



Different from certification; allows you to engage in unsupervised private practice, not work in schools.

Florida is one of several states that allows licensure at the Ed.S. level (uncommon).

Licensure is through the Florida Board of Health (not the Florida Department of Education).

4 Pathways to Licensure as a School Psychologist



Pathway 1: Examination: This method means you are applying for licensure based on education, experience and examination in compliance with the laws and rules.

Pathway 2: Endorsement of ABPP Diplomate Status: This method means you are applying based on possession of diplomate status in good standing with the American Board of Professional Psychology, Inc.

4 Pathways to Licensure as a School Psychologist (Continued)



Pathway 3: Endorsement of Licensure in another State: You are not required to use this method if licensed in another state. However, it is an option that may be used by someone who holds an active, valid license or certificate as a school psychologist in another state, provided that when such license was secured, the requirements were substantially equivalent to or more stringent than those in Florida at that time. If no Florida law existed at that time, then the requirements in the other state must have been substantially equivalent to or more stringent than those currently required by Florida Statutes. Your personal qualifications are not considered when applying by this method. The Department makes its determination of eligibility for licensure solely on the law to law comparison. Please see section 490.006, F.S.

4 Pathways to Licensure as a School Psychologist (Continued)



Pathway 4: Endorsement of 20 Years of Licensed Psychologist Experience: To apply for this method of licensure, the statute requires that the applicant possess a doctoral degree in psychology as defined in section 490.003, F.S., and has at least 20 years of experience as a licensed psychologist in any jurisdiction or territory of the United States within 25 years preceding the date of application. This method requires a doctoral degree in psychology from an APA accredited program.

SP Licensure: Educational Requirements



Completion of graduate level school psychology education as outlined in Rule 64B21-500.009, Florida Administrative Code.

CE Requirements for Initial Licensure: Applicants are required to complete two (2) hours of prevention of medical errors education for initial licensure. The course can be completed by home study. For a list of CE Providers, please visit CEBroker.com

SP Licensure: Required Experience



Successful completion of three years of school psychology experience:

One (1) year of experience consists of 1500 hours within twelve (12) consecutive months.

Two (2) years of the three (3) year requirement shall consist of supervised experience.

All supervised experience shall be performed by a certified or licensed school psychologist in any jurisdiction or a licensed psychologist.

The third year can consist of general experience.

Doctoral internships may be applied toward the supervision requirement.

Non-doctoral internships, which are part of the education requirement, do not count toward the supervised or general experience requirement.

SP Licensure: Examination



Applicants applying by examination must successfully pass the [PRAXIS II School Psychology examination](#) given by Educational Testing Service (ETS). You may contact ETS at (609) 771-7395 or www.ets.org. The current test code is 5402. To have your score electronically submitted from ETS, use destination code R7114.

Minimum Passing Scores:

Exam taken from September 2014 to Present: 147

Exam taken between September 2008 – August 2014: 165

Exam taken prior to September 2008: 660

SP Licensure: Costs



Non-refundable application processing fee	\$175.00
Initial licensure fee	\$175.00
Unlicensed activity fee	\$ 5.00
Total application fee to be submitted	\$355.00

You should not submit your application until you are ready for licensure. That means that the education, experience, and a passing score on the examination have already been completed.

SP Licensure: Continuing Education



REQUIRED SUBJECT AREA

General Hours	28
Medical Errors	2
*Domestic Violence	2

*Due every third biennium beginning July 2006 and is included in the 40 hours required.

School Psychologists renewing a license for the first time and who were licensed in the first year of the biennium must complete a total of 15 hours. Included in the 15 must be 2 hours of Medical Errors


If you are renewing your license for the first time and you were licensed in the second year of the biennium, you only have to complete 2 hours of Medical Errors

Licensure as a Psychologist



- Different from certification; allows you to engage in unsupervised private practice, not work in schools.
- Unlike licensure as a school psychologist in Florida, requires a doctoral degree.
- Issued through the Florida Board of Psychology (part of the Florida Board of Health).

Four Methods of Application for Licensure as a Psychologist



- Examination
- Examination with Waiver
- Bifurcation/Examination
- Bifurcation/Examination with Waiver

Psychology Licensure: Required Education



U.S. Trained Applicants: Submission of your official doctoral level (Ph.D., Psy.D., or Ed.D.) transcript in psychology as proof of graduation from a program accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA). A list of accredited programs is available on the APA's website at www.apa.org/ed/accreditation/programs. Please reference Sections 490.003 and 490.005, Florida Statutes, for further information. Currently, the APA is the only “programmatically” accrediting agency approved by the U.S. Department of Education for doctoral level psychology programs.

Psychology Licensure: Required Experience



A total of 4000 hours of supervised experience. The Board accepts the doctoral level psychology internship in satisfaction of the first 2000 hours of the required experience. Applicants must complete the remaining 2000 hours as post-doctoral supervised experience according to the requirements of Rule 64B19-11.005, Florida Administrative Code. Bifurcation/Examination applicants may sit for the required examinations while completing any outstanding hours of the required post-doctoral supervised experience.

Psychology Licensure Examination-EPPP



A passing score on the State of Florida's psychology laws and rules examination is required along with passage of the EPPP administered by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB). Current cutoff score is 500 (70% prior to October 2000). Applicants who have previously passed the EPPP with a score acceptable to Florida may apply under the Examination with Waiver application method. The waiver concept may also be applied to Bifurcation/Examination applicants who meet these criteria.

Content and Cost of the EPPP



- The EPPP covers eight content domains. The percentage of scored questions from each content domain is identical on each form of the EPPP.
 - Domain 1 – Biological Bases of Behavior (12%)
 - Domain 2 – Cognitive-Affective Bases of Behavior (13%)
 - Domain 3 – Social and Cultural Bases of Behavior (12%)
 - Domain 4 – Growth and Lifespan Development (12%)
 - Domain 5 – Assessment and Diagnosis (14%)
 - Domain 6 – Treatment, Intervention, Prevention, and Supervision (14%)
 - Domain 7 – Research Methods and Statistics (8%)
 - Domain 8 – Ethical/Legal/Professional Issues (15%)
- Cost: About \$700.00

Fees for Licensure as a Psychologist



Application Fee	\$200.00 (non-refundable)
Initial Licensure Fee	\$100.00
Unlicensed Activity Fee	\$5.00
TOTAL FEES:	\$305.00

Continuing Education Requirements



REQUIRED SUBJECT AREA

General Hours	35
Medical Errors	2
Ethics and Florida Psychology Law	3
*Domestic Violence	2

*Due every third biennium beginning July 2006 and is included in the 40 hours required.

First Biennium Renewal: Psychologists initially licensed within the biennium are exempt from continuing education with the exception of the two hour course relating to the prevention of medical errors.

Questions?

