

# Licensure and the EPPP

General Information and Preparation

October 2012



# Steps to Licensure in Nebraska

1. Complete internship and doctoral degree
2. Submit application for Provisional Psychology license
3. Complete a scannable application to test
4. HHS office will forward application to testing center once per month (approximately mid-month)
5. Testing center will send you an “authorization to test” letter
6. Applicant must contact testing center to schedule – must schedule within 60 day or resubmit applicat
7. Test may be rescheduled up to 48 hrs prior to exam
8. If re-take is necessary must notify HHS and submit a second scannable application
9. Must wait at least 60 days to reschedule computerized exam
10. Apply for Nebraska Board Developed exam



# Nebraska Regulations

- EPPP – must pass at 70% (500) or the national mean for all doctoral candidates, whichever is lower
- Nebraska state exam – must receive 80% on oral exam
- Can sit for EPPP and Nebraska state exam following internship and attainment of provisional psychology license
  - Internship and doctoral degree from program that meets APA standards of accreditation



# Nebraska Board Developed Exam

## 1) Written exam

- Mailed to applicant, any info may be used to complete exam
- Bring completed exam to oral exam date

## 2) Oral exam – board will ask applicant 5 randomly selected questions from the written exam – open-book format

- Offered 5 times yearly on first-come, first serve basis

## 3) Overall score based only on oral format – 80% required to pass



# Nebraska Board Exam Content

- 106 Multiple Choice Questions
- Covering knowledge relative to:
  - Counseling Psychology
  - Industrial/ Organizational Psychology
  - School Psychology
  - Ethics
  - Nebraska Statutes, Rules and Regulations
  - Federal Requirements
  - Professional and Sexual Relationships
  - Advertisements
  - Research
  - Child Abuse
  - Use of human subjects in research
  - Dangerousness
  - Dual Relationships
  - Institutional Review Board



# Fees associated with Licensure

- Application fee: \$183 every 2 years (initial fee may be \$45.75 if applying within 6 months of renewal date – 01/01 of odd years)
- Testing fee (paid to test site): \$65
- EPPP examination fee: \$450
  - Examination fee will increase to \$600 March 1, 2013
- Nebraska Board Developed Exam: Free



# General EPPP Information

- National standardized examination
- Developed by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards
- Computerized format through Prometric test centers across the country
- Must sit for the examination within 60 days of the date on the authorization-to-test (ATT) letter
- PsyIMS is an online application system to register, pay, and monitor status online.
- Customer Service 1-866-364-3777

<http://www.asppb.net/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3433>



# EPPP Test-taking Logistics

- 225 multiple choice questions
- 175 are scored, 50 are unscored pre-test
- Score based on correct answers – no penalty for guessing
- Raw score converted to scaled score – range 200-800
  - Varies by jurisdiction and license type
  - NE - minimum score at the national pass score for all doctoral candidates = pass
- Scores reported twice a month – for faster results, take near the middle or end of the month
- May take the examination no more than four times in any 12-month period





# EPPP Test-Taking Logistics

- No scratch paper allowed – however white boards are provided
- Noise blocking headphones available
- Allowed 4 hr 15 minutes
- No scheduled breaks – time runs during any breaks taken
- Tutorial offered prior to exam – does not use official test time
- Questions may be marked for later review
- All questions may be reviewed as long as time remains



# Test Content beginning 8/1/2011

- 12% **Biological Bases of Behavior** - Knowledge of (a) biological and neural bases of behavior, (b) psychopharmacology, and (c) methodologies supporting this body of knowledge
- 13% **Cognitive-Affective Bases of Behavior** – Knowledge of (a) cognition, (b) theories and empirical bases of learning, memory, motivation, affect, emotion, and executive function, and (c) factors that influence cognitive performance and/or emotional experience and their interaction
- 12% **Social and Cultural Bases of Behavior** - Knowledge of (a) interpersonal, intrapersonal, intergroup, and intragroup processes and dynamics, (b) theories of personality, and (c) diversity issues



# Test Content beginning 8/1/2011

- 12%**      **Growth and Lifespan Development** - Knowledge of (a) development across the full life span, (b) atypical patterns of development, and (c) the protective and risk factors that influence developmental trajectories of individuals
  
- 14%**      **Assessment and Diagnosis** - Knowledge of (a) psychometrics, (b) assessment models and instruments, (c) assessment methods for initial status of and change by individuals, couples, families, groups, and organizations/systems, and (d) diagnostic classification systems and their limitations
  
- 14%**      **Treatment/Intervention** - Knowledge of (a) individual, couple, family, group, organizational, or community interventions for specific problems/disorders in diverse populations, (b) intervention and prevention theories, (c) best practices and practice guidelines, (d) consultation and supervision models, and (e) evidence supporting efficacy and effectiveness of interventions



# Test Content beginning 8/1/2011

- 8%**     **Research Methods and Statistics** – Knowledge of  
(a) research design, methodology, and program evaluation, (b) instrument selection and validation, (c) statistical models, assumptions, and procedures, and (d) dissemination methods
  
- 15 %**   **Ethical/Legal/Professional Issues** – Knowledge of  
(a) codes of ethics, (b) professional standards for practice, (c) legal mandates and restrictions, (d) guidelines for ethical decision-making, and (e) professional training and supervision



# Study Methods

- ASPPB and PES Practice exams
  - 2 different tests available
  - Practice Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (PEPPP)
    - Conducted at actual testing site
    - 100 items, immediate feedback offered
    - Same format as actual exam
    - Fee: \$101.50 - \$50 for test, \$51.50 to test center
  - Practice Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology Online (PEPPPO)
    - 100 items, immediate feedback
    - Available online from any computer
    - Fee: \$55



# Study Methods

- Items from Previous exams
  - No longer available from ASPPB



# Study Materials

- **www. Flashcardexchange.com**
  - By searching for EPPP – access to individual’s flash cards
  - Free access to view, study, list flashcards
  - \$19.95 – lifetime member ship to print or export flashcards
- **AATBS** – 5 package prices range from \$650 - \$2300
  - known as most comprehensive, some feel too comprehensive
  - Exam Simulator - \$745
  - Workshops
  - <http://www.aatbs.com/catalog.asp?license=1&lcnum=1>
- **Academic Review** – prices range from \$599 - \$1400
  - Shorter, more to-the-point
  - ExamCenter - \$399
  - Exam Advantage
  - <http://www.academicreview.com/introduction.asp>



# Study Materials

- **PsychPrep** – package prices range from \$1200 - \$1650
  - Most concise, non-exhaustive review of only necessary info
  - Free introductory package
  - Online tests only - \$500
  - <http://psychprep.com/epppexam.htm>
- **Taylor Study Method** – formerly tutored many individually to pass test, now has materials available online – highly structured study program (free 2 day trial)
  - Free Limited-Curriculum Lifetime Membership
  - Monthly membership (\$99 activation; \$350/month)
  - Six-month membership (\$99 activation; \$1050 One-Time Fee)
  - Total Cost of Personal Tutoring = \$4,000 one time fee
  - <http://www.taylorstudymethod.com/>





# Study Tips

- Share online package with peer
- Check Ebay for used study prep materials
- Practice tests over and over and over
- Study the test, not general psychology knowledge
- Don't assume your training has prepared you to pass this test
- Don't study too long or not long enough
- EPPP Yahoo group (EPPP\_prep) – can be helpful, can also produce unnecessary anxiety



# Study Tips

- Save retired questions to assess readiness for exam
- When doing practice exams, be sure to review answers – know why the right answer is right and why the wrong answers are wrong
- Do initial practice exam to assess which areas you are weak and strong in – don't assume you already know
- Cram difficult lists/formulas right before going in and jot them down on the whiteboard so you don't have to recall them later
- Don't be alarmed at low practice test scores – just keep re-taking until you know the material (not until you memorize the answers)
- Study old test material with caution – be aware of changes (e.g., HIPAA)



# ASPPB EPPP Score Transfer Service

- Information for candidates who took the EPPP after 1984
- Time Frame
- Fees



# ASPPB Mobility Programs

- Certificate of Professional Qualification in Psychology (CPQ)
- Credentials Bank: A Credentials Verification and Storage Program (Bank)
- Interjurisdictional Practice Certificate (IPC)
- ASPPB Agreement of Reciprocity (AOR)
- <http://www.asppb.net/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3280>



# Sample EPPP Questions

1. The central ingredient of the most effective behavioral treatment for agoraphobia is:
  - a) Deep muscle relaxation.
  - b) Prolonged exposure in vivo.
  - c) Shaping of the desired behavior with an implemented reward system.
  - d) Exposure in fantasy.



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# Sample EPPP Questions

2. A test of adjustment is administered to 100 subjects and those scoring in the bottom 10% are selected for intensive therapy. Following the conclusion of therapy, the test is re-administered and an improvement in scores is noted. Such an improvement in test performance would probably be expected even without therapy because:
  - a) There has been a lapse of time between the first and second administrations.
  - b) Such tests are notably unreliable, particularly when based on small samples.
  - c) Regression of scores toward the mean is to be expected as a purely chance phenomenon.
  - d) The range for which the test was designed has been restricted by the method of sampling.



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3. Which of the following descriptive features of a distribution of scores on a psychological test is not affected by adding a constant 10 to each score?
  - a. The standard deviation.
  - b. The geometric mean.
  - c. The arithmetic mean.
  - d. The median.



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# Sample EPPP Questions

4. You join the staff of a community mental health center. A fellow psychologist who is also a member of APA is listed in the center's literature as having a doctoral degree. You know, however, that this psychologist does not possess this degree. Under these circumstances, the first thing you should do is:
  - a. Discuss the situation with your colleague and indicate that claiming unearned credentials is unethical.
  - a. Tell your colleague to finish the degree.
  - a. Report the situation to the board of ethics of the local psychological association.
  - a. Inform your local newspaper of this falsification.



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# EPPP Performance

School	Program	#	Pass Rate
Florida Institute of Tech	Clinical	100	67.00%
Texas AM	School	41	68.30%
UNL	Counseling	18	72.20%
UNL	School	29	82.80%
UT-Austin	School	54	90.70%
West Virginia	Clinical-PhD	32	93.80%
KU	Clinical Child	24	95.80%
Southern Miss	Clinical	24	95.80%
Iowa	Counseling	25	100%

<http://www.asppb.net/files/public/EPPP%20Files/ASPPBExamScoresByDocPrgm.pdf>