

LICENSURE INFORMATION

I GENERAL

An individual who wishes to practice psychology in West Virginia must first have the approval of the West Virginia Board of Examiners of Psychologists. To acquire this approval, one must submit a formal application to the Board. The Board will review all application materials, determine if the minimum statutory requirements are met, and evaluate the applicant's tentative plans for supervision. If the application is approved, permission is granted to begin work in the form of an "Approved Candidate for Psychology Licensure" card, a Gold Card. A Reciprocity applicant may receive a temporary license card if they apply for temporary licensure. The applicant then begins his or her supervised practice and submits the required forms and fees for the duration of the supervisory period.

During the period of supervision, the applicant shall score 500 or more on the Examination for the Professional Practice of Psychology (EPPP). If the applicant does not pass the test during this period, eligibility for independent licensure is lost, and the applicant loses the ability to work as a psychologist in the state of WV.

Upon completion of the supervision period and passing of the EPPP, the applicant is then scheduled for an oral examination. This examination is a presentation of the candidate's demonstrable competencies gained through formal training and supervision experience. Upon approval, the applicant is granted a license to independently practice psychology.

II ELIGIBILITY

Master's Degree: When the applicant's degree is at the master's level, the law clearly states that "...the applicant shall possess a master's degree in psychology." The course work shall have been obtained in an approved university department, whose official designation contains the words "psychology or psychological", but not otherwise. The degree shall be a minimum of 24 semester hours of graduate credit in courses clearly identified by title and course content as being psychological in nature.

For school psychology applicants, the degree shall be a master's degree in school psychology from a Board-approved graduate program.

Doctoral Degree: When the degree is at the doctoral level, the law specifies the Ph.D. or its equivalent. At least half of any course hours earned beyond those hours required for the master's degree shall be clearly identified by title and course content as being psychological in nature and taught by psychologists.

The Board reserves the right to investigate the credentials of a university in its attempt to evaluate an applicant's training.

III INITIAL APPLICATION (STANDARD PROVISION)

One may obtain application materials from the administrative assistant of the Board at the address listed above. **The following application materials must be in the physical possession of the Board before one's application can be processed:**

1. A completed and notarized application form.
2. Official transcripts. These are to be sent directly to the Board by the institution granting the degree.
3. Agreement for Initiation of Supervision forms. These forms shall be completely filled out and signed by the applicant's supervisor.
4. Two Endorsement of Application for Licensure as a Psychologist forms. These forms shall be filled out and sent directly to the Board from the endorsers.
5. Any required fees.
6. Other materials please see the checklists contained in the application packet for these materials.

IV INDIVIDUAL SUPERVISION

The application process requires that the applicant describe the settings, populations, and types of psychological work he or she will be performing during the supervision period. This requires that the proposed supervisor be competent to supervise the proposed work.

- A. Who may supervise? The supervisor shall be a licensed psychologist who has been approved to perform the professional practice the applicant wishes to perform (refer to Series III of the Rules and Regulations).
- B. How much supervision is required? A minimum of one hour of individual supervision shall be received for every twenty hours of practice. Group supervision will not be counted as supervision time.
- C. The applicant shall record the activities performed during the supervision period via a quarterly report.
- D. The supervisor shall maintain a diary of the supervision sessions.
- E. It is the responsibility of the supervisor to submit quarterly reports of the supervision sessions to the Board. The reports shall be received by the Board within 30 days of the end of the quarter.
- F. Master's degree applicants are required to complete five years of supervision, an hourly requirement must be met before sitting for an oral exam
- G. Doctoral degree applicants shall complete two years of supervision, an hourly requirement must be met, one of these years may be a pre-doctoral internship.
- H. Only supervision obtained under an application for independent psychology licensure will be accepted from other jurisdictions.

V EXAMINATION FOR THE PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE OF PSYCHOLOGY – (EPPP)

All applicants must pass the EPPP during the time required for their supervision; that is, master applicants have five and doctoral applicants have two years. The passing score is 500.

VI PRAXIS EXAMINATION FOR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

School psychology applicants must receive a score of 660 or higher on the Praxis exam.

VII RECIPROCITY APPLICANTS

Psychologists licensed in other jurisdictions may be eligible for licensure in West Virginia, if the license was obtained under standards equal to or greater than that of West Virginia. An oral examination is required.

The materials required are the standard application, transcripts, and fees. Additional materials include a letter of good standing from all jurisdictions under which the applicant is licensed and their EPPP score.

If a 90-day temporary license is requested, a letter detailing the proposed practice is requested.

VIII ORAL EXAMINATION

Upon completion of all pre-oral examination requirements, an applicant is scheduled for an oral examination, which is a presentation of the applicant's demonstrable competencies. The supervision history and supervisor's diary are required for standard applicants.

During the oral examination, the Board discusses the applicant's licensure application history and presents questions regarding their proposed practice. A critical review of the presented competencies is conducted to determine if the formal training and/or supervision history was sufficient to justify the presented competencies. This determination is made by discussion, questioning, and consensus of Board judgments.

Upon a satisfactory review of all relevant materials and topics, the Board may grant a license to the applicant to independently perform those psychological competencies presented in the oral examination.

IX RENEWALS

Licenses are renewed every two years for standard licenses and every three years for school psychology licenses. The licensee shall document 20 hours of continuing education credits, 30 for school psychologists, since his or her license was last renewed. Audits are made of a percentage of renewals.

X BOARD ACTIVITIES

The Board is appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature. It consists of seven members, five of whom are professional and two of whom are lay members. The Board is run on a daily basis by the Administrative Assistant, at the direction of the Board President and/or Executive Director.