



Entry-to-Practice Examinations: Psychologist

After you have been notified that your documentation is complete and in order, and that you have been approved to proceed to the examinations, you will be invited to register for the appropriate examinations. The College requires two licensure examinations for Psychologist applicants: the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) and the Oral Examination, as outlined in College Bylaws, Schedule 6.

Once an applicant is deemed eligible to sit an examination, an invoice for the applicable examination fee will be issued. Upon receipt of payment, the applicant will be enrolled in the examination. Please note that the College must receive the EPPP administration fee before your eligibility can be verified with Pearson VUE. Applicants must successfully pass the EPPP before proceeding to the Oral Examination.

The College does not provide examination preparation materials beyond the information available on this website.

Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP)

*The EPPP consists of objective multiple-choice questions covering knowledge essential to the professional practice of psychology. This standardized examination is constructed by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) with the assistance of Pearson VUE. **Applicants may write the examination up to 3 times within any application period** (see Provisional section below for information on examination attempts for provisional licensees).*

After an applicant completes the EPPP, ASPPB sends the official score report directly to the College, typically within 1–5 business days of the exam date.

For more information about the EPPP, please visit the ASPPB website or Certemy, which offers “how-to” videos and step-by-step guides to assist with exam registration and scheduling: certemy.com/asppbcandidates

*Applicants must receive official confirmation of a **passing score (500 or higher)** before proceeding to the Oral Examination. To avoid delays, applicants should plan their study schedule carefully and be mindful of Oral Examination deadlines.*



Psychology Oral Examination

The Oral Examination assesses the knowledge, readiness, and competence of the applicant to practice generally, and in particular, in the area of practice declared by the applicant. Successful completion of the Oral Examination is a requirement for all applicants seeking licensure as a Psychologist in BC (other than CFTA and US Mobility Applicants).

This examination is typically offered three times each calendar year. Examination dates and sign-up deadlines are published on the College website.

The College must receive the applicant's examination fee by the sign-up deadline.

****Please note that the exact examination dates are dependent on examiner availability and are not set until after the deadline for exam sign up has passed. Applicants will be notified of their scheduled date and time via email****

The information provided below is so that applicants are aware, in advance of taking the examination, of a description of the examination, including the exam objectives, exam format, skill areas assessed, and the procedures followed for the examination.

Examination Format: *The Oral Examination consists of a case vignette describing a client, including demographic information, presenting problems, and relevant history. The vignette reflects the applicant's declared area of practice on their application form and the populations and issues typically encountered in that area. An applicant's declared area of practice must align with their training, education, and supervised experience. Successful completion of the oral examination in a designated area of practice does not constitute specialty recognition by the College.*

Applicants are expected to prepare in the eight skill areas assessed, as the examination evaluates core competencies required of all psychologists. It is not a specialty examination.

The examination lasts up to 90 minutes and is conducted by videoconference.

Oral Examiners: *Oral examiners are CHCPBC licensees who have completed oral examiner training by the College and are appointed by the Licence Committee. Examiners are provided with the names of potential applicants prior to the examination to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest.*

Specific Skill Areas Assessed by the Examination:

1. Diagnosis *This area assesses the applicant's ability to utilize relevant data in the case vignette to reach empirically based and theoretically consistent differential diagnoses. This section assesses the applicant's knowledge of diagnostic nomenclature and criteria in standard systems (e.g., DSM, ICD, Relational) and use of these systems to conceptualize and describe the problem(s) and functioning of the person taking into account the problem context and situation. The applicant is expected to utilize all information in the case vignette to formulate a diagnosis/es. The College does not endorse any particular diagnostic system.*

2. Assessment and Evaluation *This area assesses the applicant's ability to identify appropriate sources of information (e.g., clinical interviews, observations, formal*



assessment data including testing, structured histories, 4 genograms, medical records, collateral sources and contexts) to evaluate the client's/patient's functioning in a variety of areas including affective, cognitive, and interpersonal. The applicant must demonstrate ability to integrate information from various sources into a coherent whole and be conversant with differential diagnoses. The applicant must demonstrate understanding of psychometric theory, apply statistical techniques, and explain the meaning of test results for the selected psychometric tests.

3. Treatment Planning, Implementation, and Outcome Assessment This area tests the applicant's ability to describe, implement, and evaluate a course of treatment that is consistent with the case formulation, empirically justified, sensitive to the client's/patient's needs and values, and designed to resolve the problem(s). Applicants must demonstrate competence in describing the treatment; provide theoretical and empirical rationales for the treatment choices; and describe an appropriate plan to evaluate treatment results, including functional assessments for monitoring progress, process and outcome of interventions. Applicants must demonstrate ability to apply quality assurance measurement techniques (e.g., sampling, instrumentation, data collection procedures, client tracking, formative and summative evaluation, program evaluation).

4. Crisis Evaluation/Treatment/Management This area assesses the applicant's ability to assess and intervene in a crisis event, with the introduction of a crisis situation into the vignette. Crises may include danger to self, danger to others, child/spouse/elder abuse, psychotic decompensation, drug/alcohol abuse, etc. Applicants must demonstrate awareness of personal and professional limitations and know how to refer client/patient to appropriate resources (e.g., hospital, emergency room, psychiatrist).

5. Human Diversity This area tests the applicant's knowledge of the range of individual and group diversity and the ability to incorporate the knowledge of diversity into practice. This concept is introduced by changing the demographic characteristic of the client/patient in the case vignette, such as ethnicity, socio-economic status (SES), sexual orientation, gender, physical and psychological abilities/disabilities, etc. The applicant is then asked how this change would affect his/her diagnosis and treatment plan. Applicants must demonstrate adequate knowledge, awareness of professional limitations and need for consultation or referral, lack of stereotyping and bias, and awareness of the importance of differences.

6. Professional Ethics and Standards This area tests the applicant's knowledge of professional standards and ethics and the ability to integrate them into professional conduct and practice. Applicants may be asked to discuss ethics and standards that they perceive to be presented for them to consider. Applicants must demonstrate clear knowledge of ethics and standards and apply them appropriately.

7. Legal and Regulatory Mandates This area tests the applicant's ability to integrate and apply provincial laws and regulations related to professional conduct to professional practice. Applicants may be asked to discuss legal/regulatory issues that they perceive to be relevant to the case vignette, or particular legal/regulatory



issue may be presented for them to consider. Topics may include confidentiality, record keeping, abuse reporting, etc.

8. Professional Limitations and Judgement This area tests the applicant's awareness of areas of professional expertise and limitations as well as assesses professional or personal characteristics or behaviour on the part of the applicant that may interfere with professional performance. The applicant should be able to demonstrate awareness of his/her personal and professional expertise and limitations. Examiners may assess professional limitations by structured questions regarding applicant limitations and by observing limitations in answers to prior questions in the examination.

Scoring Criteria: Each of the eight skill areas is evaluated using the following four categories, with an "Effective" or "Highly Effective" rating being the minimum required to pass in each of the eight skill areas.

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| <i>Highly Effective (Pass)</i> | <i>Demonstrates skills that are above minimum competence, demonstrates breadth of knowledge with depth in limited areas.</i> |
| <i>Effective (Pass)</i> | <i>Demonstrates minimal competence for safe practice, can practice independently, has knowledge of core areas of practice, consults if necessary.</i> |
| <i>Ineffective (Fail)</i> | <i>Does not meet minimum standards for independent practice.</i> |
| <i>Highly Ineffective (Fail)</i> | <i>Demonstrates lack of knowledge, makes repeated errors, commits errors of omission that result in active or passive danger to client</i> |

Examiners make one of the following three recommendations to the Licence Committee:

1. Pass. Recommendation for licensure as a Psychologist.

2. Additional learning and/or supervision (1st oral exam attempt only and must be a provisional licensee) to remediate identified deficiencies. If an applicant receives a score of "ineffective" in 1-2 areas on their first oral examination attempt, the examiners will recommend that the applicant undergo additional learning or supervision to address specific identified deficit(s). In order to complete remediation involving supervised practice, the candidate must be a provisional licensee.

3. Fail. If an applicant receives a rating of "ineffective" in more than 2 areas, the recommendation will be to fail the applicant on the examination. If the applicant receives a rating of "highly ineffective" in any of the eight areas, the recommendation will also be to fail the applicant. If it is the applicant's second attempt at the oral examination, the recommendation will be to fail if any area is rated as "ineffective".

Applicants are notified in writing of the oral examination results within 3 weeks of the examination.



Oral Examination Results and Options for the Applicant:

1. Options for the Applicant regarding Recommendation for Remediation: *In the event of a recommendation for additional supervision/learning on their first exam attempt, the applicant is informed of this recommendation. The applicant is asked to make a decision about accepting the recommendations of the examiners with regard to the identified deficiencies or a preference to retake the examination. In addition, applicants are provided the opportunity to make a written submission to the Licence Committee prior to the Licence Committee's review and decision regarding the examiners' recommendation for the applicant. If an applicant decides to re-take the examination without making a submission to the Committee, the examiners' recommendation will not go before the Committee.*

2. Fail – Retake the Examination: *Applicants who choose to retake the Examination are provided a new panel of oral examiners and a different examination vignette. Please note that the Licence Committee is not obligated to accept the better of the two outcomes if the second examination produces less favourable results than the first.*

The oral examination may be taken up to two times. If an applicant fails the examination twice, the applicant can reapply for licensure after having undertaken additional training or education.

3. Fail – Appeal examination outcome to the Licence Committee: *An applicant who fails the examination may make a written submission to the Licence Committee before it reviews and decides on the examination outcome.*

If the applicant chooses to retake the examination without making a written submission, the matter will not proceed to the Licence Committee at that time.

Provisional Licensees

A provisional licence will be cancelled prior to the expiry date given when the licence was issued in the following situation:

- *Where a second examination failure occurs, the provisional licence will be cancelled within 14 calendar days following notice of the failure*

A provisional licence may be cancelled before it expires, where the licensee:

- *does not attempt the Examination for which they were registered*
- *is no longer registered for the Examination identified in their application*
- *is no longer practising under the supervision arrangement approved by CHCPBC*



Examination Accommodations

The College is committed to equitable access and provides reasonable accommodations for candidates participating in examinations. Decisions are made in accordance with the BC Human Rights Code and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

If you believe you may require an accommodation, please refer to the Accommodations Policy for more information.

Requests for accommodation must be submitted, in writing, with supporting documentation to exams@chcpbc.org, at least 60 days before the date of the examination administration.