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 application
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 (PEPPPP)
    - 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 membership 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

- **Academic Review** – prices range from $599 - $1400
  - Shorter, more to-the-point
  - ExamCenter - $399
  - Exam Advantage
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](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
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](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.
Sample EPPP Questions

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>Pass Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida Institute of Tech</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
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