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INFORMATION FOR PSYCHOLOGIST APPLICANTS

Revised October, 2026

Application procedures, application fees, examination procedures, and general Board procedures are described below. ***Please read carefully.***

I. REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE

Ala. Code, 1975 §34-26-1 et seq. specifies the following requirements for licensure:

A. Good moral character.
B. At least nineteen (19) years of age.
C. A doctoral degree from a department or school of psychology (see educational requirements) from an educational institution accredited and recognized by national and regional accrediting agencies as maintaining satisfactory standards. Any applicant with a doctoral degree in psychology who is otherwise qualified pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of Section 34-26-41, who is licensed in at least two (2) states, and who has passed a recognized national exam.
D. Competency in psychology as shown by passing such examinations, written or oral, or both, as the Board prescribes, unless exempted pursuant to subsection (d) of §34-26-41.
E. Is not engaged in unethical practice as defined in the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct of the American Psychological Association (APA).
F. Has not within the preceding six (6) months failed an examination given by the Board.

Ala. Code, 1975 §31-13-7 specifies the following regarding professional licensure in Alabama:
An individual applicant seeking the State or local public benefit of professional licensure must verify that he or she is a United States (US) citizen, or that he or she is legally present in the US with appropriate documentation from the federal government.

The Board will use the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlement (SAVE) Operations (a division of the Department of Homeland Securities' U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Department) for the purpose of verifying the citizenship and immigration status information for all individuals - non-citizen applicants and naturalized or derived US citizen applicants (applicant) - applying for professional psychology licenses (benefit). So that the Board may establish the identity of an applicant, each applicant must present to the Board his or her citizenship, immigration, or naturalization documentation containing the information required by the SAVE Program.

The following documents may be presented:

- Alabama Driver's License or Identification issued by Department of Public Safety
- Driver’s License issued from other State that required proof of lawful presence
- Birth Certificate indicating US birth
- Valid US Passport
- Military Identification showing US as place of birth
- Naturalization documents
- Certificate of citizenship
- Consular report of birth abroad of US citizen

- Bureau of Indian Affairs identification
- American Indian Card issued by Homeland Security
- Final adoption decree showing person's name and place of US birth
- A valid Uniformed Services Privileges and Identification Card
- Extract from a United States hospital record of birth created at the time of the person's birth indicating the pace of birth in the US
- Certification of birth issued by the US Department of State

The documentation presented by the applicant will be examined to determine whether the document(s) reasonably appear(s) to be genuine and to relate to the individual. Documents may be photocopied for official purposes. ***Please note:*** Some documents, such as a Nationalization Certificate, contain language stating that it is unlawful to make copies of the document without lawful authority. The Board has the lawful authority to make photocopies of documents for purposes of verification of immigration status through SAVE.

Ala. Code, 1975 §34-26-43.1 specifies the following regarding professional licensure in Alabama:
Applicants for licensure shall submit to a criminal history background check (CHRI) through the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) using forms provided to the applicant by the Board. Applicants are responsible for having fingerprints made and for submitting to the Board two (2) completed fingerprint cards, an executed criminal history information release, and a fee.

Applicants shall provide the following to the Board Office for submission to ALEA:

1. **Two (2) completed fingerprint cards**;
2. **A Cashier's Check or Money Order in the amount of forty dollars ($40.00) made payable to the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency, or "ALEA".** This amount is sufficient to cover the actual cost of the background check. The fee for an Alabama background check is twenty-five dollars ($25.00) and the fee for a Federal background check is fifteen dollars ($15.00) - for a combined cost of forty dollars ($40.00) made payable to ALEA, not the Board.

ALEA is responsible for forwarding fingerprint cards to the FBI for a national criminal history record check. ALEA performs the Alabama criminal history record check. Information received by the Board pursuant to criminal history background checks shall be confidential and shall not be a public record, except when information received by and relied upon by the Board is used in denying the issuance of a certificate of qualification. If licensure is denied pursuant to the results of the background check, such information may be disclosed as may be necessary to support the denial.

II. REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION

A. **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.** Applicants are required to submit the following items to the Board:

1. A completed and notarized licensure application form.
2. A personal check, or Cashier's Check, or Money Order made payable to the Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology in the amount of **Four Hundred Dollars ($400.00)** as a fee for processing the application.
3. A recent passport-quality photograph.
4. Official transcripts from the applicant's entire education and training (beginning with Bachelor's degree). Official transcripts must be sent directly to the Board from the

Registrars of the respective institutions. Isolated courses not contributing substantially to degrees need not be included.

5. Appropriate references. The application requires four (4) positive references. Names of ***PSYCHOLOGISTS ONLY*** should be listed in the application; at least three (3) of the four (4) individuals providing a reference must be licensed or certified psychologists who also were licensed or certified at the doctoral level at the time of their interaction with the applicant. Reference providers should have sufficient familiarity with the applicant's education, ability, and professional conduct to make the required assessment. One (1) reference should be from the applicant's dissertation advisor, departmental chair, or program director of the doctoral degree granting department, and one (1) should be from the pre-doctoral internship supervisor or director of internship training. If two (2) internship sites were used to fulfill minimum requirements, references must be received from an internship supervisor or internship director at each site. For applicants with prior professional experience, a reference from a supervisor or licensed colleague is required. The Board reserves the right to ask for additional references or to seek information from sources other than those supplied. When it is impossible to obtain a required reference, the Board may consider alternatives on a case-by-case basis. Current members of the Board are ineligible to act as references for applicants.
6. Applicants are required to have the Degree Validation Form (enclosed) completed by the Registrar, or graduate school director, or other approved official of the institution that granted the doctoral degree. The completed form should be sent directly to the Board from the institution.
7. Applicants that currently hold or have, in the past, held a license to practice psychology in another state/jurisdiction should send the Verification of Licensure Form (enclosed) to each licensing jurisdiction. Please note that a fee may be required by the jurisdiction(s) for completion of this form. The completed form should be sent directly to the Board from the other jurisdiction.
8. Applicants are required to complete and submit an Internship Documentation Form. This form is to be signed by both the Applicant and the Director of Internship Training. A maximum of two (2) internship sites or consortium programs may be utilized to meet the internship requirement. In instances where two (2) sites are used, a separate Internship Documentation Form should be submitted from each site.

B. **PREVIOUS LICENSURE.** If an applicant is licensed in another state/jurisdiction, indicate such on the first page of the application form. Alabama law provides that all applicants must meet Alabama's standards for licensure. These standards include the educational, ethical/moral, and competency requirements noted on the first page of this brochure. If an applicant is not an ABPP Diplomate but was previously licensed through a waiver of the EPPP, or if an applicant's EPPP score falls below the cut-off score required in Alabama, the applicant will be required to take the EPPP again. All admitted candidates (with the exclusion of those exempted pursuant to subsection (d) of §34-26-41) are required to also take the PSE, described in item IV, A. below.

Applicants who currently hold or have, in the past, held a license to practice psychology in another state/jurisdiction should send the Verification of Licensure Form (enclosed) to each licensing jurisdiction. Please note that a fee may be required by the jurisdiction(s) for completion of this form. The completed form should be forwarded directly to the Board Office from the jurisdiction that granted the license.

Applicants holding the Certificate of Professional Qualification (CPQ) in psychology issued by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) should contact the ASPPB and request that a verification form stating that the certification is current and in good standing be sent directly to the Board Office.

Applicants holding board certification by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) should contact the ABPP and request that a verification form stating that the certification is current and in good standing be sent directly to the Board Office.

Previously licensed applicants should be aware that licensure cannot be granted until **all** materials are received by the Board and the Board has the opportunity to review the complete file at a regularly scheduled meeting. At such time, the Board will determine admission to the Professional Standards Exam (PSE) or grant licensure to those candidates who are eligible under §34-26-41 (d). This entire process generally takes three (3) to four (4) months from the time the application is received in the Board Office. An applicant should therefore apply well in advance of his/her anticipated date of licensure. Furthermore, the applicant should not imply to employers or others that the license will be awarded automatically or at a particular time. (See Item III, D.)

C. Please be advised that subparagraph (7) of *Ala. Code, 1975* §34-26-41(c) is not yet operative in Alabama. Alabama does not have reciprocal agreements with any other state/jurisdiction at this time. All applications are reviewed under Rule 750-X-2-.04 and 750-X-2-.08 only.

D. **LAPSED APPLICATION.** If for any reason an application remains incomplete for a period of one (1) year from the date of receipt, re-application is required. Re-application includes completion of a new application form, new and updated references, a new application fee, completed fingerprint cards, release forms, and the fee for processing a criminal history background check.

III. EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

A. **APPLICATION DEADLINE.** The cut-off dates for completion of application files will be the first day of odd-numbered months. In order for the application to be considered complete, the applicant's file must contain **all** required documentation (i.e. transcripts, degree validation form, completed reference forms, etc.). The Board **will not** review the application file until it is complete.

B. **REVIEW OF COMPLETED APPLICATIONS.** The Board reviews and evaluates completed applications at its regular meetings, which are generally scheduled on the second Friday of odd-numbered months. Applications will be reviewed under the Law and rules & regulations in effect the date the application is received. An applicant's credentials will be reviewed at the next regular meeting of the Board following completion of the application file, i.e., all transcripts and reference forms and any other pertinent information received. Following the Board's review and evaluation of the completed application, the applicant will be notified of the Board's decision by letter.

C. **APA/aPA MEMBERSHIP.** Membership in the APA or in the Alabama Psychological Association (aPA) is not a determinant or qualification for licensure. However, adherence

to the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct is required of applicants and licensees.

D. **CAUTION.** Since licensure is required in order to practice in Alabama, applicants are encouraged to apply well in advance of employment or professional placement. **Temporary licensure for practice is <u>NOT</u> granted by the Board, and there is no provision for practicing psychology prior to licensure.** Individuals, in anticipation of licensure, occasionally present themselves as being Psychologists (e.g. placing this title on an office door or stationery, or advertising in the Yellow Pages under "Psychologists"). Since practice or such promotion prior to licensure is a violation of the licensing act and professional ethics, and constitutes a Class B misdemeanor, the Board will consider appropriate legal action and will suspend review of an application pending resolution of the violation. There is an exemption for persons who are employed by state agencies.

E. **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION IN PSYCHOLOGY.** Applicants are required to designate an area of specialization via specialization statements in the application for licensure; this specialization identifies the area in which an applicant intends to practice. Applicants should present evidence of competence in specialization areas on the basis of academic preparation and training experiences, in keeping with Ethical Principle 2.01 Boundaries of Competence, of the APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct. An individual desiring to add to or alter specialization areas should apply to the Board. Any changes in major areas of specialization should be accomplished through enrollment and satisfactory completion of an appropriate doctoral training program and appropriate internship where relevant. Continuing education, although encouraged and required of licensees, is not sufficient to substantiate a change in specialization area.

IV. EXAMINATION

A. **FORM AND FEES.** The Board utilizes the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) to certify competency. This test is designed and approved by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB); it is distributed and scored by Pearson VUE. The cost of the examination is determined by and is payable to ASPPB (See VII. FEE SCHEDULE, below). This fee is independent and in addition to the Board's application fee; **it should not be sent with the application for licensure.** Payment of an additional test administration fee must be made at the time you, the candidate, schedule your examination with the Pearson Professional Centers.

All candidates (with the exception of those who are otherwise qualified pursuant to §34-26-41(d)) are also required to pass the Professional Standards Examination (PSE), which is a multiple choice exam covering material from the Alabama License Law and the APA's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (2002 Edition, as amended February 20, 2010). After being admitted to the PSE by the Board, candidates may contact the Board Office to schedule an appointment to sit for the PSE in Montgomery, Alabama. The Board Office offers the PSE between the hours of 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Monday through Friday. The PSE fee is fifty dollars ($50.00). **Please do not send this fee with your application for licensure; it is due and payable when you sit for the exam at the Board Office.** The APA's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Ethics may be obtained free of charge from the APA. A copy of the Alabama Law is enclosed.

B. **CRITERION FOR PASSING.** After the assembled Board reviews a candidate's examination score(s), the Executive Director notifies the candidate of the Board's decision concerning licensure. Criterion for successful completion of the EPPP is determined by the Board based upon the ASPPB recommended passing score of 500 for psychologists. Criterion for successful passage of the PSE is 80% of the items correct.

C. **TIME ALLOWED FOR TEST.** Candidates are allowed four (4) hours and fifteen (15) minutes to complete the EPPP. The examination contains two-hundred and twenty-five (225) items/questions. There are forty-two (42) multiple choice questions on the PSE, which is not timed and generally takes less than an hour to complete.

D. **EPPP SCORE TRANSFER SERVICE.** As a component of the ASPPB's mobility objectives, the EPPP Score Transfer Service has been established. Although the Board does not insist upon the use of the service, candidates are strongly urged to register their examination scores with the EPPP Score Transfer Service in order to facilitate accurate and prompt reporting of scores between states/jurisdictions.

V. RE-EXAMINATION

Any applicant who fails the EPPP and/or the PSE has the option of taking the exam for a second time after waiting a mandatory six (6) months from the date of the first attempt. If re-examination is successfully completed within one (1) year after the mandatory six (6) month waiting period, no new licensure application or licensure application fee is required. However, a second test administration fee for the EPPP and/or a second PSE examination fee is required. A candidate taking either examination for the second time will receive a different form of the exam. A candidate may sit twice for an exam under a current application. If the second attempt is unsuccessful, a new application for licensure must be submitted to the Board once again.

VI. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. **LICENSE RENEWAL.** Once granted, a license is current through the end of the current fiscal year. Annual renewal is required of all licensees. The Board sends Renewal Notices to licensees on August 15 each year, and requires payment of renewal fees by October 15 each year. Failure to comply with all requirements for renewal by October 15th each year shall result in a lapsed license which prohibits the licensee from continuing to practice unless working in an exempt setting.

B. **CONTINUING EDUCATION.** Licensed psychologists are required to complete twenty (20) hours of continuing education per year. Psychologists must demonstrate compliance with the continuing education requirements at the time of application for license renewal and must pay a fifty dollar ($50.00) continuing education fee. Specific continuing education requirements, which may be pro-rated as necessary, will be provided to each new licensee upon initial licensure.

C. **FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT BOARD PROCEDURES.** Any individual wishing to obtain information about the policies and procedures of the Board not herein described may inquire in writing.

VII. FEE SCHEDULE

Application Fee	
Psychologists----------	$400.00
Psychological Technicians----------	$260.00
EPPP Fee---------- (Refer to IV. A. Form and Fees)	$600.00
Professional Standards Examination---------- (Refer to IV. A. Form and Fees)	$50.00
License Renewal	
Psychologists----------	$230.00
Psychological Technicians----------	$150.00
Late Penalty Fee----------	$20.00
(Accumulative each month or fraction thereof that the payment is late)	
Inactive Status Fee	
Psychologists----------	$50.00
Psychological Technicians----------	$35.00
Continuing Education Fee----------	$50.00
Bad Check Charge---------- *(Dishonor of a negotiable instrument)*	$30.00

VIII. AVAILABLE INFORMATION

Current Roster of Licensed Psychologists---------- *(Available as a printed copy or via electronic means)*	$25.00
Current Roster of Licensed Psychological Technicians----- *(Available as a printed copy or via electronic means)*	$25.00
Replacement Certificate----------	$50.00
Replacement Renewal Card----------	$25.00
Rules and Regulations---------- *(Printed copy only)*	$10.00

ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN PSYCHOLOGY
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 750-X-2
THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS

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750-X-2-.01 Candidates For Licensure.

Any person wishing to obtain the right to practice as a psychologist in this state, who has not heretofore been licensed to do so, shall, before it shall be lawful for him or her to practice as a psychologist in this state, make application to the Board of Examiners in Psychology through the chair upon such form and in such manner as prescribed by the board.

Unless a person has first obtained a valid license as aforesaid, it shall be unlawful and a violation of §34-26-1, *et seq*. for him or her to practice.

A candidate for licensure as a psychologist shall furnish the board with satisfactory evidence of all of the following:

a. He or she is of good moral character.

b. He or she is at least 19 years of age.

c. He or she has received a doctorate degree from a department of, or school of, psychology, from an educational institution accredited and recognized by national and regional accrediting agencies as maintaining satisfactory standards.

d. He or she is competent in psychology as shown by passing such examinations, written or oral, or both, as the board will prescribe, unless exempted pursuant to 750-X-2.08(2).

e. He or she is not engaged in unethical practice as defined in the Code of Ethics of the American Psychological Association.

f. He or she has not within the preceding six months failed an examination given by the board.

Author: Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology
Statutory Authority: *Ala. Code, 1975*, § 34-26-1, *et seq.*; § 34-26-41
History: Rule entitled "Application Deadlines" filed September 21, 1982.
Repealed and new rule entitled "Candidates for Licensure" filed November 5, 1987. **Amended:** Filed April 6, 1989; April 5, 1990, November 25, 1997, May 14, 1998, September 16, 2008, November 27, 2013.

750-X-2-.02 Application Deadlines.

Upon request, all persons intending to apply for licensure will be supplied with a licensure application form, a copy of the Alabama law, and an "Information for Applicants" brochure. The cut-off dates for completion of application files will be the first day of odd numbered months, to be reviewed at the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting.
Author: Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology
Statutory Authority: *Ala. Code, 1975*, § 34-26-1, *et seq.*
History: Rule entitled "Application Form" filed September 21, 1982. **Emergency Amendment:** Filed October 8, 1987. **Permanent Amendment:** Filed October 7, 1987. **Repealed and new rule** entitled "Application Deadlines" filed November 5, 1987. **Amended:** Filed April 5, 1990; March 18, 1996, November 25, 1997, November 15, 2000, May 15, 2013.

750-X-2-.03 Application Form.

Applications will be reviewed under the laws and rules and regulations in effect the date the application is received. All applications shall be submitted on a form prescribed and provided by the Board of Examiners in Psychology and accompanied by such evidence, statements, and documents as are therein required. The licensure application form must be filled out legibly and in detail, giving requested information and dates. It shall include a complete list of job positions in chronological sequence. A certified copy of each transcript shall be sent by the registrars of each institution directly to the Board. The applicant shall have the registrar, the graduate school dean, or other approved official of the doctoral degree granting institution to certify (1) the degree granting school or college, (2) the exact name of the department which granted the degree, and (3) the exact title of the doctoral degree. The entire licensure application form shall be notarized. The Board must be informed if a previous application for licensure has been submitted in this state. Four references are required (see Rule 750-X-2-.05 below). The licensure application fee must accompany the application form and is non-refundable.

All applicants for licensure shall submit to a criminal history background check by providing fingerprints and executing a criminal history information release using forms provided to the applicant by the Board. The applicant is responsible for having his or her fingerprints made. The applicant shall provide his or her completed fingerprint cards, along with a Cashier's Check or Money Order made payable to the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) in the amount sufficient to cover the actual cost of the background check, to the Board office to be submitted to the ALEA. ALEA is responsible for forwarding the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history record check. Information received by the Board pursuant to a criminal history background check shall be confidential and shall not be a public record, except that such information received by and relied upon by the Board in denying the issuance of a certificate of qualification may be disclosed as may be necessary to support the denial.
Author: Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology
Statutory Authority: *Ala. Code, 1975*, § 34-26-1, *et seq.*, §34-26-43.1
History: Rule entitled "Doctoral Degree from Department or School of Psychology" filed September 21, 1982.
Amended: Filed May 29, 1986. **Repealed and new rule** entitled "Application Form" filed November 5, 1987.
Amended: Filed April 5, 1990. **Amended:** Filed March 6, 1992. **Amended:** Filed August 4, 1993. **Amended:** Filed December 3, 1993, November 25, 1997, November 15, 2000, May 15, 2013, November 27, 2013, July 11, 2016 (effective August 25, 2016 pursuant to Act 2016-416)..

750-X-2-.04 Doctoral Degree From Department Or School Of Psychology.

All applicants (see Rule 750-X-2.08 below for certain exceptions) shall have a doctoral degree from a department of or school of psychology as defined herein. Departments or schools which have programs fully or provisionally accredited by the American Psychological Association at the time the applicant graduated will be recognized as meeting the Board's definition of a department or school of psychology, and applicants who graduated from these APA accredited programs will be considered to have met the Board's educational requirements. Departments or schools which do not meet the requirements above will be recognized as meeting the Board's definition of a department or school of psychology if they met the following organizational and curriculum criteria at the time the applicant graduated:

(1) Organizational Requirements.

a. Training in psychology must have been doctoral training offered in an institution of higher education accredited by a nationally recognized regional accrediting body in the United States or, in the case of Canadian programs, the institution is publically recognized by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada as a member in good standing.

b. The department or school, at the time the applicant graduated, must have specified in pertinent institutional catalogs and brochures its intent to educate and train psychologists.

c. The department or school was a recognizable, coherent organizational entity within the institution.

d. The department or school assumed authority and primary responsibility for coursework in the core and specialty areas whether or not the program cuts across administrative lines.

e. The department or school provided a curriculum that was an integrated, organized sequence of study.

f. The department or school provided an identifiable full-time psychology faculty, some of whom were licensed psychologists; and a psychologist was responsible for the curriculum.

g. The department or school had an identifiable body of students who were regularly matriculated in that program for the doctoral degree.

(2) Curriculum Requirements.

a. The applicant's curriculum shall have encompassed a minimum of three academic years (nine months each) of full-time graduate study.

b. At least two years of the full-time graduate study must be at the institution from which the doctoral degree is granted.

c. At least one year of the full-time graduate study must be in full-time residence at the institution from which the doctoral degree is granted.

d. Full-time graduate study includes residence at the educational institution in which the students pursue full-time graduate study together with other students enrolled in that program. Residence provides students access to a core psychology faculty whose primary time and employment responsibilities are to the educational institution, and access to other students matriculated in that program. Full-time study in residence also requires education and training to be distributed over the days and weeks of an academic year on campus. However, there should be flexibility in the application of residency requirements with respect to an individual student who has particular needs, assuming that such an exception does not interfere with the general applicability of the residency requirement for the program. The intent of a full-time residency requirement is to provide the interactions with faculty and fellow students necessary for acculturation and socialization in the science and practice of psychology. An internship year requirement will not contribute to the academic year requirements of this criterion.

e. The curriculum must have included a minimum of 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) of graduate -level coursework in psychology, excluding internship. Coursework must have been programmatic and sequential in nature. If the applicant's doctoral and master's degree programs were in different departments or schools, the majority of psychology coursework must have been taken at the doctoral level. Only courses with grades of B or above will be counted in evaluating graduate transcripts. Where grades are recorded as Pass (P) or Fail (F), passing grades will be required. Course credit for masters' thesis research, doctoral dissertation research, research projects, practica or internship will not count as meeting any of the curriculum requirements. Post-doctoral work in psychology submitted for the Board's consideration must have been taken from a department which offered a doctoral degree as defined herein.

f. Required Core Areas.

(1) A minimum of 24 semester (36 quarter) hours must have been taken from the areas as specified in (4) - (5). Courses which were limited to a particular student population (e.g., "Theories of Learning for Teachers"), are not applicable.

(2) Courses must have been generic and comprehensive in nature and must have provided the student with an empirical and theoretical foundation of the subject matter. For instance, "Personnel Motivation" and "Research in Guidance" would be disallowed. Applied coursework will be evaluated only under specialty and elective areas as defined in f. below.

(3) Transfer of credit from a master's degree or undergraduate department must have been accepted by the doctoral degree granting department and reflected on the doctoral transcript or otherwise have been documented as acceptable transfer credit from the master's degree program by the doctoral degree granting department.

(4) The following core courses are required:

(a) Statistics
(b) Ethics and Professional Standards*
(c) Experimental Design/Research Methods
(d) Theory of Psychological Measurement
(e) History and Systems of Psychology

*If the applicant did not have a specific course in ethics, the burden is on the applicant to demonstrate coverage in this area.

(5) In addition, at least one core course of at least 3 semester or 4.5 quarter hours is required in each area as follows:

(a) Biological Bases of Behavior
e.g., Comparative Physiological
Perception/Sensation
Psychopharmacology
Neuropsychology

(b) Cognitive-Affective Bases of Behavior
e.g., Cognitive Psychology Learning Memory
Motivation and Emotion

(c) Social Bases of Behavior
e.g., Cultural/Ethnic/Sex Role Processes
Group Processes
Organizational Theory and Systems
Social Psychology

(d) Individual Behavior
e.g., Abnormal Psychology/Psychopathology
Developmental Psychology
Individual Differences
Personality Theory

g. Psychology Specialty and Elective Courses.

(1) A minimum of 36 additional semester (54 quarter) hours in psychology is required. Each course may be counted only once; if already credited under a "core area," a course will not be credited again under "specialty and/or elective area."

(2) If the applicant wishes an untitled seminar, independent study, or special problems course counted, he/she must provide a detailed description of course taken, including the name of the

instructor/professor, books required, and content of course. The Board must be given university references (specific professors) so that course content may be verified. In all cases the burden of proof rests with the applicant that special seminars, special problems courses, etc., meet the Board's requirements for coursework in either core or specialty/elective areas.

h. Course Deficiencies. Applicants who have a doctoral degree from a department or school of psychology, as defined herein, and who meet all other requirements excepting only two courses as noted above may take up to 6 semester (9 quarter) hours from a psychology department which grants a doctoral degree with prior approval from the Board. Applicants who elect to meet curriculum requirements in this manner must register for a grade of "B" or better as reflected on the official transcript. Such courses must be taken within one year of the Board's letter of approval or re-application will be required.

i. Total Graduate Hours Required. Psychology coursework must include a minimum of 60 semester (90 quarter) hours; 24 semester (36 quarter) hours core, and 36 semester (54 quarter) hours specialty and elective courses.

Author: Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology
Statutory Authority: *Ala. Code, 1975*, § 34-26-1, *et seq.*; § 34-26-41
History: Rule entitled "Appropriateness of Training Offered: References" filed September 23, 1982. **Repealed and new rule** entitled "Doctoral Degree from Department or School of Psychology" filed November 5, 1987. **Amended: F**iled April 5, 1990. **Amended:** Filed December 3, 1993 **Amended:** Filed September 21, 1994, November 25, 1997, May 14, 1998, September 17, 2002, July 23, 2007.

750-X-2-.05 References.

In evaluating additional qualifications, the Board shall take into consideration the applicant's training, supervision, ethical conduct and professional competence. Four positive references from psychologists, three of whom must be licensed or certified at the doctoral level, are required. One reference must be from the applicant's doctoral dissertation or doctoral directed study advisor, chairperson, or program director of the doctoral degree granting department. From applicants whose training included a pre-doctoral or post-doctoral internship in an applied field (e.g., clinical, counseling, school, industrial/organizational) at least one reference shall be from an internship supervisor or the director of internship training. For applicants with prior professional experience, a reference from a supervisor or licensed colleague will be required. When it is impossible to obtain a required reference the Board may consider an alternative reference on a case-by-case basis.
Author: Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology
Statutory Authority: *Ala. Code, 1975*, § 34-26-1, *et seq.*
History: Rule entitled "Competency Statement" filed September 21, 1982. **Repealed and new rule** entitled "References" filed November 5, 1987. **Amended:** Filed April 6, 1989; April 5, 1990. **Amended:** Filed September 21, 1994, March 17, 1998.

750-X-2-.06 Area Of Specialization

(1) The Board recognizes specialization in Clinical Psychology, Counseling Psychology, Industrial/Organizational Psychology, and School Psychology. Applicants who meet all other requirements for licensure and who are graduates from programs accredited by the American Psychological Association in Clinical Psychology, Counseling Psychology, and School Psychology, and who have completed an acceptable internship accredited by the American Psychological Association or who have met the internship criteria defined in Rule 750-X-2-.07 will be recognized as having a specialty in one of those areas. Applicants who meet all other requirements for licensure and who present a Diplomate awarded by the American Board of Professional Psychology in an area other than the areas of specialization recognized by the Board will be evaluated by the Board to determine whether or not the applicant meets the requirements for any of the specializations recognized by the Board.

(2) Applicants who seek recognition in a specialty area and who do not meet the above criteria must satisfy the criteria below:

(a) Clinical Psychology

1. Qualifying coursework must have been taken while enrolled in a doctoral program which specified in pertinent institutional catalogs and brochures its intent to educate and train clinical psychologists.

2. Qualifying coursework must have included the following areas (minimum of 27 semester hours or 40 quarter hours):

    (i) Abnormal Behavior/Psychopathology
    (ii) Intellectual Assessment
    (iii) Personality Assessment
    (iv) Theory of Intervention and Treatment of Mental Disorders
    (v) Practicum in Psychological Assessment
    (vi) Practicum in Psychological Intervention
    (vii) Advanced Clinical Electives

3. An internship in clinical psychology which emphasized assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of mental disorders and which met the criteria outlined in Rule 750-X-2-.07 must have been completed.

(b) Counseling Psychology

1. Qualifying coursework must have been taken while enrolled in a doctoral program which specified in pertinent institutional catalogs and brochures its intent to educate and train counseling psychologists.

2. Qualifying coursework must have included the following areas (minimum of 27 semester hours or 40 quarter hours):

    (i) Theory of Counseling/Psychotherapy
    (ii) Assessment of Aptitude and Abilities and/or Personality
    (iii) Human Adjustment or Development, or Abnormal Behavior
    (iv) Vocational Assessment
    (v) Practicum in Assessment
    (vi) Practicum in Intervention
    (vii) Advanced Electives in Counseling Psychology

3. An internship in counseling psychology which emphasized the application of psychological principles to facilitate effective functioning during life-span development and which met the criteria outlined in Rule 750-X-2-.07 must have been completed.

(c) Industrial/Organizational Psychology

1. Qualifying coursework must have been taken while enrolled in a doctoral program which specified in pertinent institutional catalogs and brochures its intent to educate and train industrial/organizational psychologists.

2. Qualifying coursework must have included the following areas (minimum of 24 semester hours or 36 quarter hours):

    (i) Assessment and Measurement in Industrial/Organizational (Organizational Behavior)
    (ii) Theory of Industrial/Organizational Psychology
    (iii) Quantitive and Qualitative Research Methods

(iv) Electives from such areas as Consultation, Management, Human Factors, Motivation, Applied Research and Training and Development.

(v) Supervised practicum, field placement, or internship in industrial/organizational psychology which emphasized the application of psychological principles to problems of organizations and the problems of individuals in work and organizational settings.

(d) School Psychology

1. Qualifying coursework must have been taken while enrolled in a doctoral program which specified in pertinent institutional catalogs and brochures its intent to educate and train school psychologists.

2. Qualifying coursework must have included the following areas (minimum of 24 semester hours or 36 quarter hours):

(i) Intellectual Assessment
(ii) Assessment of Educational Abilities and Achievement
(iii) Theory of Intervention in Educational Settings
(iv) Practicum in School Psychology
(v) Child/Developmental Psychology
(vi) Consultation and Program Planning
(vii) Electives in School Psychology
(viii) An internship in school psychology which emphasized the application of psychological principles and skills to learning problems and which met the criteria outlined in Rule 750-X-2-.07 must be completed.

(3) The Board will review transcripts and related material to assess the applicant's area of specialization.

(4) Applicants should claim specialization based upon their education and training. Board recognition of specialty areas at the time of licensure requires the licensee to identify his/her specialty area and to practice within the limits of his/her education and training.

(5) An individual desiring to add to or alter specialization areas should apply to the Board. Any changes in major areas of specialization should be accomplished through enrollment in an appropriate doctoral training program and appropriate internship where relevant. Continuing education is not sufficient to substantiate a change in specialization area.

Author: Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology
Statutory Authority: *Ala. Code, 1975*, § 34-26-1, *et seq.*; § 34-26-22
History: Rule entitled "Reciprocity" filed September 21, 1982. **Repealed and new rule** entitled "Area of Specialization" filed November 5, 1987. **Amended:** Filed April 6, 1989, April 5, 1990. **Amended:** Filed September 21, 1994, November 25, 1997, May 14, 1998, September 17, 2002.

750-X-2-.07 Internship Training.

(1) Applicants who have successfully completed an internship that was accredited by the American Psychological Association or the Canadian Psychological Association at the time of the applicant's training will be recognized as meeting the Board's internship training requirements.

(2) Internships which were not accredited by the American Psychological Association or Canadian Psychological Association will be acceptable only if they met the following criteria:

(a) The internship was an organized training program, in contrast to supervised experience or on-the-job training. It must have provided the intern with a planned, programmed sequence of training experiences assuring breadth and quality of training.

(b) The internship agency had a clearly designated staff psychologist who was responsible for the integrity and quality of the training program and who was actively licensed/certified by a State/Provincial Board of Examiners in Psychology.

(c) The internship agency had at least two licensed psychologists on the staff as supervisors.

(d) Internship supervision was provided by a staff member of the internship agency or by an affiliate of that agency who carried clinical responsibility for the cases being supervised. At least half of the internship supervision was provided by one or more psychologists.

(e) The internship provided training in a range of assessment and treatment activities conducted directly with clients in need of psychological services.

(f) At least 25% of trainee's time was in direct client contact.

(g) The internship included a minimum of two hours per week (regardless of whether the internship was completed in one year or two) of regularly scheduled, formal, face to face individual supervision with the specific intent of dealing with psychological services rendered directly by the intern. There must also have been at least two additional hours per week in learning activities such as: case conferences involving a case in which the intern was actively involved; seminars dealing with clinical issues; co-therapy with a staff person including discussion; group supervision; additional individual supervision.

(h) Training was post-clerkship, post-practicum and post-externship level.

(i) The internship agency had a minimum of two interns at the internship level of training during applicant's training period. The Board may make exceptions in the case of school psychologists.

(j) Trainees had a title such as "Intern," "resident," "fellow," or other designation of trainee status.

(k) The internship agency had a written statement or brochure which described the goals and content of the internship. The brochure stated clear expectations for quantity and quality of trainee's work, and was made available to prospective interns.

(l) The internship experience was the equivalent of 1 year full-time training completed in no less than 11 months (10 months for school psychologist's internships) and no more than 24 consecutive months.

(m) If two internship sites are used to fulfill minimum requirements, references must be received from an internship supervisor or internship director at each site.

(n) The Board retains the right to disallow claimed experiences which violate common sense.

(3) A maximum of two internship sites or consortium programs may be utilized to meet the internship requirement. In instances where two sites are used, each site shall meet all conditions listed in (a) through (n) above. Furthermore, any internship experience claimed under this Rule must be a minimum of 20 hours per week.

Author: Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology
Statutory Authority: *Ala. Code, 1975*, § 34-26-1, *et seq.*
History: Rule entitled "Disposition of Applicant" filed September 21, 1982. **Repealed and new rule** entitled "Internship Training" filed November 5, 1987. **Amended:** Filed April 5, 1990. **Amended:** Filed October 5, 1992. **Amended:** Filed September 21, 1994, November 25, 1997, March 11, 2002, September 17, 2002, November 27, 2013.

750-X-2-.08 Licensure of Applicants Licensed To Practice Psychology In Another Jurisdiction.

(1) Applicants who are in good standing and who are currently licensed to practice independently as a psychologist in another jurisdiction (excluding temporary, provisional or other conditional licensure) will be granted a license to practice psychology in Alabama upon meeting the following criteria:

(a) Applicants must meet the same education and training requirements as outlined in 750-X-2-.04 and 750-X-2-.07 above.

(b) Applicants must be at least 19 years of age, and of good moral character.

(c) Applicants must pass (or have previously passed) the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology at the same passing point required of applicants for first-time licensure in Alabama at the time of the applicant's application.

(d) Applicants must pass the Professional Standards Examination required of all Alabama licensure candidates (see exception 750-X-2-.08(2) below).

(e) A license to practice psychology in Alabama will not be granted to any individual whose license to practice psychology is currently revoked or suspended in another state or who is currently under investigation or currently being disciplined for ethical violations according to the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct published by the American Psychological Association. Applicants currently under investigation cannot be licensed until such time they can prove to the Board that they have been cleared of all allegations of wrong doing.

(2) The Board shall issue a license to any applicant with a doctoral degree in psychology who is otherwise qualified pursuant to 750-X-2-.01, who is licensed to practice at the independent level as a psychologist in at least two states (excluding temporary, provisional or other conditional licensure) and who has passed a recognized national exam at the same passing point required of applicants for first-time licensure in Alabama at the time of the applicant's application.

(a) A license to practice psychology in Alabama will not be granted to any individual whose license to practice psychology is currently revoked or suspended in another jurisdiction or who is currently under investigation or currently being disciplined for ethical violations according to the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct published by the American Psychological Association. Applicants currently under investigation cannot be licensed until such time they can prove to the Board that they have been cleared of all allegations of wrong doing.

(3) The Board may also at its discretion grant a certificate without an assembled examination to any person residing or employed in the state who at the time of the application is licensed or certified by a similar board of another state whose standards, in the opinion of the board, are not lower than those required in 750-X-2-.01 and 750-X-2-.04, or who has been practicing psychology in another state and has qualifications not lower than those required in 750-X-2-.01 and 750-X-2-.04, and is able to satisfy the board that to grant him/her a license would be in the public interest.

(4) The Board shall issue a license to an individual holding the Certificate of Professional Qualification (CPQ) in psychology issued by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Board (ASPPB), or its successor organization. Applicants holding the CPQ in psychology issued by the ASPPB shall submit all of the following to the Board:

(a) An application for licensure and the corresponding fee.

(b) An executed criminal history information release using forms provided to the applicant by the Board and the corresponding fee.

(c) Verification form(s) from the jurisdiction(s) of licensure, verifying that licensure is current and in good standing.

(d) Verification form from the ASPPB, verifying that certification is current and in good standing.

(e) Applicants must pass the Professional Standards Examination required of all Alabama licensure candidates (see exception 750-X-2-.08(2) above).

(f) A license to practice psychology in Alabama will not be granted to any individual whose license to practice psychology is currently revoked or suspended in another jurisdiction or who is currently under investigation or currently being disciplined for ethical violations according to the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct published by the American Psychological Association. Applicants currently under investigation, or facing any matter that puts in question his or her competency to practice, cannot be licensed until such time they can prove to the Board that they have been cleared of all allegations of wrong doing.

(5) The Board shall issue a license to any applicant holding board certification by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) and has not within the preceding six months failed an examination given by the board. Applicants holding ABPP certification shall submit all of the following to the Board:

(a) An application for licensure and the corresponding fee.

(b) An executed criminal history information release using forms provided to the applicant by the Board and the corresponding fee.

(c) Verification form(s) from the jurisdiction(s) of licensure, verifying that licensure is current and in good standing.

(d) Verification form from the ABPP, verifying that certification is current and in good standing.

(e) Applicants must pass the Professional Standards Examination required of all Alabama licensure candidates (see exception 750-X-2-.08(2) above).

(f) A license to practice psychology in Alabama will not be granted to any individual whose license to practice psychology in another jurisdiction is currently revoked or suspended in another state or who is currently under investigation or currently being disciplined for ethical violations according to the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct published by the American Psychological Association. Applicants currently under investigation, or facing any matter that puts in question his or her competency to practice, cannot be licensed until such time they can prove to the Board that they have been cleared of all allegations of wrong doing.

(6) An individual who possesses a valid license to practice psychology independently at the doctoral level, by any jurisdiction recognized by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB), may practice psychology in Alabama for no more than 30 days each calendar year without applying for a license to practice psychology in Alabama, unless otherwise exempted from licensure. This authority to practice does not apply to a psychologist who has previously been denied licensure in Alabama, or who is a legal resident of Alabama, or who intends to practice full-time or a major portion of his or her time in Alabama.

(7) An individual licensed to practice psychology in another jurisdiction who is providing services in Alabama in response to a declared disaster or state of emergency may practice psychology in Alabama for no more than 60 days per calendar year without applying for a license.

(a) The Governor must proclaim a state of emergency that has an impact on the State of Alabama for this subsection to apply to any provider of psychological services.

(b) Psychologists providing disaster or emergency services under such circumstance in Alabama must register with the Board within ten business days of entering the state by filing an Emergency Practice Registration Form with the Board office.

Author: Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology
Statutory Authority: *Ala. Code, 1975*, § 34-26-1, *et seq.*, **§34-26-41**
History: Filed November 5, 1987. **Amended:** Filed April 6, 1989; April 5, 1990, November 25, 1997, May 14, 1998, September 17, 2002, September 16, 2008, March 16, 2012, November 27, 2013.

750-X-2-.09 Disposition Of Applicants.

(1) Board Action. The affirmative votes of a majority of Board members voting shall be required to grant admission to the examination and licensure. The applicant will be notified by letter of the Board's decision.

(2) Restrictions on Member Voting.

(a) A Board member cannot serve as a reference for an applicant.

(b) Board members must abstain from voting in the licensing process if the applicant is in their employ or under their supervision, or if there is a legal, ethical, or moral question vis-a-vis the Board member and the applicant.

Author: Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology
Statutory Authority: *Ala. Code, 1975*, § 34-26-1, *et seq.*
History: Filed November 5, 1987. **Amended:** Filed April 5, 1990.