

**TITLE 575. STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS
CHAPTER 10. LICENSURE OF PSYCHOLOGISTS**

RULEMAKING ACTION:

Proposed Permanent Rule Changes:

575:10-1-2. Requirements to become licensed as a psychologist [AMENDED]

575:10-1-3. Private Practice Under Supervision [AMENDED]

575:10-1-11. Telepsychology [NEW]

575:10-1-2. Requirements to become licensed as a psychologist

(a) **Application.** Persons desiring licensure as a psychologist may obtain official application information from either the Board office or the Official Board Website. Applicants are required to submit a non-refundable four hundred dollar (\$400.00) application fee in the form of a personal or certified check or acceptable money order. A minimum of three references from licensed psychologists shall be required for each applicant. Board members shall not serve as references for applicants except to verify portions of completed training or experience.

(b) **Consideration of application.** The Board may appoint a committee to consider and approve, the request of each applicant to take the examination for licensure as a psychologist under 59 O.S., Section 1362(1). In instances where the applicant fails to complete the requirements for licensure within five years of the date of approval, the Board may destroy the application and all related documents.

(c) **Doctoral programs.** Applicants for licensure shall have completed a doctoral program in psychology that is accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA), unless the doctoral program meets any of the following exceptions:

(1) Areas where no accreditation exists. This exception applies to doctoral programs, within the United States, that are in specialty areas of professional psychology that are not accredited by the APA.

(2) New specialty areas of professional psychology. When a new specialty of professional psychology is recognized as being within the accreditation scope of the APA, doctoral programs within that specialty will be afforded a maximum transition period of eight (8) years from the first class of students to the time of accreditation. To be eligible for this exception the program must have a pending application for accreditation with the APA at the time of the applicant's application for licensure.

(3) New doctoral programs in specialty areas currently within the scope of APA accreditation. This exception is available to new doctoral programs developed in APA accredited specialty areas of professional psychology. A doctoral program is only eligible for this exception during a maximum transition period of eight (8) years from the first class of students to the time of accreditation. To be eligible for this exception the program must have a pending application for accreditation with the APA at the time of the applicant's application for licensure.

(4) Applicants trained in institutions outside the United States shall have completed a doctoral program in psychology that is accredited by the Canadian Psychological Association or that is deemed the equivalent of a program accredited by the APA by the Board in its sole discretion. The Board shall consider, but is not limited to, determinations made by a foreign credential evaluation service that is a member of the National

Association of Credential Evaluation Services or from a recognized foreign credential evaluation service approved by the Board.

(d) All doctoral programs in 575:10-1-2(c) shall meet all of the following criteria:

(1) The doctoral program, wherever it may be administratively housed, must be clearly identified and labeled as a psychology program. Such a program must specify in pertinent institutional catalogs and brochures its intent to educate and train psychologists.

(2) The psychology program must stand as a recognizable coherent organizational entity within the institution.

(3) There must be clear authority and primary responsibility for the core and specialty areas whether or not the program cuts across administrative lines.

(4) The program must be an integrated, organized sequence of study.

(5) The program must have an identifiable psychology faculty and a psychologist responsible for the program.

(6) The program must have an identifiable body of students who are matriculated in that program for a degree.

(e) **Practica and internship required.** The assessment of mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders and/or the treatment of individuals, couples, families, or groups with such disorders, by psychologists, requires a doctoral degree from an academic program designed to train psychologists to provide these services which integrates coursework and other experiences toward the goal of training psychologist practitioners. Practica and an internship experience are required.

(f) **Evaluating doctoral programs.** The doctoral program shall be documented in writing to the Board. The institution is to document the name of the department granting the degree, the date of completion of the degree requirements, and the major program of study such as, but not limited to, clinical, counseling, developmental, educational, experimental, industrial-personnel, psychometrics, school, or social-personality, unless this information is indicated on the applicant's official transcript. A certified letter from the Registrar may be submitted as documentation of the date of completion of the degree requirements. Applicants trained in institutions outside the United States, besides those accredited by the Canadian Psychological Association, shall submit an evaluation of their doctoral program as described in 575:10-1-2(c)(4). All doctoral programs submitted for review under this subsection will be evaluated by the following criteria:

(1) Except in school psychology, the three academic years leading to the doctoral degree must include a minimum of two years of full-time, on campus, graduate study (excluding internship). In school psychology, the three academic years leading to the doctoral degree must include a minimum of one year of full-time postmaster's graduate study as defined by the institution (excluding internship).

(2) At least forty-two (42) hours of the specified course work must be primarily psychological in content. The applicant must have a minimum of three (3) or more graduate semester hours in each of the following substantive content areas, for a total of twenty-one (21) hours:

(A) scientific and professional ethics and standards,

(B) research design and methodology,

(C) statistics and psychometrics,

(D) biological bases of behavior [e.g. physiological psychology, comparative psychology, neuropsychology, sensation, psychopharmacology].

(E) cognitive-affective bases of behavior [e.g. learning, memory, perception, cognition, thinking, motivation, emotion].

- (F) social bases of behavior [e.g. social psychology, cultural, ethnic, and group processes, sex roles, organization and systems theory], and
- (G) individual behavior [e.g. personality theory, human development, individual differences, abnormal psychology].

(3) The remaining twenty-one (21) hours of specified course work may be in the foregoing basic areas or in courses pertaining to the specific program of study.

(g) **Doctoral degree in area related to psychology not sufficient.** The possession of a doctoral degree from an area related to psychology does not qualify one for licensure as a psychologist. This includes, but is not limited to, applicants with degrees in special education, pastoral psychology (or counseling), counseling and guidance, speech and hearing, and counselor education.

(h) **Supervised experience.** An applicant for licensure as a psychologist must have two years of supervised experience satisfactory to the Board. Supervisors may not be members of the psychologist's immediate family or other individuals with whom the necessary level of objectivity cannot be maintained. This will include, but is not limited to, spouses, children, siblings, and parents or anyone with whom the psychologist has an emotionally or sexually intimate relationship. Any experience gained under such supervision will be disallowed. This two years of experience must be as a psychologist and in line with the applicant's major program of study for the doctoral degree as determined according to the procedure stated in 575:10-1-2(e). Applicants in the areas of clinical, counseling, and school psychology must have an internship experience. Applicants from psychology programs other than clinical, counseling, or school psychology, who assert the program's purpose to be the training of individuals to provide professional psychological services to the public, must have an internship experience. Internships of applicants from psychology programs with titles other than clinical, counseling, or school psychology programs will be evaluated using the same rules as those used to evaluate applicants with degrees from either clinical, counseling, or school psychology programs, depending upon which the Board deems is the most appropriate corollary based upon the program's training goals and objectives. A predoctoral internship may be used to partially fulfill the two-year experience requirement for licensure. Under no circumstances may more than one year of predoctoral experience as an intern be accepted. The internship must be consistent with the major program of study in the doctoral program which was documented in writing to the Board by the accredited institution [see 575:10-1-2(e)]. Internships in clinical psychology require a full-time experience (40 hours per week) either for one calendar year, or for two years of half-time experience. Counseling and school psychology internships require either a full-time experience (40 hours per week) for one calendar year or one academic contract year or a half-time experience for two calendar years or two academic contract years. An academic contract year means the school year of the elementary or secondary school setting in which an intern is fulfilling the internship requirement. If the counseling or school psychology internship is completed in other than an elementary or secondary school setting, the one calendar year requirement shall apply.

(i) **General requirements for internships.** Internships must be designed to provide a planned, programmed sequence of training experience. The primary focus and purpose of the internship must assure breadth and quality of training. An internship is an organized program of planned experiences in contrast to simply supervised experience or on-the-job training. The internship must provide training in a range of assessment and treatment activities conducted directly with patients or clients seeking psychological services. At least 25 percent of the trainee's time must be in direct patient or client contact. Internship training is at the post-coursework, post candidacy,

post-clerkship, post-practicum, post-externship level. A written statement or brochure must be available which describes the goals and content of the internship, states clear expectations for the quantity and quality of trainee's work, and is furnished to prospective interns.

(j) **Supervision in internships.** A clinical or counseling psychology internship agency must have a clearly designated staff psychologist, who is responsible for the integrity and quality of the training program and who is licensed. In a counseling or clinical psychology internship, the basic supervision must be conducted by a staff psychologist who is trained in the applicant's major program of doctoral study, or a closely related program, and who is licensed. While additional experience with professionals in other disciplines is highly desirable, it is required that clinical and counseling psychology interns have experience with multiple (three or more) supervisors who are licensed as psychologists. Supervision of counseling and clinical psychology interns shall consist of an average of at least 10 percent of the full-time or half-time intern's week. At least half of the supervision of clinical and counseling psychology interns must be regularly scheduled, formal, face-to-face, individual supervision by one or more licensed psychologists with the intent of dealing with psychological services rendered directly by the intern. The remaining half of the supervision may be conducted individually or in a group by licensed psychologists or by other licensed professionals as appropriate to the internship experience. The counseling or clinical psychology internship agency should ordinarily have a minimum of two interns at the internship level of training during the applicant's training period.

(k) **School psychology internships.** School psychology internships must have a clearly designated psychologist who is responsible for the integrity and quality of the training program and who is licensed. In a school psychology internship, the basic supervision must be conducted by a psychologist who is trained in the applicant's major program of doctoral study, or a closely related program, who is licensed, and who may be employed in a setting other than the school district in which the internship is situated. While additional experience with professionals in other disciplines is highly desirable, it is required that school psychology interns have experience with multiple (two or more) supervisors who are licensed as psychologists. Supervision of school psychology interns shall consist of an average of at least 10 percent of the full-time or half-time intern's week. At least half of the supervision of school psychology interns must be regularly scheduled, formal, face-to-face, individual supervision by one or more licensed psychologists with the intent of dealing with psychological services rendered directly by the intern. The remaining half of the supervision may be conducted individually or in a group by licensed psychologists or by other licensed professionals as appropriate to the internship experience.

(l) **Postdoctoral experience.** At least one year of the two-year experience requirement must be postdoctoral experience as a psychologist and in line with the applicant's major program of doctoral study as determined according to the procedure stated in 575:10-1-2(e).

(1) Except in school psychology, the postdoctoral experience must be a total of 2000 hours of appropriate experience. The postdoctoral experience must either be full time (40 hours per week) for at least one calendar year (50 weeks), or part-time for a period not to exceed three years.

(2) The postdoctoral experience in school psychology must be full time (40 hours per week) for at least one calendar year (50 weeks) or one academic contract year, or a total of 2000 hours (or the number of hours in an academic contract year) of appropriate experience, or equivalent, for a period not to exceed three years.

(3) The postdoctoral experience must be under the supervision of a licensed psychologist(s) who was trained in the applicant's major program of doctoral study, or a closely related

program, and who is currently engaged in rendering psychological services relevant to that training.

(4) Applicants must have received and accumulated 75 hours of regularly scheduled, formal, face-to-face, individual supervision from his/her supervisor(s) reasonably distributed throughout each 12 months of the postdoctoral experience.

(5) The postdoctoral experience does not have to be in a private setting.

(6) Applicants completing their postdoctoral experience in an academic or clinical research setting, a minimum of two-years is required to fulfill the Health Service Psychologist requirements. An applicant is required to spend 50% of his/her time performing the following activities:

(A) Direct service/multiple client contacts per week (minimum of five clients) including service in an agency or university-based clinic, or in a private practice under supervision. Minimum for applicants in an academic or clinical research setting is 250 hours per year, for a minimum of two years, over the course of the postdoctoral supervision experience.

(B) Academic or clinical research setting applicants may also perform any of the following activities:

(i) Modeling and demonstrating clinical techniques, including assessment and therapy.

(ii) Supervision of clinical services, wherein the faculty supervisor assumes direct responsibility for supervisee's clinical work.

(iii) Conducting workshops for community groups or public presentations on mental health related topics.

(67) The postdoctoral experience of applicants who desire a Health Service Psychologist designation must also meet the requirements of 575:10-1-6(b)(5)(B).

(m) **Examination process.** The full examination for licensure shall consist of two component examinations:

(1) **Objective examination.** An objective examination in basic psychology, known as the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology ("EPPP"), all parts of the exam, as required by the Board.

(2) **Jurisprudence examination.** A jurisprudence examination based on the Rules of the Board, Psychologists Licensing Act, Code of Ethics and applicable Oklahoma Mental Health Law.

(n) **Passing scores on examinations.** An applicant is deemed to have passed the objective examination if he/she has obtained at least the minimum pass point designated by the developer of the examination. An applicant is deemed to have passed the jurisprudence examination if he/she has 70 percent of the total items correct.

(o) **Notification of results.** All applicants will be notified by mail of the results of each component examination within 30 days of the examination date. At the request of the applicant, specific information about his/her performance on any component examination will be provided to the extent the integrity of the exam is not violated.

(p) **Re-examination.** If either of the two component examinations is failed a total of four times, the application process shall cease. The former applicant may reapply for licensure by submitting

a new application and fee for consideration by the Board in accordance with the requirements to become licensed as a psychologist.

(q) **Waiver of portion of examination or re-examination.** Failure on either portion of the licensing examination will be considered failure of the entire examination for purposes of licensing; however, satisfactory performance on the objective examination or jurisprudence examination will be grounds for waiver of that portion of the examination for future re-examination.

(r) **Confidentiality of exam scores.** Exam results shall be kept confidential by the Board.

(s) **Licensing by ~~reciprocity~~ endorsement.** Applicants for licensure ~~under the reciprocity provisions of this act~~ by endorsement may only be licensed if they meet the requirements in 59 O.S. Section 1366(2).

(t) **Post-Military Service Applicants.**

(1) The Board shall consider the equivalent education, training and experience completed by an applicant while the applicant was a member of the United States Armed Forces or Reserves, National Guard of any state, the Military Reserves of any state, or the Naval militias of any state, and apply it in the manner most favorable toward satisfying the qualifications for licensure.

(2) While examining the education, training and experience completed by an applicant while the applicant was a member of the military as described in the preceding paragraph, the Board may consider, but is not limited to, determinations made by institutions of higher education based on the Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services, published by the American Council on Education.

(u) **Disqualifying offenses.** Pursuant to 59 O.S. § 4000.1, the Oklahoma State Board of Examiners shall maintain a list of offenses under Oklahoma law that could disqualify a person from obtaining a license under the Oklahoma Psychologists Licensing Act (59 O.S. § 1351-1376).

(1) The offenses included on the list substantially relate to the practice of psychology and pose a reasonable threat to public safety. The list of disqualifying offenses is available on the Board's website or by contacting the Board office and requesting the current list. The Board may modify the list as needed to protect the public health and safety.

(2) Individuals may request an initial determination from the Board regarding whether the individuals' criminal history would disqualify that individual from obtaining a license. Such request must be in writing and directed to the Board. The individual must submit a copy of their criminal history and any related documents and court records that specify the criminal history of the individual. A ninety-five dollar (\$95.00) fee shall accompany any request for initial determination. The fee shall be collected by the Board office prior to the determination.

(3) If an individual has a criminal history that includes offenses from another state or federal law violations, the offenses will disqualify an individual if the conduct would also be a crime under Oklahoma law.

(4) The individual may appeal the Board's initial determination of disqualification by submitting a request in writing of the circumstances the individual would like the Board to consider. The Board may discuss the individual appeals at any scheduled meeting of the Board. The individual may be allowed to address the Board during public comment by signing in at the beginning of the meeting at which the appeal may be on the agenda.

575:10-1-3. Private Practice Under Supervision

(a) **Purpose.** The purpose of this provision is to provide an opportunity for individuals to fulfill the experience requirements for licensure in psychology in other than academic, governmental, or institutional settings. The applicant for such approval is considered to be requesting entrance into the established practice of a licensed psychologist for the purpose of gaining supervised experience.

(b) **Not an independent practitioner.** The applicant, if approved to conduct Private Practice Under Supervision, is not authorized to represent him/herself as an independent practitioner of psychology to the public.

(c) **Application; eligibility; approval.** Application for approval to Practice Psychology Under Supervision shall be made in the same manner, and on the same forms that are used to apply for licensure. A statement, signed by both the applicant and proposed supervisor, must be submitted with the application. The statement shall contain an explicit statement indicating that the supervisor agrees to supervise the practice of psychology of the applicant, and that the supervisor has read, understands and agrees to the provisions of the law with respect to practice under supervision, 59 O.S., Section 1353(d) to wit, that the supervisor accepts complete and full responsibility for the psychological activities and services of the applicant. Permission to practice under supervision will be granted only after the applicant has completed all requirements for the doctorate and the Board has been so notified by the university awarding the degree. Approval will be extended only to those whose training and experience would qualify them for licensure after completion of the experience requirements of the law, except for the second year of supervised experience as required in 575:10-1-2(g), and has been approved by the Board or a committee selected by the Board to sit for examination. Approval for practice under this provision shall be for a period of one calendar year dating from the date of approval by the Board of the application for Private Practice Under Supervision or until date of licensure. Extension of this approval shall be considered only upon written request of the supervisee and such request must be received prior to the end of the one-year period of previous approval.

(d) **Written agreement between applicant and supervisor.** Applications for approval to engage in Private Practice Under Supervision shall include a written agreement, co-signed by the applicant and his/her supervisor, describing the terms of the supervisory arrangement. Said terms must include supervision time amounting to at least 90 minutes weekly and a statement of fees charged for supervisory time, the extent of the applicant's services rendered to the public while practicing under supervision, and an evaluation of the quality of the applicant's professional and interpersonal skills for rendering services to the public.

(e) **Notice of decision.** The individual applicant for approval for Private Practice Under Supervision shall be notified in writing as to the decision of the Board or committee with respect to said application.

(f) **Preparation and distribution of certain announcements forbidden.** Persons approved for the private practice under supervision are not authorized to represent themselves as independent practitioners of psychology. Preparation or distribution of announcements of practice, independent telephone listings, or other such notices shall be in violation of the authorization to practice under supervision and will lead to automatic revocation of the approval for practice under supervision.

(g) **Terminate responsibilities and obligations.** Any individual practicing psychology under supervision must take the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) and Jurisprudence Examination no later than one calendar year after the day permission to practice under supervision is granted. Failure to take the examination within the designated time period

shall result in automatic revocation of the approval to practice under supervision. An individual approved for Private Practice Under Supervision who fails all or part of the examination for licensure, may be granted an extension of the approval for Private Practice Under Supervision; however, such approval shall be automatically revoked if the individual does not attempt re-examination within one calendar year from the date of the completion of the last part of the examination which was previously attempted. Under unusual circumstance, such as military service or major illness, an applicant may be granted an extension of the approval to practice until the next examination which the supervisee might reasonably be expected to attempt. If the applicant fails any of the ~~three portions of the~~ licensing examination ~~three~~ four times then approval for practice under supervision will automatically be revoked.

(h) **Requirements for supervisors.** Permission to practice psychology under supervision shall be granted to applicants who otherwise qualify, only if the supervisor for their practice is:

- (1) A psychologist who has been licensed for two years and in good standing.
- (2) Trained in the same major program of study as the applicant's doctoral training and who will supervise the candidate in work consistent with that major program of study.
- (3) Currently engaged in a private practice rendering psychological services to the public on at least a 10-hour weekly basis.
- (4) Is not a member of the psychologist's immediate family nor an individual with whom the necessary level of objectivity can be maintained. This will include, but is not limited to, a spouse, children, siblings, and parents or anyone with whom the psychologist has an emotionally or sexually intimate relationship.

(i) **Supervisor's responsibility.** As per 59 O.S., Section 1353(6), the supervising psychologist accepts full and complete responsibility for all professional conduct of the supervisee; all professional responsibility resides with the supervisor, not with the supervisee. The supervisee will be considered to have joined the practice of the supervisor. The supervisory psychologist will normally be expected to accept no more than three supervisees under the provision of this section. Exceptions to this limit may be approved by the Board if the Board determines that adequate supervision will be provided by the proposed relationship.

575:10-1-11. Telepsychology

(a) **"Telepsychology"** means the practice of psychology as defined 59 O.S. § 1352, including psychological and school psychological supervision, by distance communication technology such as but not necessarily limited to telephone, email, Internet-based communications, and videoconferencing.

(b) **"Resident"** means any individual who is or has been present in Oklahoma for other than a temporary or transitory purpose, or who is domiciled in Oklahoma.

(c) **"Domicile"** means the place where an individual voluntarily establishes themselves and their family, not merely for a special or limited purpose, but with a present intention of making it their true, fixed, permanent home and principal establishment.

(d) In order to practice telepsychology in the state of Oklahoma, one must hold a current, valid license issued by the Oklahoma State Board of Examiners of Psychologists ("Board"), or be currently credentialed through the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (also known as PSYPACT), set forth in 59 O.S. § 1377 *et seq.* Psychological technicians, interns, and post-doctoral candidates approved by the Board to practice under the supervision of an Oklahoma licensed psychologist may also provide telepsychology services.

(e) Telepsychology providers must comply with all other provisions of the statutes and rules that govern the practice of psychology while engaging in telepsychology.

(f) The recipient of telepsychology services must be a resident or domiciled in Oklahoma, unless otherwise allowed by law. Those that provide telepsychology services bear responsibility for complying with all applicable laws, rules, and/or policies that govern the practice of telepsychology (for example, HIPAA regulations).

(g) Telepsychology providers recognize that telepsychology is not appropriate for all psychological problems and clients, and decisions regarding the appropriate use of telepsychology are made on a case-by-case basis.

(h) Telepsychology providers will document an emergency plan in the service recipient's record. The plan will specify the procedure for dealing with emergencies that will in an effective and timely way, provide for the service recipient's welfare.

(i) Telepsychology providers shall obtain and document informed consent for the provision of psychological health care services via telepsychology from the client. Such consent shall cover concerns unique to the receipt of psychological health care services via telepsychology, including risks to confidentiality and security, data storage policies and procedures specific to telepsychology, the possibility of disruption and/or interruption of service due to technological failure, insurance coverage considerations, and other issues that can reasonably be anticipated regarding the non-comparability between psychological health care services delivered in person and those delivered via telepsychology.

(j) Telepsychology providers shall establish an agreement relative to the client's access to face-to-face emergency services in the client's geographical area, in instances such as, but not necessarily limited to, the client experiencing a suicidal or homicidal crisis.

(k) Telepsychology providers shall ensure the security and confidentiality of communications and records created and maintained during telepsychology services, and must comply with all applicable laws, rules, and/or policies that govern the practice of telepsychology.

(l) Telepsychology providers using telepsychology for testing must ensure that the identity of service recipients remains secure, that test security is maintained, that test-taking conditions are conducive to quiet and private test administration, and that the parameters of the test(s) are not compromised.

(m) Telepsychology providers will explain to service recipients the potential limitations of conclusions and recommendations drawn from the results of testing and will document these limitations in the findings or report.

(n) Before delivering telepsychology services to recipients across state, territorial, and international boundaries, providers should familiarize themselves and ensure that they comply with all applicable laws.