



MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY Education and Training Requirements

Psychologists hold a doctoral degree from a psychology at an academic institution whose psychology program is accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) or the Canadian Psychological Association. This usually entails a minimum of four years of graduate study beyond the Bachelors Degree. They must also complete a one year supervised internship and a one-year supervised post-doctoral experience. They must demonstrate professional knowledge by passing a written and oral examination. They must abide by the APA Code of Conduct and Ethical Principles. Specifics of the educational and training requirements for licensure as a psychologist is found in Mississippi Law and the Rules and Regulations of the Board.

The Mississippi Code of 1972 Effective July 1, 2002 further describes education, training and other requirements in Section 73-31-13:

The board shall issue a license as a psychologist to each applicant who shall file an application upon a form and in such a manner as the board prescribes, accompanied by such fee as is required by this chapter; and who furnishes evidence satisfactory to the board that he or she:

- (a) Is at least twenty-one (21) years of age; and
- (b) Is a citizen of the United States, a Canadian citizen applying for licensure under the terms of a reciprocity agreement, or has declared his intention to become a citizen. A statement by the applicant under oath that he is a citizen, a Canadian citizen applying for licensure under the terms of a reciprocity agreement, or that he intends to apply for citizenship when he becomes eligible to make such application, shall be sufficient proof of

compliance with this requirement; and

(c) Is of good moral character; and

(d) Is not in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter and the rules and regulations adopted there under; and

(e) Holds a doctoral degree in psychology from an institution of higher education that is: regionally accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, or authorized by Provincial statute or Royal Charter to grant doctoral degrees: and from a program accredited by the American Psychological Association, or the Canadian Psychological Association. For graduates from newly established programs seeking accreditation or in areas where no accreditation exists, applicants for licensure shall have completed a doctoral program in psychology that meets recognized acceptable professional standards as determined by the board. For applicants graduating from doctoral level psychology training programs outside of the United States of America or Canada, applicants for licensure shall have completed a doctoral program in psychology that meets recognized acceptable professional standards as determined by the board; and

(f) Has two (2) years of supervised experience in the same area of emphasis as the academic degree, which includes an internship and one (1) year of supervised post-doctoral experience, that meet the standards of training as defined by the board. Each year (or equivalent) shall be comprised of at least two thousand (2,000) hours of actual work, to include direct service, training and supervisory time. A pre-doctoral internship may be counted as one (1) of the two (2) years of experience; and

(g) Demonstrates professional knowledge by passing a written (henceforth in this statute, the term “written” shall mean either paper-and-pencil or computer-administered or computerized testing) and oral examination in psychology prescribed by the board; except that upon examination of credentials the board may, by unanimous consent, consider these credentials adequate evidence of professional knowledge.

Upon investigation of the application and other evidence submitted, the board shall, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the examination, notify each applicant that the application and evidence submitted is satisfactory

and accepted or unsatisfactory and rejected; if rejected, said notice shall state the reasons for such rejection. The place of examination shall be designated in advance by the board, and such examination shall be given at such time and place and under such supervision as the board may determine. The examination used by the board shall consist of written tests and oral tests, and shall fairly test the applicant's knowledge and application thereof in those areas deemed relevant by the board. These shall include, but not be limited to, the following: history of psychology, statistical methods, experimental design, personality theory and psychology of learning. In addition, the applicant shall be required to demonstrate his knowledge and application thereof in those areas deemed relevant to his specialty and/or those services he intends to offer to the public. The board shall evaluate the results from both the written and oral examinations. The passing scores for the written and oral examinations shall be established by the board in its rules and regulations. In the event an applicant fails to receive a passing score on the entire examination, he may reapply and shall be allowed to take a subsequent examination. An applicant who has failed two (2) successive examinations by the board may not reapply until after two (2) years from the date of the last examination failed. The board shall keep the written examination scores, and an accurate transcript of the questions and answers relating to the oral examinations, and the grade assigned to each answer thereof, as part of its records for at least two (2) years subsequent to the date of examination.

If any psychologist duly licensed under this chapter shall, by virtue of additional training and experience, become qualified to practice in a specialty other than that for which he was deemed competent at the time of initial licensing, and wishes to offer such service under the provisions of this chapter, he shall at the time of annual renewal of licenses submit additional credentials and be given the opportunity to demonstrate his knowledge and application thereof in areas deemed relevant to his specialty. The Board may charge a reasonable fee for evaluating these credentials and the applicant's knowledge.

Each application or filing made under this section shall include the Social Security number(s) of the applicant in accordance with Section 93-11-64, Mississippi Code of 1972.