

# rehabilitation psychology

# defined:

## Rehabilitation Psychology

Rehabilitation psychology is that area of psychological practice concerned with assisting individuals with disabilities (congenital or acquired) in achieving optimal emotional, cognitive, physical, and social functioning. Rehabilitation psychologists consider the entire network of biological, functioning of persons with disabilities. Rehabilitation psychologists are active in the areas of clinical practice, research, advocacy, administration, and education.

## Senior Psychologist Certification Process

Psychologists who earned degrees at least 15 years prior to the date of application are eligible for the Senior Certification Process. Allowances may be granted for endorsements and for practice sample materials. Senior applicants do not differ from other candidates in the requirement to demonstrate clinical competencies.

## Requirements for Board Certification

Rehabilitation Psychology requires specialty specific academic preparation and clinical training. Three years of experience in rehabilitation psychology are required; two years must be supervised. One supervision year may be pre-doctoral. However, many psychologists have entered the field from diverse training backgrounds. Psychologists who have been practicing in rehabilitation psychology and believe that they can demonstrate the required competencies are encouraged to apply. Candidates will be considered for candidacy on an individual basis.

## Assessment and Intervention

The assessment and intervention competencies related to the practice of rehabilitation psychology are fundamental. Two written samples of the candidate's practice are submitted and reviewed together. In addition, assessment and intervention competencies will be evaluated at the time of the oral examination as the candidate reasons through two clinical vignettes and addresses questions about the practice sample.

## Science Base and Application

The scientific base of the specialty resides in the application of the scientific method of inquiry to the contemporary practice of rehabilitation psychology, including the applicant's awareness of theory and research pertaining to issues of disability and rehabilitation.

## Ethics and Legal Foundations

Awareness and appropriate adherence to ethical and legal standards are critical in the practice of rehabilitation psychology. These include the ethical principles and enforceable standards of the APA Ethics Code and the statutory tenets of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended.

## Professional Identification

The candidate is expected to demonstrate meaningful involvement with the profession via membership and participation in professional associations allied with rehabilitation psychology, and in current practice activities.

## Consultation and Supervision

Interdisciplinary treatment team consultation is emphasized, along with trainee supervision in the context of that interactional treatment milieu.

*"Although I was committed to becoming board-certified, as an early career rehabilitation psychologist, I was somewhat intimidated by the process. The biggest mental barriers for me were feeling like I had not yet had the time to read every important article published in the field or enough clinical experience to draw upon. Thankfully, my ABRP mentor helped me realize that becoming board certified is about being able to demonstrate that you are **COMPETENT** in the core areas related to your field, not perfect. In hindsight, I now have a much greater appreciation for the fact that becoming board certified is not a final destination. It's about a commitment to lifelong learning and constantly striving to be a better psychologist today than you were the day before, and the sooner you throw the idea of 'perfect' out the window, the easier this is to do."*  
—Bradley J. Daniels, PhD, ABPP (RP)

## ABPP Central Office

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## Fees

\$125 fee for application and credential review to establish candidacy.  
\$250 fee for the practice sample review and establishment of the oral examination team.  
\$450 for the oral examination.

These fees are due sequentially over the time span necessary to complete all of the candidacy and examination steps. Upon granting Board certification a yearly fee of \$185 is assessed to support the many services of the ABPP and the representation of the organization to the public and the profession.