

# rehabilitation psychology

## defined:

### **The American Board of Rehabilitation Psychology (ABRP)**

was incorporated in 1995 to conduct examinations leading to the Board Certification in Rehabilitation Psychology. ABRP emerged from early efforts by the Specialty Designation Committee of Division 22 (Rehabilitation Psychology) of the American Psychological Association. In 1997, ABRP became fully affiliated with the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) and now operates within the ABPP guidelines.

### **Rehabilitation Psychology**

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

### **Certification in Rehabilitation Psychology**

Board certification assures the public and the profession that the rehabilitation psychology specialist has successfully completed the educational, training, and experience requirements of the specialty, including an examination designed to assess the competencies required to provide quality services in rehabilitation psychology. Specialties, by definition, are advanced levels of practice that include doctoral and post-doctoral preparation. A description of the general doctoral and licensure requirements for certification follows, along with the additional requirements of the rehabilitation psychology specialty.

### **Senior Psychologist Certification Process**

In some specialties, psychologists who are in practice for at least 15 years following licensure may qualify for certain modifications in the examination process which take into account extensive experience as a practitioner. Please contact Central Office if you believe that you may qualify.

### **ABPP Central Office**

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### **Requirements for Board Certification**

Each specialty requires appropriate education and training as the foundation for the specialty: a recognized internship program, at least two years of supervised post-doctoral experience, or one year of post-doctoral experience and successful completion of a recognized post-doctoral residency program in Rehabilitation Psychology.

### **Assessment and Intervention**

The assessment and intervention competencies related to the practice of rehabilitation psychology are fundamental. Two samples of the candidate's practice are submitted and reviewed together. In addition, assessment and intervention competencies will be assessed through examination of clinical vignettes that are presented at the time of the exam.

### **Science Base and Application**

The science or discipline basis of the specialty is the appropriate application of that base 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 of the APA, the standards and requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### **Professional Identification**

The candidate is expected to demonstrate meaningful involvement with the profession in general, and the specialty of rehabilitation psychology in particular.

### **Consultation and Supervision**

These competency areas have emerged as significant areas of practice in rehabilitation psychology and are applicable when the specialist's pattern of practice include them in an important way.

*"As someone who recently completed the board certification process, I can unequivocally state that it was a very enriching process...The process provides you with a sense of validation by your peers and helps the public clearly identify who has met the requirements of certification...When I finished I did not feel like I had passed one test—I felt I had completed a comprehensive process designed to assess my competence. There were anxieties along the way—"what if I fail"—but then I decided I would just take what I learned and build on it to improve myself. I highly suggest going for the boards."*

- Dominic A. Carone, Ph.D, ABPP

### **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.