

GEORGIA BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS

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# ORAL EXAMINATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### PURPOSE AND RATIONALE

Georgia law pertaining to the practice of psychology is general. However, it is expected that licensed psychologists will offer only those services that are compatible with their training and experience. This premise is based on the Ethical Principles of Psychologists, as propounded by the American Psychological Association, and is incorporated into the Rules (510-4-.01) of the Georgia Board of Examiners of Psychologists (henceforth "the Board").

The basic principles of the Oral Examination are: (1) to inquire about the candidate's expected type of practice and (2) to examine the candidate's preparation and readiness to offer psychological services under the anticipated practice to the public. An important aspect of readiness to enter practice is the candidate's knowledge and appreciation of ethical and legal issues, and, Georgia laws governing the practice of psychology.

Candidates admitted to the Oral Examination are presumed to be competent to practice unless that examination reveals deficiencies that would seriously interfere with the candidate's ability to render effective services. It is anticipated that any such deficiencies could be overcome through additional learning experiences that would address and correct the particular deficiencies identified. The candidate would be expected to satisfactorily complete and submit proof of completion of such additional experiences before being granted a license.

### EXAMINATION CONTENT

Candidates will be examined over several dimensions. A candidate's performance will be evaluated as acceptable or unacceptable in each of the following dimensions:

- **DIAGNOSTIC SKILLS** – This dimension relates to the candidate's familiarity with assessment tools, techniques, and procedures relevant to one's intended practice and client population. It also relates to the ability to identify appropriate assessment approaches to use relative to given situation or client.
- **INTERVENTION SKILLS** – This dimension relates to the candidate's ability to select from a variety of intervention approaches or models the one which is most suitable in a given situation. This ability requires the candidate to display breadth and depth of knowledge of accepted professional practice. It also requires the ability to recognize an intervention that is not yielding the desired results or is having undesirable side effects, and ability to respond appropriately.
- **AWARENESS OF LIMITATIONS** – This dimension relates to the candidate's ability to recognize a given problem or situation that falls outside one's area of competence. This requires the candidate to display an appreciation for the boundaries of his/her competency.
- **QUALITY OF WORK SAMPLE** – This dimension relates to the written work sample submitted by the candidate. A psychological evaluation or case study is a case summary which

includes client information, psychological testing if applicable, materials and procedures used, and a conclusion. It will be reviewed as to: sufficiency of background data, appropriateness of the evaluative process, appropriateness of intervention strategy and recognition of the appropriate role of the psychologist in the given situation. The work sample must: (1) be your own work, not computer generated; and (2) not be over six (6) months old, unless previously approved by the Board. **You must submit one (1) copy to the Board via fax (478-314-9712) seven (7) days prior to your scheduled oral examination and bring one (1) copy with you to the oral examination for the Board's use.**

- **KNOWLEDGE AND APPRECIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICAL PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES** - This dimension relates to the knowledge of the Georgia Board of Examiners of Psychologists Code of Conduct, recognition of ethical considerations raised in the Candidate's work sample, recognition of ethical issues that may arise in one's practice, and awareness of how to best deal with ethical constraints placed on licensed psychologists.
- **KNOWLEDGE OF GEORGIA LAW**- This dimension relates to the candidate's knowledge of the Georgia Laws and Board Rules governing the practice of psychology and, to the understanding of responsibilities and constraints placed on licensed psychologists.

## **PROCEDURES**

- **PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION OR ACTUAL CASE STUDY** – One (1) copy of the work sample will be retained as part of the candidate's file. The work sample should be representative of the candidate's work in the professional setting of a case worked on ideally within the last six (6) months prior to the Oral Examination and it should reflect the kind of practice the candidate intends to engage in as a licensed psychologist. (Fax one copy to: 478-314-9712 as stated above in QUALITY OF WORK SAMPLE section)
- **ETHICAL ISSUES** – Candidates should be prepared to discuss with the board an ethical dilemma, applicable ethical principles and your resolution of the ethical dilemma.
- **EXAMINATION PROCESS** – The examination will be approximately thirty (30) minutes long. After all candidates have been examined, the committee will present its recommendations concerning licensure to the full board for official action.

## **DECISION**

Candidates will be advised in writing of the Board's decision within seven (7) to ten (10) business days following their examination. The decision will reflect one of the following two outcomes of the Oral Examination:

1. **APPROVAL & LICENSURE** - The Board approves the candidates for licensure. The candidate will receive a letter confirming approval.
2. **FULL BOARD EXAMINATION** – The Committee may recommend that prior to making a decision about licensure, the candidate continue the Oral Examination before the full board. The candidate will be notified in writing of the Board's decision and given a date to appear before the Board.

**06/22/2011**