

AMERICAN BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE PRACTICE

BOARD CERTIFICATION FOR DIPLOMATE STATUS

I. SUMMARY OF THE APPLICATION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

- A. Initial Application Requirements. To be accepted as an applicant for diplomate status with the American Board of Behavioral Healthcare Practice (ABBHP), an applicant must meet the following requirements:
1. Completion of a doctorate in psychology (Ph.D., Psy.D., Ed.D) which was clinically-based in its emphasis or was awarded by an institution that was fully accredited by the National Institute for Behavioral Health Quality (NIBHQ).

or

 - 1a. Completion of a doctorate in behavioral healthcare (DBH) which was clinically-based in its emphasis or was awarded by an institution that was fully accredited by the National Institute for Behavioral Health Quality.

or

 - 1b. Completion of a doctorate in mental health (DMH) which was clinically-based in its emphasis or was awarded by an institution that was fully accredited by the National Institute for Behavioral Health Quality.

or

 - 1c. Completion of a doctorate in medicine (MD or DO) from a school or university accepted for eligibility to practice in the United States or Canada.
2. Completion of a formal fellowship/internship of at least 1,500 hours in behavioral healthcare or clinical psychology. The acceptability of the program must be voted upon by the ABBHP Board of Directors but the program shall be considered to be acceptable for purposes of eligibility for ABBHP Diplomate status if the fellowship/internship was completed under the auspices of a program accredited by the NIBHQ or was acceptable for licensure in the United States or Canada.

3. Achievement of a passing grade on the Behavioral Healthcare Examination.
The fee for the BHE is two hundred (\$200.00) dollars which is to be submitted to ABBHP if an applicant chooses this form of examination.

or

3b. An oral examination administered by the American Board of Behavioral Healthcare Practice. A mutually convenient time and location will be determined. The format of the examination will be that of a “professional inquiry,” collegial in nature, and designed to demonstrate fundamental behavioral health care knowledge, clinical problem-solving issues, ethical considerations, cultural/ethnic/gender factors affecting patient care and similar content. The applicant will need to receive a passing score by two of three ABBHP reviewers. The fee for the oral examination is three hundred (\$300.00) dollars which is to be submitted to ABBHP if an applicant chooses this form of examination. If a candidate fails to pass the oral examination, he/she will be allowed to take it again, two additional times, at an additional cost of three hundred (\$300.00). If the candidate fails to pass the examination, (and if they have neither taken nor passed one of the written exams above) they will be not be eligible to re-apply for Diplomate status without prejudice in no less than one (1) year from the last date of the examination.

4. Possession of an unrestricted license to practice psychology or medicine.

5. The completion of two courses in behavioral healthcare designated by ABBHP. This requirement will be waived for those applicants who are board certified in medical psychology from the American Board of Medical Psychology.

or

Who are board certified in neuropsychology.

or

Who have completed a post doctoral degree or professional certificate in clinical Psychopharmacology.

or

Whose practice has been accredited by NIBHQ.

or

For those applicants who have received a Doctor of Behavioral Health.

6. A practice sample that demonstrates the applicant's work in behavioral healthcare. This may consist of a redacted case involving assessment, case formulation, treatment plan, termination summary, or any other sample acceptable to the ABBHP board.
7. A letter of recommendation or professional rating from a primary care physician that attests to the clinical competence of the applicant's work in behavioral healthcare.
8. Submission of an application to ABBHP, accompanied by an initial, non-refundable payment of one hundred twenty five (\$125.00) dollars, which shall be considered to be payment for review and verification of the facts presented in the application.
9. ABBHP will verify the representations made in the individual's application and act upon the application within a period of one hundred twenty (120) days. If verification of representations is not obtained by ABBHP within one hundred twenty (120) days, the applicant will be notified of the deficiencies in the application and will be given an additional one hundred twenty (120) days to arrange for such verification to be provided to ABBHP. Upon the award of the Diplomate, applicants will be assessed a fee of \$200.00 for yearly registration of their board certification.

B. **Maintenance of "Good Standing.** A Diplomate of ABBHP will be required to maintain "good standing" in order to advertise his/her status to the public. The requirements for maintenance of "good standing" will be determined from time to time by the ABBHP Board of Directors. In general, the following will be required:

1. An unrestricted license to practice in the state, province or other relevant jurisdiction where the Diplomate practices. Diplomate status will terminate immediately upon loss of license, however, a Diplomate may change their license designation to "retired," or some similar status with no effect on his/her status as a Diplomate.
2. Completion of the ABBHP Recertification Examination every five (5) years. The ABBHP Board of Directors will periodically issue specific requirements, such as those relating to cost of the recertification process, the form of the examination, etc.

C. **Retired or Inactive Status.** A Diplomate may retain his/her status, without the need for recertification, once he/she has represented to the ABBHP Board of Directors that he/she is providing clinical services to patients or teaching in a medical psychology-related area less than ten (10) hours/week.