

New Developments on the Path (or Highway) to Licensure

APPIC
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- 1. Identify the current (2011) domains of knowledge assessed by the EPPP.
- 2. Interpret results of EPPP data analysis on such variables as optimal study methods, study time, and timing of taking the EPPP to their interns.
- 3. Explain the how the new ASPPB universal application (Psychology Licensing Universal System, PLUS) will be utilized by licensing boards.

Learning Objectives

- State/provincial/territorial psychology regulatory boards/colleges in the United States and Canada
- 64 member jurisdictions
- Services to licensing boards, applicants for licensure/registration, licensed psychologists
- The international source of information and resources for the regulation and licensure/registration of psychologists

Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB)

- Develops and maintains the Examination for Professional Practice of Psychology (EPPP)
- Facilitates professional mobility for already licensed psychologists through several programs, CPQ, IPC, Credentials Bank
- In process of developing a universal application for licensure: PLUS Psychology Licensure Universal System
- A number of other projects including Maintenance of Competence and Licensure, Competency Assessment, Supervision Guidelines

ASPPB

The Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology: New Data – Practical Implications

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BACKGROUND

- EPPP used in 53 US / 9 Canadian Jurisdictions
- Owned by ASPPB
- Purpose to examine a candidate's breadth and depth of knowledge of the profession of psychology:
 - 1) biological bases (12%); 2) cognitive-affective (13%); 3) social and cultural (12%); 4) growth and lifespan development (12%); 5) assessment and diagnosis (14%); 6) treatment, intervention and prevention (14%); 7) research and statistics (8%); 8) ethical/legal/professional issues (15%)

- Four Forms of the EPPP are in use at any given time
 - Two new forms added and two retired each year
- Validated and updated by periodic practice analysis
 - PA surveyed 1180 newly licensed and experienced psychologists seeking their views on the frequency of knowledge used, the importance of the knowledge to their practice and critical nature of the knowledge protecting the public from harm.

Background

A DIGRESSION

- The Practice Analysis also examined a competency model, similar to the Benchmarks model
 - Scientific Knowledge Base
 - Evidence-Based Decision Making/Critical Reasoning
 - Cultural and Interpersonal
 - Professionalism/Ethics
 - Assessment
 - Intervention/Supervision/Consultation
- And examined psychologists views about assessing these competencies similar to the Toolkit framework

- Demographic data are collected
- Since 2007, ASPPB reports pass rates for demographic categories and academic programs – available on line
www.asppb.net

Background

- 7,402 Doctoral Candidates: 4/08 to 7/10
- 75% Female; 25% Male
- 48% PsyD; 51% PhD; 1% EdD or other

Sample

- Candidates for licensure filled out a demographic questionnaire on a variety of characteristics.
- Accessed EPPP scores for candidates

Procedure

- 72% of all candidates received passing scores
- 82% first time test-takers passed
- Negative relationship between length of time since completion of degree and pass rate
- Study for the EPPP – 199 hours levels off
- It does not appear that how you study significantly matters....just systematically study

Results: General Pass Rates

- PhD – 82%; PsyD – 69%
- Type of Training Program
 - 87% - Clinical Neuropsych (167)
 - 86% - Clinical Child and Adolescent (391)
 - 79% - Counseling (852)
 - 78% - School (317)
 - 76% - Clinical (5028)
 - 73% - Clinical Health (154)
 - 48% - Forensic (114)

Results: Training Variables

- 78% APA/CPA Academic Program (6320)
- 58% Non APA/CPA Academic Program (905)

- 82% APA/CPA/APPIC Internship (4750)
- 68% Non APA/CPC/APPIC Internship (1891)
- 59% No Internship (175)

Results: Accreditation Status

- First time test takers were far more likely to pass than repeat test takers
- PhD test takers were more likely to pass than PsyD/EdD
 - More variability in PsyD programs but 13 PsyD programs were largest contributors to failure rates

Results: Multivariate Findings

Results: Individual Program Findings

- 60% pass rate cut off
- 37 Programs (8% of all accredited programs; accounted for 647 (47%) of the 1379 failures
- 15 Programs (13 PsyD; 2 PhD) accounted for 535 (39%) of the failures
 - 7 programs from two educational institutions (1.5% of all accredited programs) accounted for 236 (17%) of the failures
- The other 22 programs with pass rates under 60%: 18 were PhD; 17 were in traditional universities – 149 failures (11% of the failures)

Conclusions

- 1. If you ask which programs go to: www.asppb.net for 5 year rolling averages of all programs
- The important message: Some programs are doing a relatively poor job preparing students to pass the EPPP (i.e. understanding the breadth and depth of our profession).
- We believe programs have an ethical obligation to provide some level of assurance to students who spend money and time to pursue entry to our profession. We believe there is an ethical imperative for faculty to ensure that students under their guidance can be licensed in due course.

- 2. We hope that the associations and trainers will engage in conversations, perhaps difficult conversations, examining graduate training.
- We believe it would be helpful to understand what is an appropriate response by the profession to programs that do a relatively poor job of preparing students for entry into the profession

Conclusion

Conclusion

- 3. Applicants choose graduate training programs for many reasons (program goals, area of study, geography, etc). We feel applicants should consider EPPP pass rates – as it is an indication of licensure rates and program preparation.

Conclusion

- 4. We encourage students to seek and complete an accredited internship as our study supports the notion that internships provide valuable training in addition to the accrual of supervised professional experience

Conclusion

- 5. STUDY: Study for the EPPP....more than 200 hours and students may have diminishing returns. Time studying is more important than method studying
- 6. Take the EPPP soon after graduation. Jurisdictions should revise their regulations to allow the EPPP upon completion of degree

In Closing

- We hope this report makes the process of preparing for the EPPP less intimidating.
- We hope our data has highlighted issues in psychology education that warrant further attention and we hope we have provided some clarity and direction for discussions about the sequence of education and training leading to licensure as a psychologist.
- Thanks for listening.....

The PLUS

- The Psychology Licensure Universal System, or “PLUS” is an online system designed to allow individuals to apply for licensure, certification, or registration in any state, province, or territory in the United States or Canada currently participating in the PLUS program.

What is the PLUS?

- ASPPB Task Force collected licensing applications from every US and Canadian jurisdiction
- Categorized all of the relevant data fields;
Collapsed similar content areas into new fields
- Created Universal application
- Continuous feedback

PLUS Development

- The applicant contacts the licensing board directly.
- Licensing board provides ASPPB with contact information for eligible applicants
- The applicant will be contacted by ASPPB to begin the PLUS application.

How it works

- Supporting documents (transcripts, etc.) are received by ASPPB and forwarded to the licensing board as part of the completed application package
- Forms requiring completion by program directors, internship sites, etc. are electronically sent directly to the source for completion, and returned directly to ASPPB

How it works

- Once all information is gathered and primary sourced verified, a complete electronic packet of information will be sent directly to the licensing board's database.
- Primary source verification: Primary Source Verification of a practitioner's credentials based upon evidence obtained from the issuing source of the credential. Meets the highest standards.

How it works

- A completed PLUS application packet contains:
 - Demographics
 - Transcript
 - Supervision History
 - Practicum
 - Internship
 - Post-doctoral
 - Exam Information
 - Work History
 - All Supporting Documents

What makes up a PLUS record?

- Pilot testing in 2 jurisdictions; Oklahoma and Mississippi
- 3 more are ready or almost ready to pilot test: Nevada, New Mexico, and North Dakota
- Many other jurisdictions have expressed interest (some very large jurisdictions) when the pilot testing is complete

Current Status

- A sneak peak
- Refer to the handouts

PLUS

ASPPB has applied for a grant from HRSA to further develop the PLUS and complete the hardware/software linkages needed by jurisdictions in order to download completed applications.

ASPPB is committed to developing the PLUS for those interested jurisdictions as soon as the pilot phase is completed. Goal for pilot phase completion is Jan 2013.

ASPPB has another 10 or more jurisdictions who have expressed significant interest in the PLUS and are waiting for the pilot phase to be completed.

PLUS Plan for Jurisdictional Acceptance

Maintenance of Competence and Licensure

Update of Continuing Professional Development Guidelines
(Continuing Education)

Second Draft now available on the ASPPB web site
(www.asppb.net). Open for public comment until
May 15, 2012

Other ASPPB Programs

- CPD Recommendations:
- 40 Credits every 2 years
- Professional development plan - can be modified
- Variety of activities: including
 - Peer Consultation
 - Practice Outcome Monitoring
 - Professional Activities
 - Conferences/Conventions
 - Academic Courses
 - Instruction
 - Publications
 - Approved Sponsored Continuing Education
 - Self Directed Learning
 - Board Certification ABPP

ASPPB MOCAL

- **CPQ Certificate of Professional Qualification**
- Documents that individuals have met certain educational, supervised experience, examination and work history standards, with no adverse discipline actions.
 - Now accepted in 44 jurisdictions
 - In process of being accepted in 3 jurisdictions
 - Recognized in 8 jurisdictions

ASPPB Mobility Programs

- **Interjurisdictional Practice Certificate**
- Mechanism to facilitate temporary practice across jurisdictional lines
- Credentials have been vetted and verified by ASPPB
- Over 500 individual holders of the certificate

ASPPB: Mobility Programs

- Thanks for listening.
- Feel free to contact me if you have any questions/concerns/ideas.
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