



# ASPPB

Association of State and  
Provincial Psychology Boards

Supporting member jurisdictions in fulfilling their responsibility of public protection

## Part Two

### Model Statutory Language

#### I. Definitions

- A. Psychology Associate: An individual who is authorized to practice psychology under the supervision of a Licensed Psychologist while attaining further requirements for licensure, as described further in the rules of this Board/College.
- B. Licensed Practitioner of Psychology: An individual licensed under this Act and thereby authorized to independently practice psychology at the master's level of education.

#### II. Practice of Psychology at the Master's Level

- A. Intervention:
  - 1. The following provisions regarding scope of practice apply to intervention activities performed by those individuals authorized to practice with a master's degree, regardless of application or licensure status, and regardless of the requirement of supervision.
  - 2. Intervention includes observation, description, diagnosis, interpretation, prediction, and modification of human behavior by the application of psychological principles, methods, and procedures, for the purposes of:
    - a. preventing, eliminating, or predicting symptomatic, maladaptive, or undesired behaviors
    - b. facilitating the enhancement of individuals or groups of individuals including personal effectiveness, adaptive behavior, interpersonal relationships, and work and life adjustment.
  - 3. Scope of Practice for Intervention:
    - a. An initial assessment intake shall be conducted on individuals, couples, families, or individual members of a group for treatment planning. It includes assessments for clients of the psychology practitioner or for a group practice or organization to which the psychology practitioner belongs. Referrals for

assessments for other purposes, or under other referral circumstances, are included in Testing and Assessment.

- b. An initial assessment intake includes interviewing and screening methods for the purpose of case formulation, diagnosis, and treatment planning. An initial assessment intake does not include personality measures, neuropsychological assessment, or forensic assessment measures.
- c. Continuing assessment for treatment planning includes the use of screening measures for patient status within the scope of a continuing therapeutic relationship.

B. Testing and Assessment:

1. The following provisions regarding scope of practice apply to all Testing and Assessment activities performed by those individuals authorized to practice with a master's degree, regardless of application or licensure status, and regardless of the requirement of supervision.
2. Scope of practice in Testing and Assessment includes and is limited to those practices which inform:
  - a. mental health treatment planning for treatment planning for patients/clients of other mental health professionals.
  - b. educational planning and placement.
3. Scope of practice is both determined by, and limited by, three types of considerations:
  - a. The purpose of the referral or request for assessment.
  - b. The source of the referral.
  - c. The types of measures that may be utilized to respond to the referral.
4. Scope of practice does not include indirectly related purposes, such as determining liability and extent of damages in litigation, appropriateness of medical and surgical interventions, or determining fitness for duty. These types of assessments do not directly serve the purposes of treatment planning or occupational planning and placement.
5. The scope of practice includes assessments of individuals only, and does not include evaluations of families, groups, or organizations.
6. Nothing in this Act is intended to undermine or contradict standards of practice which have been established for specialty or sub-specialty areas of practice. For example:
  - a. individuals authorized to practice psychology with a master's degree shall not identify themselves as neuropsychologists, accept referrals for neuropsychological evaluations, or perform neuropsychological evaluations.

- b. Individuals authorized to practice psychology with a master's degree in psychology shall not identify themselves as forensic psychologists, accept referrals for forensic evaluations, or perform forensic evaluations. Psychological specialties are defined at the doctoral degree.
  - c. Individuals authorized to practice psychology with a master's degree in psychology shall not identify themselves as specialists in other specialty areas of psychology which are defined at the doctoral level.
7. Nothing in this Act is meant to preclude individuals authorized to practice psychology with a master's degree from utilizing screening instruments, questionnaires, rating scales, or interview guides, which are generally available to all mental health professionals. Examples include brief screening instruments of orientation and current mental status, repeated measures of symptoms related to depression and anxiety, and general measures of aptitude and interest.
8. Regardless of the nature or source of a referral for psychological testing or assessment, individuals authorized to practice psychology with a master's degree shall not engage in the interpretation of personality assessment or projective measures. This Act does not preclude the administration or scoring of such measures, where the psychology practitioner serves on a team of, or under the supervision of, a licensed professional who is authorized to interpret such measures.

### **III. Supervised Experience:**

- A. Pre-degree supervised experience: As further described and limited by the rules of the Board/College, pre-degree supervised experience includes a minimum of 600 hours of supervised psychology practice which occurs while an individual is enrolled in a graduate course of study in a master's degree psychology program.
- B. Post-degree supervised experience: As further described and limited by the rules of the Board/College, post-degree supervised experience consists of a minimum of 4,000 hours of supervised psychology practice pursuant to a supervision contract approved by the Board/College. Post-degree supervised experience must include an integrated course of didactic education.

### **IV. Examinations:**

- A. The Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP)
- B. Other examinations as determined by the Board or College

### **V. Requirements for Licensure:**

- A. Application for Psychology Associate Certificate:

1. Education: An Initial Application must demonstrate that the applicant has received a master's degree from a psychology training program.

- a. The Board/College shall adopt rules implementing and defining these provisions, including, but not limited to, such factors as residence in the program, internship and related field experiences, number of

course credits, course content, numbers and qualifications of faculty, and program identification and identity.

- b. Internationally Trained Graduates: Applicants trained in institutions outside the United States or Canada must show satisfactory evidence of training and degrees substantially equivalent to those required of applicants trained within the United States and/or Canada, pursuant to the rules of the Board/College.

2. Verification of pre-degree supervised experience
3. Professional references
4. Disciplinary and background checks and other requirements by Board/College
5. Post-degree supervised experience contract

#### B. Application for Licensed Psychology Practitioner

1. When an applicant has met the requirements in Paragraph A above and has accrued 3,000 of the total 4,000 hours of required post-degree supervised experience, the applicant may apply to the Board or College for admission to take the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP).
2. An applicant for Licensed Practitioner of Psychology must receive a passing score\* on the EPPP within three attempts. The Board/College shall promulgate rules for the timing of admission to the examination.
  - a. If an applicant for Licensed Practitioner of Psychology does not receive a passing score on the initial attempt of the EPPP, the applicant must submit a supervisor's report of the applicant's status and progress during post-degree supervised experience.
  - b. When a Psychology Associate continues to accrue post-degree supervision hours while attempting to obtain a passing score on the EPPP, upon accrual of 4,000 hours, the applicant shall submit a new supervision contract to the Board/College for the accrual of further post-degree supervision hours.
  - c. The Board/College shall promulgate rules describing the requirements for items a. and b., above.
3. After three attempts at the EPPP without a passing score, or after four years since the initiation of post-degree supervised experience, whichever occurs first, a Psychology Associate must cease practice.

#### VI. Cessation of the Practice of Psychology

A. After three attempts at the EPPP without a passing score\*, or after four years since the initiation of post-degree supervised experience, whichever occurs first, a Psychology Associate must cease practice within 30 days of the official receipt of the last EPPP score, consistent with further requirements set forth in the rules of the Board/College.

B. An applicant who was required to cease the practice of psychology may reapply for licensure after 12 months since the date the applicant was required to cease practice. All rules and regulations in effect at the time of re-application will apply to the reapplication process. An applicant who has been required to cease practice may not practice psychology, including under supervision, until authorized by the Board/College after reapplication. Cessation of practice under these terms does not constitute a disciplinary action.

## **VII. Representation**

A. Psychology Associate: A person represents themselves to be a Psychology Associate if that person uses the title Psychology Associate in a description of services offered or provided, or in any description of services incorporating the practice of psychology. An individual practicing psychology as a Psychology Associate shall not use the term “independent” nor imply the status of independence regarding the offer or provision of psychological services.

B. Licensed Practitioner of Psychology: A person represents themselves to be a Licensed Practitioner of Psychology if that person uses the title Licensed Practitioner of Psychology in a description of services offered or provided, or in any description of services incorporating the practice of psychology. No person other than those authorized under this Act shall represent themselves to be a Licensed Practitioner of Psychology.

## **VIII. Exemptions**

A. Other licensed professionals: Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prevent members of other recognized professions that are licensed, certified, or regulated under the laws of the jurisdiction from rendering services consistent with their professional training and code of ethics, if they do not represent themselves to be psychology associates, licensed practitioners of psychology, psychologists, or describe their services as including the practice of psychology.

B. Clergy: Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prevent duly recognized members of the clergy from functioning in their ministerial capacities, provided that they do not represent themselves to be psychology associates, licensed practitioners of psychology, psychologists, or describe their services as including the practice of psychology.

C. School Psychologists:

1. School psychologists who are appropriately credentialed by state/provincial education agencies or an appropriate regulatory body (“state/provincial education regulatory body”) shall be able to provide the range of school psychological services under the title described by the credentialing/regulatory body and within the practice settings authorized by the state/provincial education regulatory body. Such individuals may use the title “School Psychologist” or another title including the term “psychology” or “psychological,” but shall not use the titles “Psychology Associate,” “Licensed Practitioner of Psychology,” “Licensed Psychologist,” or any other equivalent term.
2. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to permit the practice of psychology outside the scope of practice or outside the settings described by the state/provincial education regulatory body by any individual who is not licensed under the provisions of this Act.
3. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to permit individuals who are not credentialed by the state education regulatory body to practice psychology within the scope of practice or within the settings described by the state/provincial education regulatory body.

4. It shall remain within the discretion of the state/provincial education regulatory body to establish requirements for credentialing by such body. For example, the education regulatory body's inclusion of independent contractors, whether local or interjurisdictionally, shall determine whether those individuals are exempt from licensure under this Act, to practice psychology within the scope of practice and within the settings described by the state/provincial education regulatory body.
5. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect the requirements or acceptability of psychological assessments for those uses described by the state/provincial education regulatory body within the settings described by the state education regulatory body. Nor shall this Act be construed to affect students' rights to independent evaluations described in state or federal regulations as specifically applicable to uses within public education settings.

D. Graduate Students and Interns: Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prevent persons from engaging in activities defined as the practice of psychology, provided that they are supervised in accordance with the rules and regulations of this Board/College. Such persons shall not represent themselves by the titles "Licensed Practitioner of Psychology" or "Psychologist." Individuals training to be psychologists or psychology practitioners may use the terms "psychological trainee," "psychological intern," "psychological resident," or other term denoting their training status, provided that such persons perform their activities under the supervision and responsibility of a licensed psychologist in accordance with the rules and regulations of this Board/College. This section applies to the following graduate students and interns:

1. A matriculated graduate student whose activities constitute a part of the course of study for a graduate degree in psychology at an institution of higher education.
2. An unlicensed individual pursuing postdoctoral training or experience in professional psychology, to fulfill the requirements for licensure under the provisions of this Act.
3. Individuals who hold a Psychology Associate certificate or a Licensed Practitioner of Psychology credential can use that title while working under the supervision of a licensed psychologist in areas of practice outside the scope of their credentials.

E. Business Consultants and Human Resource Professionals: This Act is for the regulation of the practice of psychology only and does not prevent human resource professionals, business consultants, and other such persons from providing advice and counseling in their organizations or affiliated groups, or to their companies or employees of their companies, or from engaging in activities performed in the course of their employment.

F. Master's-Level Practitioners in Psychology who are already licensed to practice psychology: Jurisdictions will need to address potential exemptions and/or other provisions for master's-level practitioners in psychology who are already licensed in their jurisdiction (i.e., grandparenting).

G. Nothing in this Act prevents a licensed Psychologist or a Licensed Practitioner of Psychology from employing unlicensed individuals, who are appropriately trained and qualified, to perform the following services under the supervision of the licensee:

1. transcribing psychological reports
2. inputting and/or transferring patient or client test responses or scores
3. administering and scoring standardized objective tests where the supervisor is immediately available

\* The recommended passing score for the EPPP was determined by a sample of psychology practitioners working both independently and under supervision. The recommended passing score for Licensed Practitioner of Psychology is currently the passing score for supervised practice.

