

Dear Licensee:

In response to the level of support shown for the Oral Examination during the current Sunset Review Process, the Board would like to take this opportunity to issue a call to those licensees willing to serve as an oral examiner and request that they review this document and submit the last page to the Board for approval to serve as an oral examiner.

Why You Should be an Examiner for the TSBEP Oral Exam

As a licensed psychologist, the demands on you are many. Your expertise is needed professionally and on a volunteer basis. Most of you find the time to contribute to your community and to the field of psychology over and above your basic career duties.

Finding the time to add yet another mostly volunteer activity to your already busy schedule is a difficult thing to consider, much less act upon. However, the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists is asking you to do just that. Why?

The Board continues to require the passage of the Oral Examination as one of the last hurdles to becoming an independently licensed psychologist. The Oral Examination serves to ensure the safety of the public as much as any other of the Board's requirements for licensure. The primary goal of the Board is to protect the public by licensing only those candidates that meet rigorous requirements in training and education. The Board seeks to accomplish this goal by requiring applicants to demonstrate that they have obtained a higher education degree, passed required examinations, and received hands-on, supervised training in the field.

The Oral Exam determines if the candidate has entry-level knowledge required for independent practice of psychology. It measures a candidate's ability to coordinate knowledge and experience with practice skills.

What are the basic requirements for being an Oral Examiner?

- You must be a psychologist, licensed for at least three years in Texas, and have no disciplinary action. Examiners with pending complaints before the Board are not eligible to serve as an examiner until after the complaints have been resolved.
- You must be available to attend an Oral Exam administration at least once a year over a period of a Friday afternoon and evening and all day Saturday in Austin.
- You must participate in training for new examiners and then general training for all examiners.

What are the benefits to me for serving as an Oral Examiner?

- Receiving 2 hours of professional development/continuing education for the new examiner training.
- Receiving 8 hours of professional development/continuing education for each exam administration date, with a maximum of 16 hours for any one year.

- The professional development/continuing education hours earned may be used to satisfy the ethics hours required as part of your professional development/continuing education requirements.
- Receiving a fee of \$150 for the two-day exam administration.
- Meeting other licensed psychologists from around the state.
- Meeting the current Chair of the Board and Chair of the Oral Exam Committee, as well as Board staff.
- Knowing that you are providing a valuable service to the future of psychology in the state of Texas and protecting the public.
- The Board looks to its Oral Examiners as experts in their fields and may call on them to serve on special committees or even to encourage them to seek membership on the Board itself.

Where and when are the exams administered?

- Exam dates are basically the same: the first or second Friday-Saturday weekend in January and the first or second Friday-Saturday weekend in July. These dates are consistent because the exam is currently held in the George I. Sanchez education building at the University of Texas at Austin during semester breaks. Potential examiners should consider if they will be available for these dates.
- Examiners are not required to attend every exam. The Board sends invitations to all examiners in the examiner pool. Examiners respond if they are available to examine on the specific dates for each exam administration.
- Exams are held on Friday starting at 1:00 p.m. until around 8:00 or 9:00 p.m. that evening and from 8:00 a.m. until about mid-afternoon on Saturday, depending on how many candidates are scheduled for that particular exam date. Each exam lasts approximately one hour. At any one time about 10 exams are being conducted in the available testing rooms.

What kind of training do I receive?

- The Friday afternoon general orientation begins at 1:00 p.m. and usually lasts less than an hour. Following the general orientation, there is special training for the new examiners. All examiners are provided the written exam procedures and materials for their review at every exam.
- Another excellent training method is that new examiners may view and hear actual exams through the monitoring area.

What are my responsibilities at the exam?

- Examiners are responsible for examining from one to eight candidates over the course of that Friday and Saturday. This depends on a number of factors, including the number of candidates scheduled for that weekend; the areas in which examiners are qualified to examine; and the exam areas selected by the candidates. A schedule of the exams to be administered are given to the

examiners at the Friday afternoon orientation. This schedule includes the names of the candidates, the examiners, the times and the room numbers.

- Exams are given in six areas: school, clinical, child clinical, counseling, neuropsychology, and industrial/organizational. Examiners identify for the Board the areas in which they are competent to administer exams.
- All exam materials are confidential and must be returned to the Board before the conclusion of the exam administration. Specific information about any exam is confidential. Examiners are asked to sign confidentiality agreements at each exam administration.

How are the exams conducted?

- The basic format of the exam is that examiners, in pairs, examine each candidate. The pairs change throughout the day. For their first examination, new examiners are paired with experienced examiners. Each examiner grades independently and then is asked to confer with the other examiner to reach a decision on the candidate, pass or fail. When the examiners cannot reach a decision, the result is a split, which allows the candidate to retake the exam with new examiners and a new vignette.
- In each testing area there are standard vignettes, which are assigned by the staff to the candidates. The examiners then ask the candidate standardized questions about the vignette. More information is provided about the exam in the Oral Examination Brochure, which is available on the Board's website at www.tsbep.texas.gov/form-bank.

What else do I need to know?

- Examiners have time to eat lunch at some time during the day at one of the many nearby restaurants close to the UT campus. When they are not examining, examiners have time to read, go for a walk, and talk with other examiners, since they know their exam schedule in advance.
- Examiners are responsible for making all of their own reservations for travel and hotels.

What is the track record for the administration of the Oral Exam?

- The Board examines about 200 candidates for the Oral Exam per year. This number is increasing.
- The passage rate for the Oral Examination is high. However, a few candidates have to retake the exam once or even twice in order to pass. A small number never pass the Oral Examination.

The Future:

The Board cordially invites all qualified psychologists to complete and submit a copy of this page to the Board stating their desire to become an Oral Examiner, the areas in which they are qualified to examine, and a copy of their vitae. This information will be reviewed by the Chair of the Board's Oral Exam Committee.

Help ensure the future of quality mental health services in Texas – Serve as a TSBEP Oral Examiner.

Call or write:

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Request to Serve as Oral Examiner	
Name:	
License No.	
Area(s) in which you are willing to examine:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical	<input type="checkbox"/> Counseling
<input type="checkbox"/> School	<input type="checkbox"/> Neuropsychology
<input type="checkbox"/> Child Clinical	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial/Organizational
Signature:	
Date:	