

**The Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists** issues four types of licenses each of which has different requirements as set by the Psychologists' Licensing Act and Board rules. The following are general overviews of the varying requirements for licensure. Please refer to the Psychologists' Licensing Act and Board rules for complete requirements for licensure.

The application packet for each type of license may be downloaded from the Board's Forms webpage.

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### Licensed Psychologist

The requirements for obtaining licensure as a psychologist are set forth under Board rule 463.11.

- Requires prior licensure as a Provisionally Licensed Psychologist (see below).
- Requires a minimum of 3,500 hours of supervised experience, with at least 1,750 hours having been received in a formal internship within a doctoral program and at least 1,750 hours received following conferral of a doctoral degree.

An applicant who is actively licensed as a psychologist in another jurisdiction, and who meets each of the following requirements, is considered to have met the requirements for supervised experience:

- A minimum of 3,000 hours of supervised experience, at least half of which must have been completed after the doctoral degree was conferred or completed.
  - Submission of a self-query report from the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) reflecting no disciplinary history, other than disciplinary history related to continuing education or professional development.
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### Provisionally Licensed Psychologist

The requirements for provisional licensure are set forth in Board rule 463.10.

- Requires a doctoral degree in psychology.
- Requires passage of the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology.
- Requires passage of the Jurisprudence Examination.

**Caution:** Individuals who did not go through a formal internship during their doctoral program are strongly encouraged to review Board rule 463.11 in its entirety before submitting an application for provisional licensure. Pursuant to that rule, individuals who have not undergone a formal internship as part of their doctoral program, or who took part in an internship that does not meet the Board's internship requirements, are generally not eligible for full licensure as a psychologist. Thus, an individual without a qualifying internship will find himself or herself unable to proceed beyond the provisional licensure stage unless he or she goes on to complete a post-doctoral re-training/re-specialization program. Individuals who fall into this narrow category of applicants can learn more about re-specialization through the American Psychological Association's website or by [clicking here](#).

Such individuals may also consider applying for licensure as a licensed psychological associate if they do not wish to undertake re-specialization, but still want the ability to practice independently.

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### Licensed Psychological Associate

The requirements for licensure as a psychological associate are set forth in Board rule 463.8.

- Requires a graduate degree in psychology, consisting of at least sixty (60) semester credit hours, with no more than twelve (12) hours of practicum, internship, or structured experience counted toward the total degree hour requirement.

-A graduate degree that does not contain the term “psychology” in the name of the major or program of studies, but is primarily psychological in nature, will be accepted for licensure purposes through August 31, 2021, so long as the applicant began his or her graduate program leading to the degree before August 31, 2019. See Board rule 463.8(g)(1).

-A graduate degree consisting of 42 semester credit hours, with at least 27 hours in psychology will be accepted for licensure purposes through August 31, 2021, so long as the applicant began his or her graduate program leading to the degree before August 31, 2019. See Board rule 463.8(g)(2).

- Requires passage of the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology.
- Requires passage of the Jurisprudence Examination.
- Requires six (6) semester credit hours of practicum, internship, or other structured experience within the graduate degree program, while under the supervision of a licensed psychologist.

The following are requirements for independent practice authority for licensed psychological associates:

- A minimum of 3,000 hours of post-graduate degree supervised experience obtained within 24-48 consecutive months, and in not more than three placements
- .Application for independent practice authority to the Board. There is no fee associated with this application.

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### **Licensed Specialist in School Psychology**

The requirements for licensure as a specialist in school psychology are set forth in Board rule 463.9.

- Requires completion of a training program in school psychology approved/accredited by the American Psychological Association or the National Association of School Psychologists, or a graduate degree in psychology with specified course work.
- Requires a formal internship of at least 1200 hours, of which 600 must be in a public

school.

- Requires passage of the Praxis School Psychology Examination.
  - Requires passage of the Jurisprudence Examination.
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### **Average Processing Times for Applications**

The following figures represent the average number of days it took agency staff to process the various types of applications for licensure in fiscal year 2018:

- 43 days to process an application for licensure as a psychologist;
  - 50 days to approve a provisional applicant to sit for the exams and issue provisional trainee status;
  - 69 days to approve an LPA applicant to sit for the exams; and
  - 25 days to approve an LSSP applicant to sit for the jurisprudence examination and issue his or her trainee status.
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### **Licensure for Military Service Members, Veterans, and Spouses**

Military service members, veterans, and spouses, as those terms are defined in [Section 55.001](#) of the Occupations Code, interested in applying for licensure are encouraged to review Board rules 463.30, 471.6, 473.1, and 473.2 carefully before doing so. Prospective applicants who qualify for licensure under the Board's alternative licensing requirements, Board rule 463.30, should review the relevant application packet materials as well, and then contact the Licensing Division with any questions unique to their situation.

In an effort to assist our military service members, veterans, and spouses with determining whether Texas law will benefit them when applying, the following is a general overview of the alternative licensing requirements for each type of license issued by this agency.

**Licensed Psychologist** - For those military service members, veterans, and spouses who are currently licensed as a psychologist in another jurisdiction where the licensing standards exceed or are the substantial equivalent to those for a licensed psychologist in Texas, the applicant will receive credit for 1,750 hours of formal internship and 1,750 hours of post-doctoral supervised experience, i.e. two years of supervised experience.

**Provisionally Licensed Psychologist** - For those military service members, veterans, and spouses who are currently licensed as a psychologist or provisionally licensed psychologist in another jurisdiction where the licensing standards exceed or are the substantial equivalent to those for a provisionally licensed psychologist in Texas, the applicant will not be required to submit an official transcript or proof of passage of the EPPP at the Texas cutoff score.

**Licensed Psychological Associate** - For those military service members, veterans, and spouses who are currently licensed as a psychologist, provisionally licensed psychologist, or psychological associate in another jurisdiction where the licensing standards exceed or are the substantial equivalent to those for a licensed psychological associate in Texas, the applicant will not be required to submit an official transcript or proof of passage of the EPPP at the Texas cutoff score. The applicant will also receive credit for the licensing requirement set out in Board rule 463.8(a)(2).

**Licensed Specialist in School Psychology** - For those military service members, veterans, and spouses who are currently licensed or certified to practice school psychology in another jurisdiction where the licensing or certification standards exceed or are the substantial equivalent to those for a licensed specialist in school psychology in Texas, the applicant will not be required to submit an official transcript, evidence of the required graduate level coursework or National Association of School Psychologists certification, or proof of passage of the National School Psychology Examination.

Military service members, veterans, and spouses wishing to take advantage of these alternative licensing requirements must be able to demonstrate that they hold a valid license in good standing in another jurisdiction, as well as substantial equivalency between the laws in Texas and the jurisdiction that issued their license. Without such proof, an applicant may not rely upon these alternative licensing standards. The criteria for determining substantial equivalency can be found in Board rule 463.30(a)(5). Applicants claiming substantial equivalency must submit a copy of the law reflecting the current licensing standards in the jurisdiction that issued their out-of-state license. When submitting a copy of another jurisdiction's law, the applicant should highlight the relevant portions of the law. Additionally, military spouses are required to submit proof of marriage to a military service member.

In the event a military service member or military veteran is not licensed to practice psychology elsewhere, or cannot demonstrate substantial equivalency between his or her issuing jurisdiction and Texas, the individual may still be eligible for credit toward some of the Board's licensing requirements based upon his or her military experience. The following is a general overview of the alternative licensing requirements based upon a military service member's or military veteran's service related experience.

**Licensed Psychologist** - For those military service members and veterans who delivered psychological services in the military for at least one year following conferral of a doctoral degree, he or she will receive credit for one year or 1,750 hours of supervised experience.

**Licensed Psychological Associate** - For those military service members and veterans who delivered psychological services in the military for at least one year, he or she will receive credit for one year or 1,750 hours of post-graduate degree supervised experience, which may be used when applying for independent practice authority.

**Licensed Specialist in School Psychology** - For those military service members and veterans who delivered psychological services in the military for at least one year, he or she will receive credit for the required practicum and 600 hours of formal internship.

Military spouses are also eligible for re-licensure if they can demonstrate each of the following:

- Proof of marriage to a military service member; and
- Proof of prior licensure by this agency within the five years preceding the date of application.

Military service members and veterans are also encouraged to review their eligibility for benefits under the Montgomery G.I. Bill and Post-9/11 G.I. Bill prior to applying for licensure. Military service members and veterans meeting certain criteria are eligible for reimbursement of certain licensing examination fees under these programs. A general overview of the program benefits, as well as instructions for applying for benefits can be found on the [Texas Veterans Commission](#) website.

### Information for Prospective Applicants with Criminal Backgrounds

Pursuant to Chapter 53 of the Texas Occupations Code and Board rule 469.7, the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists can provide an individual with a preliminary evaluation of his or her criminal background to determine if the individual's background would prevent him or her from obtaining licensure with this Board.

To request such a determination, an individual must submit a complete *Application for Criminal History Evaluation Letter*, along with the correct fee and any supporting documentation. The Board cannot conduct an evaluation without all of these items.

Individuals who intend to submit an *Application for Criminal History Evaluation Letter* should wait until they have submitted the application before completing their fingerprint criminal history check. The Board is prohibited by state and federal law from accessing an individual's criminal history record information until that individual has submitted an application. Individuals who obtain their fingerprint criminal history check prior to submitting an application will be removed from the Board's access queue in the DPS system and may suffer delays in the evaluation process as a result thereof.

The *Application for Criminal History Evaluation Letter* is available for download from the Board's Forms webpage.

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### Apply for Full or Provisional Licensure Online via PLUS

The Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists is excited to offer applicants the opportunity to apply for full or provisional licensure online via the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) Psychology Licensure Universal System (PLUS). The

PLUS program can be used by any applicant who is seeking licensure, certification, or registration in any participating state, province, or territory in the United States or Canada. For more information on applying in Texas via the PLUS system, please [click here](#).

To apply using the PLUS, download the *PLUS System - General Application* form by clicking on the *Forms* menu item to the left. Complete and submit the application, along with the correct fee to the Board's Licensing Division. In addition to the Texas application fee, the PLUS has a one-time \$ **75.00\***

fee.

*\*ASPPB is currently conducting fee assessments and has reduced the standard \$200.00 fee to \$75.00 for a six-month period in Texas. This fee assessment will conclude on February 15, 2017 and the PLUS fee is subject to change thereafter.*

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### **No Pre-Evaluation or Pre-Approval of Education, Training, or Experience**

Please be aware that the Board does not pre-evaluate applications, education, or training, nor does the Board pre-approve any training or experience. It is incumbent upon each individual seeking licensure to ensure that his or her education, training, and experience meets the requirements of the Psychologists' Licensing Act and Board rules.

Applicants may contact agency staff with questions about licensure, if they are unable to find an answer to their question after reviewing the information in the application packet, the Psychologists' Licensing Act, and the Board rules. Please review these resources carefully before contacting the Board.

[Acrobat Reader is used to read a PDF file and is freely available for download at Adobe.](#)