

# **The Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) Step 2 Frequently Asked Questions**

## **What is the EPPP Step 2?**

The EPPP Step 2 is an examination that is currently under development by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB). This examination will assess the practice skills needed to be licensed to practice independently as a psychologist. It will be a computer based examination that is designed to augment and complement the EPPP, which measures the foundational knowledge required for the independent practice of psychology.

## **How does the EPPP Step 2 differ from the EPPP?**

The EPPP Step 2 will provide an examination of the **skills** one needs to practice independently as a psychologist. The skills that will be assessed by the EPPP Step 2 are based on the “ASPPB Competencies Expected of Psychologists at the Point of Licensure” that will be validated by the 2016 Job Task Analysis. These skills include relational skills, intervention and assessment skills, ethics, systems thinking, and professionalism. The EPPP, on the other hand, measures the foundational **knowledge** required for the independent practice of psychology.

## **Will the EPPP Step 2 be required in all jurisdictions?**

Although all jurisdictions use the EPPP, each jurisdiction will determine whether or not to use the EPPP Step 2. The EPPP tests the knowledge required for entry to practice and the EPPP Step 2 will assess the skills necessary for licensure. Both examinations will comprise a comprehensive assessment package to determine a candidate’s readiness for licensure to practice as a psychologist. ASPPB believes that boards will have better information to determine a candidate’s readiness to practice independently if they administer both examinations, but it will be up to each jurisdiction to decide if and when the EPPP Step 2 will be utilized.

## **If my current jurisdiction does not require it, and later I want to move to a jurisdiction that does require it, how can I do that?**

Candidates may be required by the new jurisdiction to take and pass the EPPP Step 2 prior to being licensed in that jurisdiction. If required to take and pass the EPPP Step 2, candidates will work with the licensing jurisdiction that requires it to determine the steps necessary to take the examination. Although the policies and procedures for the EPPP Step 2 are under development, there will be a mechanism for licensure candidates to be able to register and take the examination if they need to take it in order to move to a new jurisdiction.

## **Does the EPPP Step 2 add to the assessment of competence; will it be valid and reliable and legally defensible?**

Yes, the EPPP Step 2 will add to the comprehensive assessment of competence. ASPPB is currently undertaking a Job Task Analysis that will not only revalidate the EPPP, but will also determine the skills that should be assessed by the EPPP Step 2. The Job Task

Analysis will create an examination blueprint to be followed for creation of the skills examination. ASPPB, assisted by Pearson VUE, will follow the most current testing standards for the development of the EPPP Step 2, just as we have done with the EPPP. Additionally, a skills examination will put the profession of psychology in line with other professions as all major healthcare professions assess knowledge and skills as part of their entry-level examination requirements for licensure.

**Is the EPPP Step 2 just for HSPs or is it for all psychology service providers?**

The EPPP Step 2, like the current EPPP, will be designed for all psychology service providers, i.e., Health Service Psychologists and General Applied Psychologists, who wish to be licensed to practice independently as psychologists.

**Is the EPPP Step 2 for those taking the examination under a master's license requirement?**

Yes, just as jurisdictions currently use the EPPP as a requirement for licensure regardless of degree level, the EPPP Step 2 will be used for that purpose as well, and jurisdictions that license at the Masters level of training will use the EPPP Step 2 in addition to the EPPP to assess their Masters level licensees.

**How much will the EPPP Step 2 cost?**

This has not yet been determined, but once the development of the examination is further along, ASPPB will post that information. ASPPB is sensitive to the issue of costs for candidates and will take this into consideration in establishing the examination fee.

**Will the EPPP Step 2 add time and expense to Boards?**

ASPPB will provide most of the administrative support necessary to register and administer the EPPP Step 2 to minimize any financial or human resource impact on its member jurisdictions.

**Will the EPPP Step 2 be available in French and Spanish?**

As with the EPPP, translated versions of the EPPP Step 2 will be made available in jurisdictions that have legislated language requirements.

**Will the EPPP Step 2 replace the EPPP?**

No, the EPPP Step 2 is being designed to complement the EPPP, and together the two examinations will comprise a comprehensive competency assessment package (knowledge and skills) to assist licensing boards in the determination of a candidate's readiness for licensure and independent practice.

**Will the EPPP Step 2 include essay questions?**

The EPPP Step 2 is being designed to include a number of innovative question types, such as the use of avatars, the review of test protocols, and multiple-choice questions requiring that multiple correct answers be selected. Since the examination will be computer delivered and scored, it is unlikely it will include essay questions.

**Will the candidates register in the same way they currently do for the EPPP?**

Yes. Once candidates have passed the EPPP and been approved by their regulatory bodies as eligible to take the EPPP Step 2, they will register online through the

examination portal, and will schedule to take the examination directly using the Pearson VUE test site.

**Will candidates receive their examination results unofficially at the examination site?**

Yes, candidates will receive a score at the examination site. This score, however, will not be official until it has been received by the regulatory body, and has been confirmed.

**In my jurisdiction they have an oral examination. Will I still be required to take it if I am taking the EPPP Step 2?**

The determination of eligibility for licensure is the domain of the regulatory/licensing boards/colleges where candidates apply for licensure. The EPPP and the EPPP Step 2 are tools available for regulatory bodies to use in their determination of the eligibility of candidates for licensure as psychologists. The regulatory body in each jurisdiction will determine if an oral examination needs to be taken.

**Will this be a computer-based examination?**

Yes, the examination will be computer-based with “innovative item types” such as the use of vignettes, avatars, multiple-choice items, and items with multiple correct responses.

**Will there be accommodations for those with identified disabilities?**

Requests for examination accommodations will be considered if they meet the terms outlined in the Americans With Disabilities Act or for Canadian candidates, the Human Rights legislation in their home province. Requests for accommodation must be sent in writing to the regulatory body and must include the accommodations requested and medical/professional documentation supporting the request. The licensing body must approve candidates for accommodations. Reasonable requests that do not impact the validity or the security of the examination will be considered.

**Will there be a limit on how many times I can take the EPPP Step 2?**

This issue is being discussed by ASPPB and its member jurisdictions. Information about the number of times the EPPP Step 2 can be taken will be posted as soon as a decision has been made.

**How much time will be allowed to take the examination?**

The amount of time that will be allowed to take the EPPP Step 2 will be determined over the next 15 months as the examination is developed and will be posted on the ASPPB website as soon as it is determined. There will be regular updates about the EPPP Step 2 throughout the development period.

**Can I take the EPPP and the EPPP Step 2 while I complete my training?**

These examinations are designed to assess the knowledge and skills required for licensed practice. Therefore, candidates must have completed all degree requirements before being allowed to take these examinations.

**Can I take the EPPP and the EPPP Step 2 before I apply for licensure?**

No, candidates will apply for licensure to a regulatory board/college that must approve their eligibility to take these examinations.