


Board Certification in Clinical Neuropsychology

National Academy of Neuropsychology
November, 2015

**National Academy of Neuropsychology
Presenter Disclosure Information**



I/We have no financial relationships to disclose as the American Board of Professional Neuropsychology is a non-profit organization, and the presenters are volunteers to this independent board certifying agency. This is an informational workshop and as such does not have a product to sell other than to have participants consider board certification.


Presenters

- Overview –
- Applications –
- Written/Oral Exams –
- Work Samples –
- Questions & Discussion

ABN

Overview of Presentation

- The Organization
- History
- Current Status
- Application
- Written Exam
- Work Sample
- Oral Examination
- Membership Benefits
- Panel Q & A



ABN

Our History & Mission

ABN

History of ABN

- 1982 Incorporated in Georgia
- Organized According to ABPP Standards
- Board Members all ABPP
- Assembled Examination Process
 - Review of credentials and review of work samples
- 1986 ABN Begins Reorganization, Elections Held

ABN

- 250 evaluated between 1982 and 1986.
 - 90% did not pass to get a Diplomate
 - About 60% qualified to get a certificate for recognition of being a neuropsychologist, but not boarded.
 - This was intended to be an interim credential that showed the person was working on becoming boarded.
 - Unfortunately, few progressed to get a Diplomate
 - 1986 the certificate was dropped. ABN does not recognize “Board Eligible”

History of ABN Founding Board of Directors

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| • Theodore Blau | • Jon Eisonson |
| • Francis J. Fishburne | • Alan Gessner |
| • Charles J. Golden | • Rose A. Hagin |
| • Lawrence C. Hartlage | • Mack R. Hicks |
| • R. Wayne Jones | • Lawrence Majovski |
| • Merle L. Meacham | • Thomas D. Oakland |
| • Jerome D. Pauker | • Cecil P. Peck |
| • Zymunt A. Piotrowski | • Jeanette Reuter |
| • C. J. Rosecrans | • Jerome N. Sattler |
| • Melvin L. Schwartz | • H. L. Silverman |
| • Rudolph Wagner | • Robert Woody |

History of ABN

- Founded 1982
- 1989 Reorganization Completed, Members Polled
- 93% Continue ABN
- 92% Eliminate interim certification as a Neuropsychologist
- 84% Require Continuing Education
 - ABN has had a CE requirement for maintenance of diploma since 1990. (18 hrs a year)

ABN

Notable Diplomates

- Ralph Reitan, Ph.D.
- 15 of the NAN Presidents
- Editors of 3 internationally distributed neuropsychology journals
- NAN Fellows (so many we lost count)

History of ABN

- 1990 - First Oral Examinations
- 1991 - Introduction of Essay Examination as Part of Initial Application
- 1991 - Present: Examinations Administered at NAN and Other Venues
- 2002 - Recognition by Nat'l Health Register
- 2008 - “ABPN” trademark changed to “ABN”
- 2009 - Introduction of MC Examination

ABN

2015 Board of Directors & Committees

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • President – John Meyers | • Public Member - David A. Carter |
| • Pres Elect – Karen L. Wilhelm | • Applications – Roger Riss |
| • Past President - John Knippa | • Work Samples – Jeff Madden |
| • Secretary– Sue Antell | • Oral Exam – Jeff Madden |
| • Treasurer – Thomas Bristow | • Written Exam – John Meyers |
| • MAL – Robert Gant | • Mentors & Examiners – Karen Wilhelm |
| • MAL – Howard Glidden | • IOCP Representative – Randi Most |
| • MAL – Paula Cooper | • Web Site - Richard Berg |
| • MAL – Renee Low | • CE Chair - Bob Elliott |
| • MAL - David Lovejoy | • Journal Editor – Mac Horton |
| • Exec Director – Geoff Kanter | |

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ADVOCACY FOR NPs

- IOPC
- CNS-SYNARCHY
- NATIONAL REGISTER
- APA AFFILIATION
- MENTORSHIP
- CE SUPPORT ACTIVITY
- STUDENT ADVOCACY
- STATE STANDARDS
- INTERNATIONAL STDS
- JOURNAL SUPPORT
- WEB DIRECTORY
- WEB TOOL KIT
- SPECIALTY GUIDELINES
- RECOGNITION OF POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAMS MEETING HCG THRU AABN

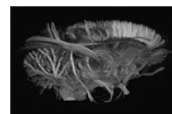
Time Line for Recent ABN

Year	President	Events	Intervention
2001	Robert McCaffrey		Texas
2003	Patricia A. Pimental	National Register Recognition	
2006	John J. Blaise	MC, Work Sample, Orals	
2008	Bradley G. Sewick		Recognition by Florida
2009		Applied Neuropsychology	
2011	Scott W. Sautter		Minnesota (DHS)
2012	John Knippa	Applied Neuropsychology: Adult and Child	
2013		CRSPPP Recognition, FAA Recognition	British Colombia
2014	John Meyers	AABN	Bureau of Labor and Statistics

ABN's Recognition

- Recognized by National Register
- Recognized by CRSPPP
- Recognized by FAA
- Bureau of Labor and Statistics
- Note: other than through CRSPPP recognition, APA does NOT recognize or accredit ANY BOARDS, not even ABPP

ABN's Mission



ABN's Primary Objective

ABN's primary objective is the establishment of professional standards of expertise for the practice of clinical neuropsychology. Through its credentialing and examination processes the ABN offers to the medical community, the psychological community and the public a process whereby well-qualified professional neuropsychologists can be identified.

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ABN's Orientation

- ABN does not ascribe to any specific theoretical framework.
- While recognizing the importance and contribution of graduate education in neuropsychology and subsequent specialty training, the ABN believes that the critical element in the practice of professional neuropsychology is the application of that training to patient issues and needs.

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ABN's Goal

- ABN recognizes and encourages the pursuit of excellence in the practice of clinical neuropsychology.
- ABN - Putting the "Clinical" back into Neuropsychology.

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Boarding Process

Initial Application
Roger Riss
rriss@madonna.org

Multiple Choice Exam
John Meyers
jmeyersneuro@yahoo.com

Work Sample Coordinator
Jeff Madden
jdmaddenphd@gmail.com

Oral Exam
Jeff Madden
jdmaddenphd@gmail.com

If you do not pass
at any level you
will receive
feedback

Your Credential

Application Process

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APPLICATION SUBMISSION

- Contact: Roger Riss rriss@madonna.org
- Application is available on line
- Applicant Handbook contains all the needed information for the applicant
- www.abn-board.com
- Senior option: Less stringent training requirements for those completing training prior to 2005, and a reduced application fee
- Mentors provided to guide you along

Summary of Requirements

- 1. A doctoral degree from a program approved by APA or CPA, or Doctoral Psychology Programs Meeting Designation Criteria. Or applicant qualifies for NR or Canadian NR, or CPQ
- 2. Minimum of 500 hour per year providing neuropsychological services in the last 2 years
- 3. Internship meeting NR standards or APA/CPA approved
- 4. 2 year (or equivalent) Post Doctoral Fellowship meeting training content requirements for Houston Conference for those completing training in 2005 or later

Summary of Requirements

- Letters from other NP
- If you have non traditional training/background, go ahead and apply. We will look at transcripts and other documentation to see if you qualify.

Your Credential

Multiple Choice Examination

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Written Exam

- 1. Don't sweat the exam.
- The questions are all related to clinical practice.
- Questions don't ask about brain slicing or staining

Development of the Exam

- Survey of members to determine the importance of each of the HC training areas to clinical practice.
- Questions were designed around the survey results.
- Questions are based on things pertaining to everyday clinical skills

Exam Specifics

- 100 questions, Multiple Choice
- 2 hours to complete the exam.
- Passing Score is 70%
- Approximately 75% pass it the first time.
- A suggested reading list is available in the Applicant Handbook

Multiple Choice Exam pass/fail

- If Failed, you receive feedback on what general content area(s) of the exam you struggled with the most (so you can work on that area and get ready to take again)
- Can take exam total of three times (third time is only with BOD approval)

Your Credential

Work Sample Examination

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Work Sample Examination

- Communicate with the work sample coordinator before submitting cases
 - Two cases: not more than 2 years old.
 - Straight forward cases, not the weirdest cases you can find.
 - Also, include a 5 page Rationale for why you did what you did (for each case).
 - Why you chose this test or that test, what research supports your conclusions, what other considerations did you have, etc.

Work Sample Submissions guidelines

- YOU MUST SANITIZE YOUR WORK SAMPLES, INCLUDING THE TEST PROTOCOLS, REPORT, AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION. If you do not fully blind your report, you will automatically fail and will be required to submit NEW SAMPLES

Include:

- Reason for Referral
- Clinical history (Developmental, Ed, Medical, Psychiatric etc)

- Results, (including all protocols-Be sure you check your scoring). You must discuss performance validity.
- Integrated summary (not just a regurgitation of the results) and how this supports your diagnosis and Findings
- Recommendations (must be doable and reasonable given the results and history)

- Scoring for Work Sample is based on a set list of criteria that are each scored on a 0, 1, 2 scale. Passing score is 70%
- You must not have any instant failures (such as info that is not sanitized properly, incorrect use of tests –i.e. WISC instead of WAIS, failure to discuss Performance Validity, omitting elements including 5 page rational, etc)

If You Fail the Work Sample Exam

- You will get specific feedback on what the problem was.
- You have a year to submit 2 new samples
- You can submit up to 3 times, but the third time is only with approval of the BOD

Your Credential

Oral Examination

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ORAL EXAMINATION

- the Oral Exam coordinator schedules the exams. We typically schedule oral exams multiple times per year, at regional tests sites and at major NP meetings
- It is meant to be collegial, and for some is the most enjoyable part of the exam
- There are two parts - Work Style and Ethics
- Both parts are build around Vignettes (Specific scoring criteria scoring 0,1,2).

THE DAY OF THE ORAL EXAMS

- The day of exam you will meet the Oral Exam Coordinator at the specified time and location. The coordinator will answer any questions you have
- The coordinator will then escort you to the first exam room for completion of the first part of the Oral Exam
- After completion of the first part of the exam, the coordinator will escort you to the second exam room to complete the second part of the Oral Exam

HOW ORAL EXAMS FLOW

- For both the Work Style and the Ethics Oral Exam, the examiner will spend a few minutes getting know you and your practice, and will tell you a bit about him or herself
- For each portion of the exam:
 - You will be given a 2 Vignettes, and will pick one to respond to
 - Vignettes and the oral exams themselves each have a set list of scoring criteria that are each scored 2-1-0. You must score 70% on BOTH EXAMS to pass
 - This is the time to dazzle the examiner with your brilliance.

WORK STYLE ORAL EXAM

- From the Work Style Vignette (clinical case)
 - Tell what you would do and more importantly WHY you would do it
 - How you approach the case
 - Tests you would give
 - Your clinical thinking/case formulation
 - What you would be trying to rule out
 - Etc.
- You will also be asked general questions about your own practice and work style

ETHICS ORAL EXAM

- You will be given 2 vignettes to choose from, each representing some sort of ethical dilemma
 - Tell the examiner what ethical principle(s) you would be concerned with
 - How would you approach/resolve the problem(s)
 - The examiner is scoring you both on your ability to recognize the dilemma, and how to resolve it
- You will also be asked to discuss ethical practice in general, including the types of issues you yourself may encounter

WHAT IF I FAIL THE ORAL EXAM?

- If you fail both then you need to retake both.
- If fail 1 then just need to retake the one.
 - You will receive feedback from the Oral Exam Coordinator.

WHAT IF I PASS THE ORAL EXAM?

You will be notified by the president of ABN

You will get an official diploma, and a really great ABN pin

Your Credential

Our Mission

ABN

Your Credential -- Our Mission Benefits of the ABN Diplomate

- Listing in National Register, and recognition from Bureau of Labor and Statistics
- Online Directory
- ABN Newsletter
- Subscriptions to *Applied Neuropsychology*
- Opportunities to train as mentors or examiners, or to run for an office on the BOD

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Your Credential -- Our Mission Benefits

- ABN CE Programming
- Access to the online Tool Kit
- APA CE Approval
- Agency Approval List
- Membership to the ACPNTalk List serve
- Access to a collegial group of like-minded professionals

ABN

Academy of the American Board of Professional Neuropsychology (AABN)

- In January 2014, the Academy of the American Board of Professional Neuropsychology (AABN), a division of ABN, began offering the opportunity for post-doctoral neuropsychology residency training programs to become nationally recognized in a network designed to address the current placement shortage. Currently, there are 7 recognized training sites, representing a total of 18 post-doctoral residents.
- AABN uses a consortium approach to training that allows even small private practices to qualify for recognition while still meeting Houston Conference Guidelines training requirements. For example, it is possible for two or more practices to join forces and develop their own training consortium. Through shared didactics, post-doctoral residents that complete their fellowships will meet or exceed requirements for board certification in neuropsychology.
- Questions about how AABN may benefit your program should be directed to Dr. Cooper at PaulaCooperPhD@gmail.com

Your Credential -- Our Mission Questions & Discussion

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www.abn-board.com