

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HEALTH REGULATION AND LICENSING ADMINISTRATION**

BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY
AUTHORITY FOR GUIDANCE

May 9, 2023
DATE OF POLICY

23-003
POLICY NO.

POLICY STATEMENT

GUIDANCE ON EXPEDITING AUTHORIZATION TO SIT FOR EPPP 1 AND EPPP 2

To qualify for a license to practice psychology in the District of Columbia (District), an applicant is required, in addition to the required education and training, to have taken and passed the Examination for Professional Practice of Psychology (EPPP), offered by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB). 17 DCMR § 6904.1(a). On October 21, 2017, ASPPB announced that the EPPP will include a skills-based test, administered as EPPP Part 2 (EPPP 2). According to the ASPPB, the EPPP 2 has been activated and implemented since August 15, 2021. Therefore, via Policy Statement 21-002, (See Board of Psychology, Authority for Guidance, Policy No. 21-002, dated September 14, 2021) the DC Board of Psychology (Board) has determined that all applicants by examination or re-examination who submit their application *on or after January 1, 2022* and are applying for psychology licensure in the District are required to also take and pass the EPPP 2 and interprets section 6904.1(a) as encompassing an applicant's passing of both Parts of the EPPP.

However, numerous registered psychology associates have communicated to the Board that the policy in effect requiring that Applicants pass the EPPP 2, as well, is delaying their employment by extending the process to obtain a psychology license. Specifically, in order to qualify for Board authorization to sit for the EPPP Part 1 and Part 2 in the District, an applicant must meet the psychological practice experience (PPE) requirement. Prior to the policy establishing the EPPP 2 requirements, registered psychology associates were able to sit for the EPPP 1 in other states and obtain other state licenses while completing the required 4000 hours of PPE in the District; then, upon completion, of the required PPE hours, these applicants would include their EPPP 1 results as part of their application for a psychology license in the District. However, since the District is now requiring that applicants also pass the EPPP 2, psychology applicants are having challenges getting approved to sit for the EPPP 2 in other states - since many states are not yet requiring it. Consequently, those psychology associates who are registered in other jurisdictions not requiring the EPPP 2 will have to wait until they complete their PPE in the District to qualify to sit for the EPPP 2. This situation is unduly delaying the time when these applicants can begin working as licensed psychologists in the District. *To alleviate the time delay to some degree, the Board has agreed to implement the following policy:* **Applicants for a psychology license who have completed their 2,000 hours of pre-doctoral PPE, and are at least then ten (10) months through a post-doctoral fellowship (or who have completed 1,760**

Board of Psychology

Policy Statement 23-001: Guidance on Supervision of Psychology Associates – Primary Supervisor must be a licensed psychologist

hours of same), may apply for a psychology license; and, the Board shall authorize them to take the EPPP 1, immediately. Moreover, such applicants can also apply for authorization to sit for the EPPP 2. *However, those who are applying to sit for the EPPP 2 must obtain a letter from their supervisor attesting that the Applicant is in the process of completing the 2,000 post-doctoral PPE hours.*

This policy is applicable to psychology practice going forward.

All inquiries pertaining to the practice of psychology, including the continuing education requirements, may be directed to the Board at dcbopsych@dc.gov.