

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

BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY
AUTHORITY FOR GUIDANCE

September 14, 2021
DATE OF POLICY¹

21-002
POLICY NO.

UPDATED POLICY STATEMENT

**LICENSURE REQUIREMENT:
PASSING THE EXAMINATION FOR PROFESSIONAL
PRACTICE OF PSYCHOLOGY (EPPP – PARTS 1 AND 2)**

To qualify for a license to practice psychology in the District, an applicant is required, in addition to the education and training necessary, 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. According to the organization, “the integrity and legal defensibility of the EPPP depend[s] on treating Part 2 as an essential and integral part of the assessment of competence to practice.” As of August 15, 2021, per the ASPPB, the EPPP Part 2 has been effectively activated and implemented. Hence, the DC Board of Psychology 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 of Columbia are required to also take and pass the EPPP Part 2 (“EPPP-2”).

Since ASPPB has determined that the EPPP-2 is an essential and integral part of the competency assessment, the Board now interprets section 6904.1(a) as encompassing an applicant’s passing of both Parts of the EPPP. Accordingly, the national examination requirement for the District’s psychology license will include passing of both parts of the EPPP *for those graduating on or after January 1, 2022*. (This requirement will not be applicable to current licensees or expired licensees who seek to reinstate a DC license.)

With regard to applicants seeking DC license by endorsement, the EPPP-2 will be required based on the date the applicants obtained the qualifying doctoral degree. Therefore, applicants via

¹ This policy was initially adopted on May 12, 2020. It was revised based on further review at the Board’s meeting on September 13, 2021 to clarify the date on which the EPPP-2 requirement would take effect as well as the effect of the policy on endorsement applicants.

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endorsement who graduated *on or after January 1, 2022, and who are endorsing from a state that does not require the EPPP-2*, are required to take and pass the EPPP-2.

(However, an applicant via endorsement who obtained their degree prior to January 1, 2022, will qualify for a DC license based on passing of EPPP Part 1, although they may not have taken EPPP Part 2.)

The Board is currently engaged in an extensive effort to update its regulations, which, when completed, will reflect the position taken in this policy guidance.

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