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# ABPP

SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION  
IN PSYCHOLOGY SINCE 1947

## **ABPP Liaison Report Fall 2024**

### ***Current status of ABPP Specialties & Subspecialties –***

New specialty boards of Addiction Psychology, and Serious Mental Illness Psychology, as well as the newly “reformed” Psychodynamic and Psychoanalytic Psychology are nearing the completion of their monitoring phase of affiliation with ABPP. The progress of each board will be reviewed by the ABPP Board of Trustees (BOT) at our upcoming December meeting. The rate with which each board is progressing looks positive for their likelihood of full affiliation. Each have demonstrated excellent examination processes.

The ABPP Affiliations Committee is actively reviewing an application for affiliation provided by Clinical Psychopharmacology and the BOT will be hearing from that specialty in December.

### ***Work from the Council of Specialties and the Interorganizational Summit 4.0 –***

ABPP has been integrally involved with support for the Taxonomy for Psychology. All 15 of the taxonomies that have been approved by the Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology (CoS – [www.Cospp.org](http://www.Cospp.org)) have been programmed. You are encouraged to access and use the tool for programs to use that will assist in determination of the level (e.g., Major Area of Study, Emphasis, Experience, or Exposure) of training provided, using the taxonomy verbiage. A video instructional is on the home page of the taxonomy tool site [www.psychologytaxonomy.org](http://www.psychologytaxonomy.org).

Although designed to review doctoral, internship, and postdoctoral training programs, it may also be useful in reviewing the training of an individual psychologist. There have been some formal and informal discussions about how this might serve licensing boards when reviewing complaints and other issues that arise in regard to specialty practice.

### ***Competence in the Doctoral and Master’s Realms***

The issue of potential licensing of master’s level individuals in psychology has proven to be one of expressed concern by many ABPP specialists. As the profession continues to move forward with discussions about implementation of APA accrediting master’s degree programs, the impact of that on the profession, and licensing and certification issues; ABPP will continue to participate in many of those groups and discussions, with an eye toward any longer-term consideration of any need for direct activity on behalf of ABPP with respect to certification issues.

**American Board of Professional Psychology**

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ABPP has reviewed the ASPPB recently posted Model Licensing Act that includes master's degree scope of practice and title. Comments have been provided directly to ASPPB in response to the review.

### *Applications and Scholarship Opportunities*

ABPP continues to receive many applications, and there are now approximately 5,000 board-certified specialists. The profession-wide experience of a decrease in postdoctoral trainees has not impacted the number of applications to ABPP, although we remain vigilant to this issue as it relates to both board certification as well as specialty in the profession at large.

The ABPP Foundation manages scholarship and discount opportunities for those seeking board certification, including for Training Directors and others. These may be found here:

<https://abpp.org/foundation/scholarships/>

### *Artificial Intelligence*

ABPP has established an AI Task Force that is chaired by Dr. Jeni McCutcheon. That TF includes a subject matter expert as well as representatives from ABPP and other psychology organizations. The TF is considering how AI may impact psychology, specialty, examinations, etc. We thank the liaisons from other organizations for their participation in this process.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Cox, PhD, ABPP  
Executive Officer