

ABPP Board Certification in Clinical Neuropsychology

Tips for successful specialty certification

Co-sponsored by

APA D40 EAC and ANST, APPCN, and AACN

Organized by

Erica Kalkut, PhD, ANST Chair

February 2013

Who We Are

■ ANST

- Association of Neuropsychology Students in Training
- Student-led group overseen by the Education Advisory Committee (EAC) of APA Division 40
 - Disseminate information to students
 - Education and training issues in our field
 - Research and travel awards
 - Networking among students and professionals
 - Access to APAGS resources

<http://www.div40-anst.com/>

Speakers

- **APPCN: Dr. Kathleen O'Toole**
 - Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology
 - <http://www.appcn.org/>
 - **ABCN: Dr. John Lucas**
 - American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology
 - Member board under American Board of Professional Psychology: <http://www.abpp.org>
 - **AACN: Dr. Mark Mahone**
 - American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology
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Postdoctoral Training and the APPCN Match

Doug Bodin, Ph.D., ABPP-CN

Kathleen O'Toole, Ph.D., ABPP-CN

Mary Haines, Ph.D., ABPP-CN

Slides developed by: Robin Hilsabeck,
ABPP-CN

Postdocs: Application

- Application procedures differ across programs (but simpler than internship)
 - List specific goals in cover letter
 - Attend INS for interviews, if at all possible
 - Ask to speak with former/current fellows
 - VERY important to apply to as many programs as you can
-

Postdoctoral Training: Houston Conference Guidelines

- Goal is to complete the education and training necessary for independent practice of clinical neuropsychology (CN)
 - Residency is a **REQUIRED** component in specialty education in CN
 - The equivalent of 2 years of full-time education and training
 - Residency **MUST** occur on at least a half-time basis
-

Postdoctoral Training: Houston Conference Guidelines

ENTRY criteria:

1. Entrance **SHOULD** be based upon completion an APA/CPA- accredited doctoral program
 2. Residents **WILL** have successfully completed an APA/CPA- accredited internship which includes **SOME** training in CN
-

Postdoctoral Training: Houston Conference Guidelines

EXIT criteria:

1. Faculty includes a board-certified clinical neuropsychologist and other psychologists
 2. Training at a fixed site or affiliated local sites with primarily on-site supervision
 3. Access to clinical services and training in medical specialties and allied professions
 4. Interactions with residents in medical and allied specialties
 5. Eligibility for state or provincial licensure for independent practice
 6. Eligibility for board certification by ABPP/ABCN
-

APPCN-Member Programs: Criteria

- Duration of 2 years of postdoctoral training, or equivalent on at least a half-time basis.
 - Activity at least 50% clinical, 10% research, and 10% didactics.
 - Program director or consultant is board-certified in clinical neuropsychology by ABPP/ABCN
-

APPCN Matching Program

- Computerized matching process, run by NMS on behalf of APPCN
 - Non-APPCN programs that provide at least 25% clinical time may also participate
 - Decision rules are applied based on the applicants' and programs' rankings
 - Fees for programs and applicants
-

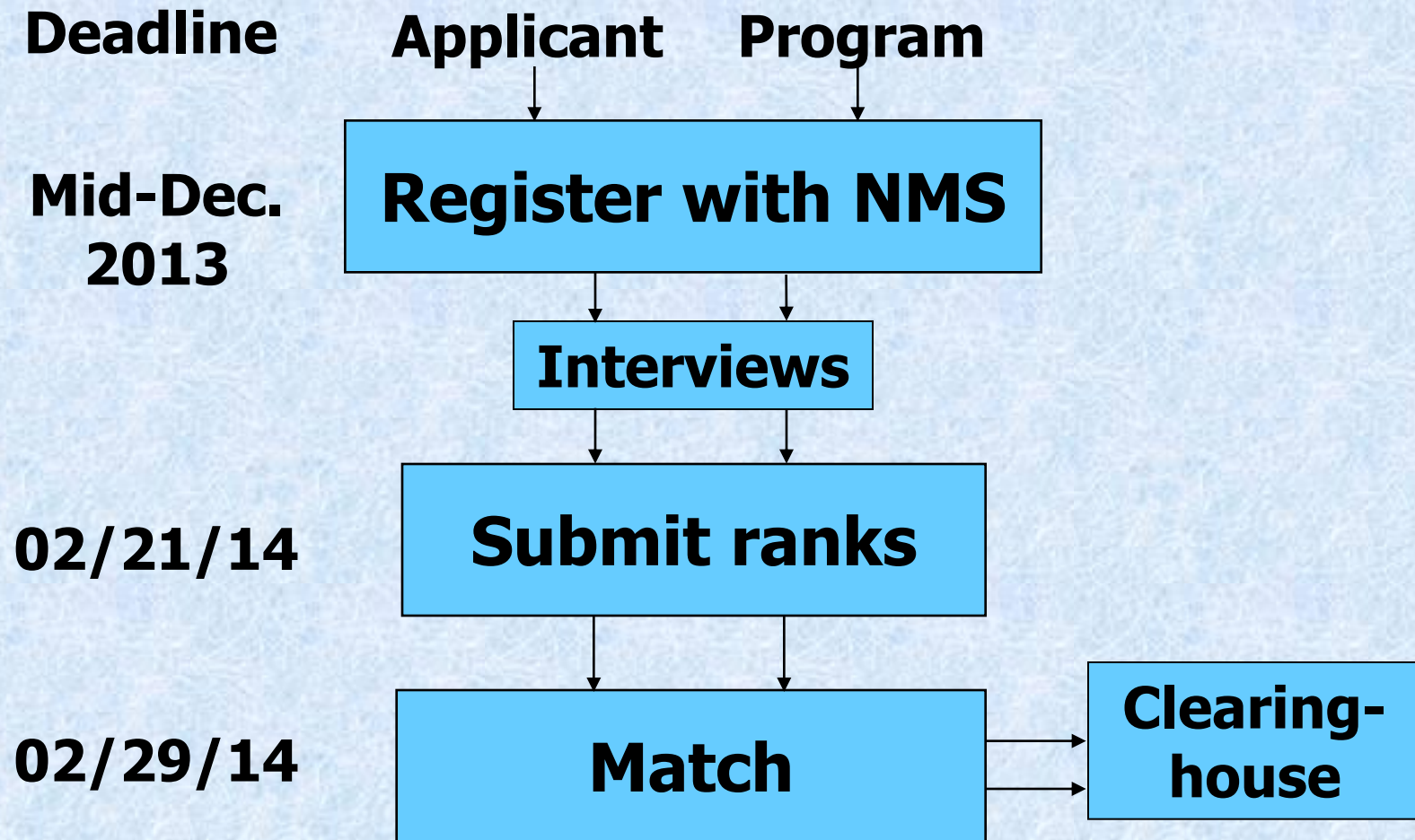
APPCN Matching Program

- Programs can tell you only whether or not you are competitive
 - EXCEPTION – if you receive an offer from a non-match program, you can contact match programs to inquire about your status; programs can tell you if you would be expected to match with them
 - Premature offers are not allowed
-

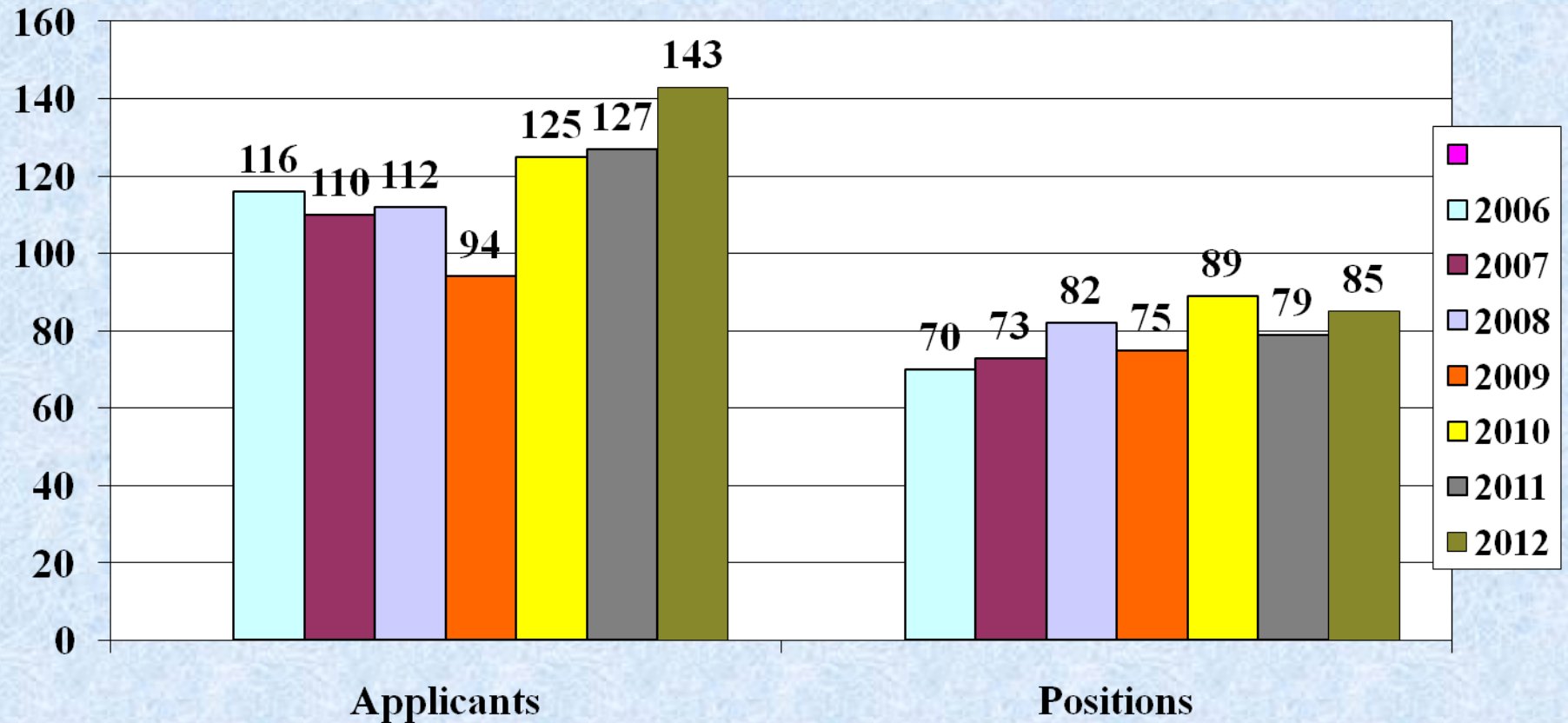
APPCN Matching Program

- If a program does not plan to rank you, they are supposed to tell you
 - Match is binding
 - Clearinghouse is available
-

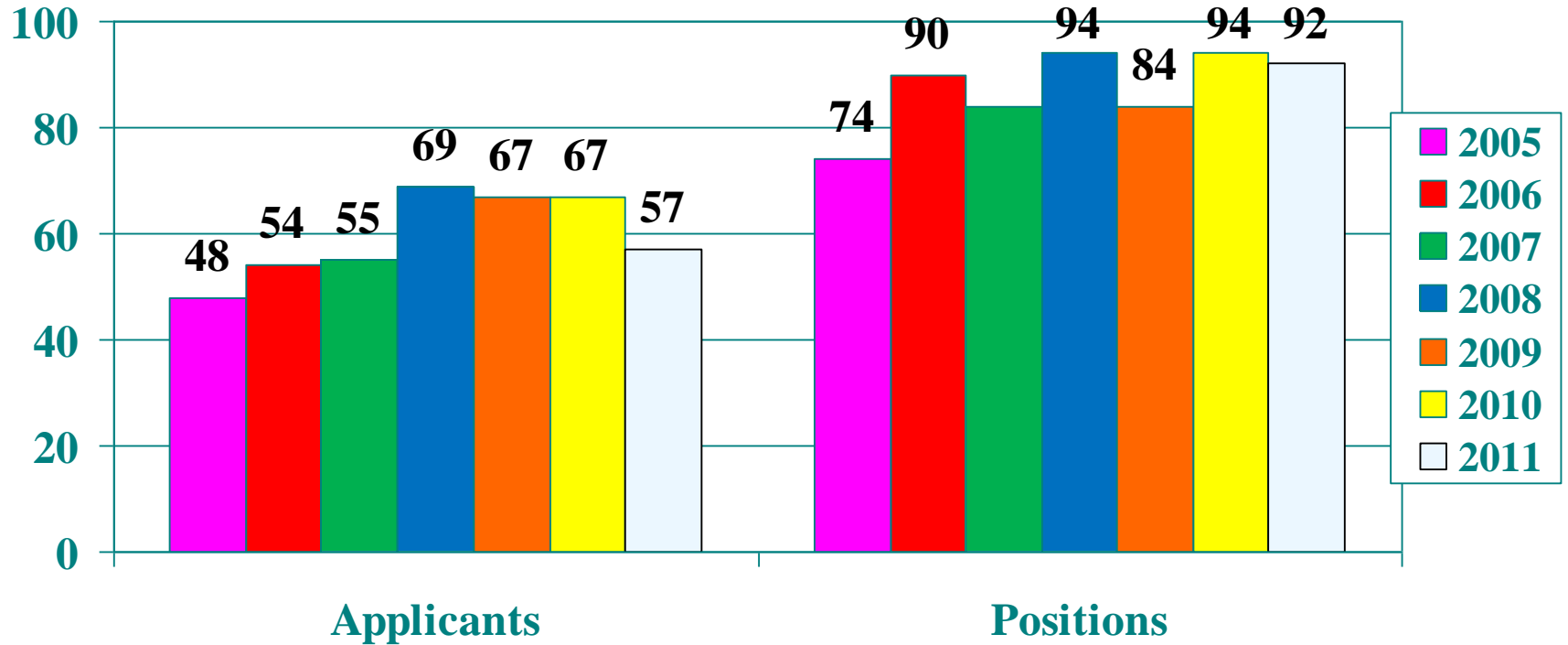
APPCN Matching Program



Number of Applicants and Positions

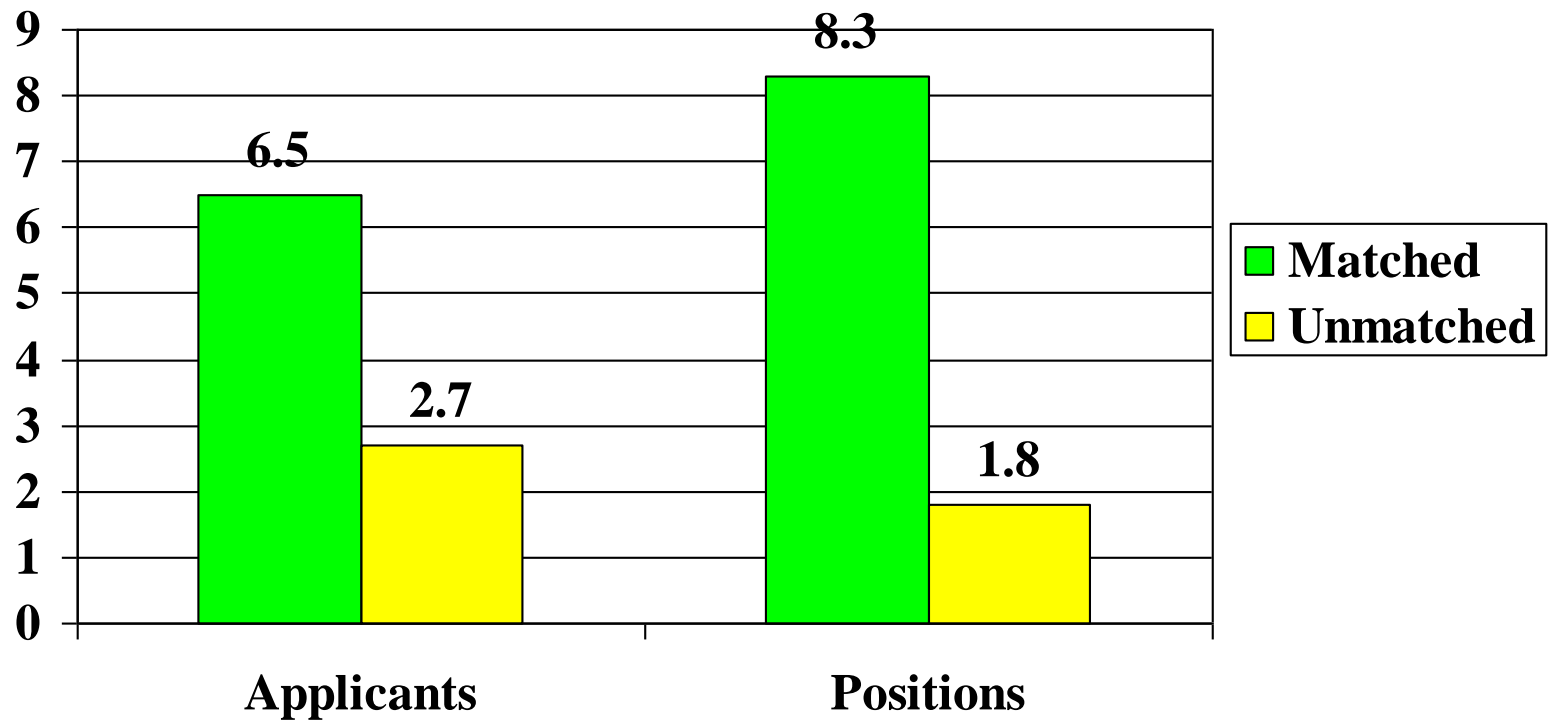


National match: % success rates



National match: Relationship of Outcome to Number of ranks submitted

Mean N of ranks (2011)



APPCN Matching Program: Advantages to Applicants

- Access to quality programs that meet training standards for ABPP/ABCN board certification
 - Ability to apply to many programs using the same process
 - Minimize travel by interviewing at INS
 - Match outcome is binding
 - Most fair system for applicants
 - Clearinghouse
-

APPCN and the ABPP/ABCN Exam:

- APPCN has developed a practice written exam that residents take after their first year
 - Results are tabulated yearly, and residents receive feedback on their relative standing
 - The exam is not meant for formal evaluation
 - Many sites also conduct mock oral exams (e.g., fact finding cases and ethics vignettes)
-

APPCN Matching Program

Contact Information:

APPCN: <http://www.appcn.org>

NMS: <http://www.natmatch.com>



American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology (ABCN)

John A. Lucas, PhD, ABPP

Board Certified in Clinical Neuropsychology

President, American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology



ABCN

- One of 14, separately incorporated Specialty Boards of the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP).
 - CLINICAL CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHOLOGY
 - CLINICAL HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY
 - CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY
 - CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY
 - COGNITIVE & BEHAVIORAL PSYCHOLOGY
 - COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY
 - COUPLE & FAMILY PSYCHOLOGY
 - FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY
 - GROUP PSYCHOLOGY
 - ORGANIZATIONAL & BUSINESS CONSULTING PSYCHOLOGY
 - POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY PSYCHOLOGY
 - PSYCHOANALYSIS
 - REHABILITATION PSYCHOLOGY
 - SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY



ABPP

- Unitary governing body of Psychology Specialty Boards, analogous to American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS).
 - State legislatures do not recognize or evaluate specialty competence in psychology licensure.
 - Opportunity to demonstrate competence within specialties and, in coming months, subspecialties.
 - Means of verifying competence to consumers and colleagues via their certification status.
- Determines generic competencies, which then must be incorporated into specialty standards and examinations by member Boards.



ABCN BOD

The ABCN BOD is responsible for developing, implementing, and administering the procedures and examinations required to demonstrate competence in the Specialty of Clinical Neuropsychology

- Heather Belanger (2013-2018)
- Corwin Boake (2010-2015)
- Laura Flashman (2010-2015)
- Manfred Greiffenstein (2009-2014)
- Christopher Grote (2013-2018)
- Laura Janzen (2011-2016)
- Joseph Kulas (2013-2018)
- John Lucas (2005-2015)
- Joel Morgan (2009-2014)
- Nathaniel Nelson (2013-2018)
- Nancy Nussbaum (2012-2017)
- Michael Schoenberg (2012-2017)
- Beth Slomine (2012-2017)
- Jack Spector (2011-2016)
- Anthony Stringer (2008-2013)
- Rodney Vanderploeg (2009-2014)



Officers and Appointees

- President John Lucas
- Vice President Anthony Stringer
- Secretary Laura Flashman
- Treasurer Corwin Boake
- ABPP Representative Deborah Koltai Attix

- Executive Director Linas Bieliauskas
- Executive Assistant Annunciata Porterfield
- Exam Chair Bernice Marcopulos
- Oral Exam Coord. Diane Howieson
- Local Arrangements Chris Grote, Neil Pliskin



ABCN Certified Neuropsychologists

- As of January 2013:
 - 907 ABCN Certified Clinical Neuropsychologists
 - 48 states, District of Columbia, 4 Canadian provinces
- 100+ new applications annually since 2008
- In 2012:
 - 53% of applicants within 3yrs of postdoctoral training.
 - 47% completed postdoctoral training in APPCN or APA-accredited neuropsychology program.
 - 48% report training and practice with pediatric populations.



ABCN Exam

- Purpose: To assess advanced *competence* in the practice of clinical neuropsychology.
 - Fund of scientific knowledge.
 - Application of neuropsychological principles in clinical settings.
 - Patients
 - Family Members/Caregivers
 - Health Professionals
 - Parents/Educators
 - Promotion of patient welfare.
- Process: Comprised of four components.
 - Credential Review
 - Written Examination
 - Practice Sample
 - Oral Examination



Early Entry Program

- Eligibility
 - Graduate students
 - Interns
 - Residents who submit an application prior to licensure and completion of postdoctoral training.
- Demonstrates early commitment to lifelong professional development.
- No need to identify a specific Specialty Board until ready.
- Submit credentials to ABPP as each phase of training is completed.
- Fee = \$25 (\$100 savings).
- www.abpp.org “Early Entry Option”



Credential Review: Stage 1

- ABPP Generic Review
 - Doctoral Training
 - A doctoral degree in professional psychology from a program:
 - accredited by the APA, CPA, or listed in “Doctoral Psychology Programs Meeting Designation Criteria” OR,
 - Credentialed in the most recent directory of
 - National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology
 - Canadian Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology
 - Certificate of Professional Qualification in Psychology (CPQ) from ASPPB.
 - Internship Training
 - APA accredited or APPIC listed.
 - Clinical Experience
 - 3 years of experience in specialty, one of which may be predoctoral
 - 2 yrs supervised clinical experience, one of which may be predoctoral
 - Licensure or Certification
 - Licensed as a psychologist for independent practice at the doctoral level in a jurisdiction in the U.S., its territories or Canada.



Credential Review: Stage 2

- When an application passes ABPP generic review, it is sent to ABCN for Specialty Review
 - ABCN defers to ABPP on doctoral/internship programs.
- Didactic and experiential training:
 - Basic Neurosciences
 - Clinical Neurology
 - Neuropsych Assessment
 - Neuroanatomy
 - Neuropathology
 - Psychopathology
 - Psychological Assessment
 - Psychological Intervention
- Postdoctoral Training
 - Requirements tied to date of doctoral degree (or respecialization).
 - Prior to 1980
 - 1981-1990
 - 1991-2004
 - 2005 – present



Postdoctoral Training

- Prior to 1980:
 - 4800 hrs experience, 2400 of which is direct clinical
- 1981-1990:
 - 1600 *supervised* clinical neuropsych experience
- 1991-2004:
 - 2yrs supervised clinical training, one of which may be predoctoral
 - On-site, face-to-face supervision
 - Supervisor employed by or contracted with facility
 - Didactics or other training opportunities in required domains
- 2005 – present:
 - Completion of postdoc program meeting HC guidelines.



Houston Conference

- Two full years of postdoctoral training (or equivalent).
 - Clinical Neuropsychological Services
 - Clinical Neuropsychological Research
 - Education supporting breadth/depth of neuropsychological training
- Training Setting/Supervision.
 - Fixed site or geographically-proximate settings.
 - On-site, face-to-face supervision
 - Supervisor employed/contracted by facility where patients are seen.
 - Access to clinical services/training programs in medical and allied health specialties
 - Opportunity to interact with other trainees (medical, psych, NPSY).
- Exit criteria evaluated and passed.
- ABCN does not require supervisors to be ABCN Specialists



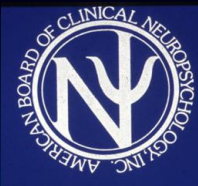
Written Examination

- Prepared in conjunction with the Professional Examination Service (ProExam, formerly PES).
- Administered by PROMETRIC centers in four, 2-week windows per year.
 - ~~March 1 - 16 (Registration deadline: 01/25/13)~~
 - June 1 - 15 (Registration deadline : 04/24/13)
 - Sept 14 - 29 (Registration deadline : 08/09/13)
 - Nov 30 – Dec 14 (Registration deadline : 10/23/13)
- 100 multiple-choice items.
 - Two general rubrics
 - Scientific Foundations (e.g., clinical neurology, neuroanatomy, methodology)
 - Clinical Foundations (e.g., assessment, intervention, diversity, ethics, psychometrics)
 - Items updated/replaced every 2-3 years



Practice Sample

- Two clinical cases, sufficiently different to demonstrate breadth of competence.
 - Original, unsupervised, de-identified report
 - Data summary sheet
 - Raw test protocols
 - 3-page supplementary materials (optional)
- Submission
 - Online via ScholarOne portal
 - Electronic media (CD, flash drive)
 - Hard copies
- Three reviewers independently determine *if practice can be defended during oral examination.*



Oral Examinations

- If PS is deemed defensible, the candidate is scheduled for the next available oral examination date.
 - Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago
 - University of Illinois at Chicago
- Three, one-hour components
 - Practice Sample defense
 - Scientific foundations/clinical applications of candidate's own clinical practice.
 - Fact Finding (adult or pediatric case)
 - Scientific foundations/clinical decision making in formulating new cases.
 - Ethics and Professional Responsibility
 - Knowledge of and sensitivity to ethics and diversity issues in the practice of clinical neuropsychology (vignette).
 - Candidate training, practice setting, professional activities, etc.



Oral Examiners

- Three examiners per oral exam team
 - Examiners on the cadre represent the diversity of board certified clinical neuropsychologists.
 - Area of expertise
 - Training experience
 - Patient populations
 - Observers and Trainees may be present during examination.
 - Observers are former examiners who monitor the exam process and ensure exam fidelity.
 - Trainees learn how the exam process works.
 - Observers and Trainees do not discuss the exam or contribute to the decision to award or not award certification.
- Decision to award/not award based on performance across all three hours of the examination.

ABCN Oral Examination Cadre

Coordinator: Diane Howieson

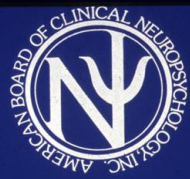
- Jacobus Donders (2009-2013)
- Marc Norman (2009-2013)
- Julie Bobholz (2009-2013)
- Jennifer Haut (2009-2013)
- Kira Armstrong (2010-2014)
- Alex Troster (2010-2014)
- Anthony Stringer (2010-2014)
- Anna Byers (2010-2014)
- Joel Morgan (2010-2014)
- Aaron Nelson (2011-2015)
- Jennifer Janusz (2011-2015)
- Michael Westerveld (2011-2015)
- Laura Janzen (2011-2015)
- Katherine Fuchs (2011-2015)
- Beth Slomine (2012-2016)
- Laura Flashman (2012-2016)
- Nancy Nussbaum (2008-2017)

Observers: Ida Sue Baron, Russell Bauer, Kathleen Haaland, Robert Hart, Anne Schneider, H. Gerry Taylor

Stand-In Examiners: Linas Bieliauskas, Diane Howieson, John Lucas, Bernice Marcopulos

New ABCN Specialists (2012)

- Jeffrey Sheer
- Nina H. Thomas
- Claire E. McGrath
- Robert A. Ruchinskas
- Angela C. Gleason
- Minh-Thu Le
- Eva Mamak
- Mary Putnam
- Joy Parrish
- Pamela Friedman
- Elizabeth Begyn
- Shira M. Kurtz
- Loren Mallory
- Gianna Locascio
- Emily MacKillop
- Mercedes Dickenson
- Ashley Gorman
- Christine Castillo
- Jennifer Katzenstein
- Marsha Vasserman
- Brenna McDonald
- Jennie Rexer
- Allison D. Wilkinson
- Christopher P. Contardo
- John Tsanadis
- Paula L. Zuffante
- Cori A. Scalzo
- Marcos DiPinto
- Kelly L. Blair
- Amanda S. Johnson
- Stephanie Nelson
- Christopher Anagnostis
- Brad S. Kauder
- Cynthia A. Munro
- Douglas B. Cooper
- Katherine Burhke
- Stella Karantzoulis
- Joy E. DeJong
- Valerie L. Rennison
- Anne A. Nolty
- Brittany J. Allen
- Chand Taneja
- Thomas Misukanis
- Wendy L. McKernon
- Mona Stepansky
- Jamie Ducharme
- Brenna LeJeune
- Kathryn V. Lester
- Jessica B. Castelo
- Monica Rivera-Mindt
- Desiree Byrd
- Cynthia A. Smith
- Brian Potter
- Stephan Kennepohl
- Jennifer S. Kleiner
- Mary Ann McMorrow
- Brian Hoyt
- Michelle Zeller
- Staci Ross
- Lars Hungerford
- Kelly Greene
- Kris Kratz
- Patrick Armistead-Jehle
- Veronica Lozano

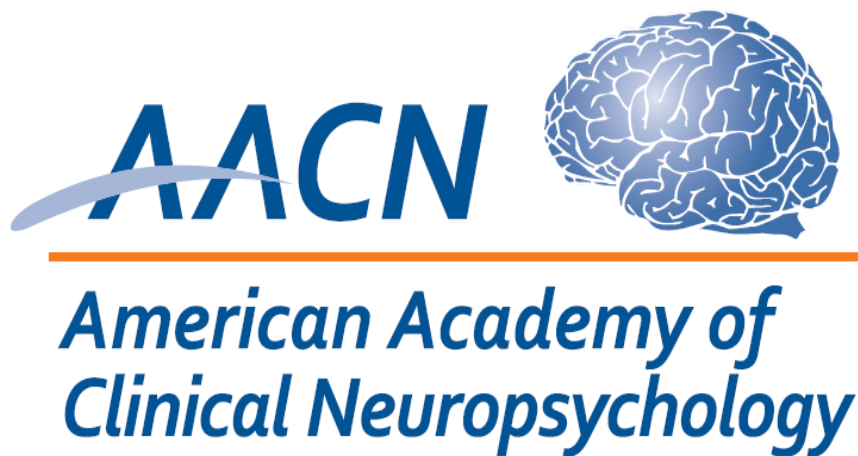


Resources

- www.theabcn.org provides information and links to:
 - Candidate Manual
 - Houston Conference Guidelines
 - ABCN Specialty Application
 - Exam Dates/Deadlines
 - Credential & PS Submission Instructions
 - AACN Study Resources
 - BRAIN study/support network
 - Mentorship Program
 - Study Materials
- Eligibility/Credential Questions:
 - Generic - ABPP CO: Diane Butcher diane@abpp.org
 - Specialty - ABCN CO: Annunciata Porterfield: nunce@umich.edu
- Concerns about the Exam Process: lucas.john@mayo.edu

THANK YOU

The Road to Board Certification: AACN Perspectives



E. Mark Mahone, Ph.D., ABPP
President-elect, AACN

AACN Mission Statement

“The mission of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology is to advance the profession of Clinical Neuropsychology through its advocacy of outstanding educational and public policy initiatives.”

AACN Objectives

AACN aims to achieve its mission through dedication to the following:

1. Support for those principles, policies and practices that seek the attainment of the best in clinical neuropsychological patient care.
2. Pursuit of excellence in psychological education, especially as it concerns the clinical neuropsychological sciences.
3. Pursuit of high standards in the practice of clinical neuropsychology and support of the credentialing activities of the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology.
4. Support for the quest of scientific knowledge by via research in neuropsychology and related fields.
5. Communication of scientific and scholarly information through continuing education, scientific meetings, and publications.
6. Communication with other groups and representation for neuropsychological opinion to best achieve and preserve the purposes of the Academy.

AACN

BOD

- Dean Beebe 2010-2015
- Michelle Braun 2013-2018
- Mike Chafetz 2012-2017
- Daniel Drane 2013-2018
- Kevin Greeve 2010-2015
- Mike Kirkwood 2009-2014
- Chris Morrison 2012-2017
- Karen Postal 2011-2016
- Lisa Ravdin 2012-2017
- Joseph Ricker 2010-2015
- Sara Swanson 2011-2016
- Karen Wills 2009-2014
- Amanda Gooding 2012-2013
(Student Representative)

OFFICERS 2012-2014

President: Aaron Nelson

President-Elect: Mark Mahone

Treasurer: Susan McPherson

Treasurer-Elect: Rick Naugle

Secretary: Leslie Rosenstein

Executive Director: Linas Beilauskas



AACN

Categories of Membership

- Full Member (ABCN certified)
- Affiliate Member
- Student Affiliate*
- Senior/Honorary

*AACN provides scholarships and reduced rates for student affiliate members for conference attendance

The AACN Value Proposition

- **Clinical Practice Resources**

- Position Statements on Best Practice
- Practice Advisory Group

- **Education & Training**

- AACN Annual Conference
- BRAIN

- **Publications**

- The Clinical Neuropsychologist
- Oxford Workshop Series
- Psychology Press Series
- Child Neuropsychology

- **Online Resources**

- www.theaacn.org

- **Research**

- Clinical Outcomes Consortium
- AACN Foundation Grants Program

- **Advocacy**

- AACN/ABCN Joint Subcommittee on Promotion of Board Certification
- Special Interest Groups – Pediatric
- Student Advocacy

- **Peer Communication**

- AACN Member and Community Listserve

Benefits of Board Certification in Neuropsychology

•The practitioner

- Recognized credibility
- Better pay, job security, provider status
- Simplified, mobile credential
- Personal and professional development

•The public

- Assurances of quality and service to consumers
- Mission toward evidence-based practice

•The profession

- Accepted standards for quality in training and competence
- Increased breadth and depth of knowledge, science, care
- Strength on issues of public policy

Benefits to the Profession

1. Establishes clear standards for competence
2. Development of intellectual resources
3. Advocacy in public policy arena
4. AACN/F: support of outcomes and evidence-based research

AACN: Benefits to Students

- Affiliate Membership
 - Meeting discounts
 - Listservs
 - Online access to TCN and Child Neuropsychology
- Student focused conference
 - Student forum
 - Training directors hour
 - Poster session with award
 - Scholarships
- Student AACN Board member

AACN Recent Initiatives

- IOPC

www.neuropsychologytoolkit.com

- PPP

- Letters to editor (e.g., ADHD)

- Social Security and SVTs

- NYSAN

- AACNF

- Continuing Ed (TCN, CN, book series, conference)

Membership Growth

- Growth is the Number One key to fulfilling our mission
- Establish wide availability of ABCN-certified providers
- Become the predominant organization setting standards for training and practice
- Become the predominant organization for advocacy and expertise in the public policy arena

AACN Membership Growth

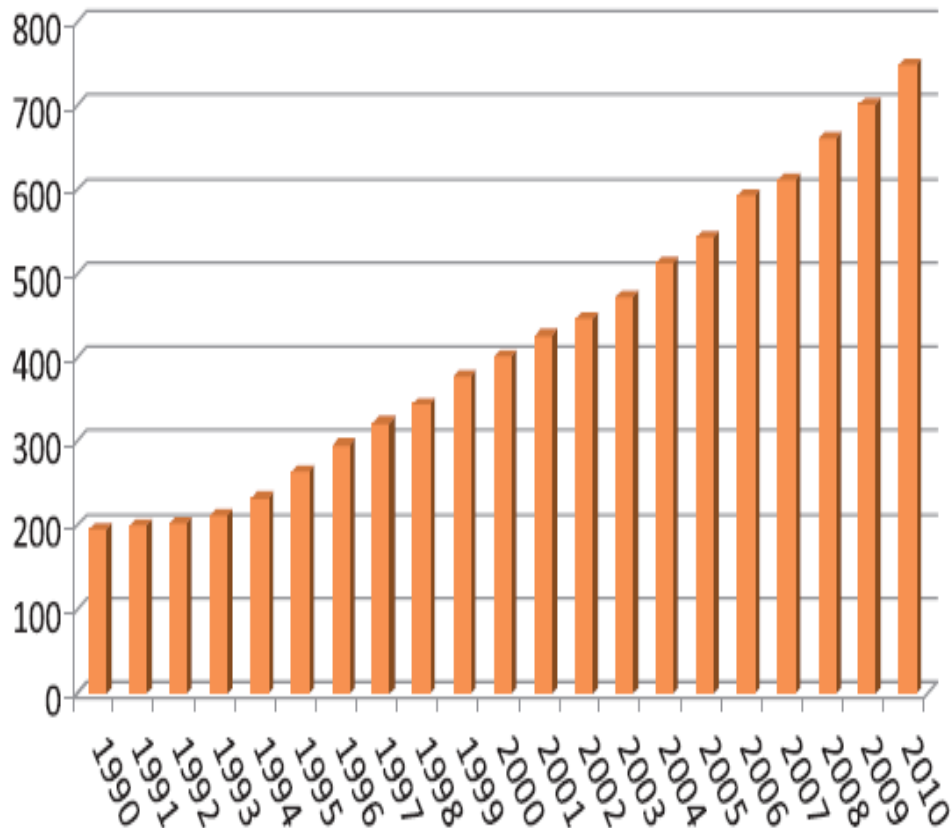


Figure 1 Cumulative total of AACN diplomas awarded (1990–2010).

The Clinical Neuropsychologist, 2011, 25 (1), 3–11
<http://www.psypress.com/tcn>
ISSN: 1385-4046 print/1744-4144 online
DOI: 10.1080/13854046.2010.541055

 Psychology Press
Taylor & Francis Group

President's Annual State of the Academy Report

Michael McCrea

ProHealth Care Neuroscience Center and Research Institute, Waukesha, WI, USA
Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, USA

As President of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology (AACN), it is my privilege to share with AACN members and the readership of *The Clinical Neuropsychologist* the Annual State of the Academy Report. In keeping with the tradition established by prior AACN Presidents, I hope to highlight the Academy's main achievements over the past year, and recognize the many individuals who have dedicated great service on behalf of AACN. In my first attempt, this year's report may also veer a bit from the norm as I dedicate some discussion to major challenges that neuropsychology is likely to encounter in the current climate of healthcare reform, and outline the Academy's strategic response to those issues on behalf of our membership.

For openers, I am pleased to announce that the Academy is currently in its strongest position ever, whether that is measured by growth in our membership, success of our annual conference, financial stability, tangible benefits to our membership, and our efforts to enhance the practice of clinical neuropsychologists. Summarized herein are but a few examples demonstrating the Academy's position of strength and reasons for optimism as we look toward the future.

Integrating pediatrics

- Support pediatric neuropsychologists within AACN
- Make ABCN/AACN attractive to pediatric neuropsychologists
- Avoid splitting the field into separate boards for pediatric and adult neuropsychology.

The ABCN Process – Final Words of Encouragement

- Consider all of the things you have accomplished in recent years:
 - ✓ Graduated college
 - ✓ Completed GRE
 - ✓ Applied to graduate school
 - ✓ Graduate course load
 - ✓ Master's thesis proposal/defense
 - ✓ Qualifying examination
 - ✓ Research requirements
 - ✓ Teaching assistantships
 - ✓ Clinical practica
 - ✓ Dissertation proposal/defense
 - ✓ Internship
 - ✓ Postdoctoral fellowship
 - ✓ Licensing examination
- Yes the boarding process is challenging, but the short-term investment (like many of the other things you have accomplished) is well-worth the long-term benefit!
- ABPP/ABCN board certification is not an elitist goal – it is doable for anyone who has trained to be a neuropsychologist
- The PROCESS itself makes you a better neuropsychologist

*Discover the Latest
in Neuropsychology!*



Join us next year for the
11th Annual AACN Conference
Chicago

See you in 2013!

Excellence in Clinical Practice

June 20-22, 2013
Renaissance Chicago Hotel

1 West Wacker • Chicago, IL 60601

American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology
www.TheAACN.org

**See you
in Chicago!**