



Saskatchewan College of Psychologists

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Membership Advisory

Oral Examination Interview Process

The Saskatchewan College of Psychologists (College) oral examination interview (examination) was established by the Oral Examination Committee (OEC) to evaluate the practice competence and professional knowledge of members of the profession in Saskatchewan. For Provisional Psychologists this is the final step that must be successfully met, prior to being awarded a Full Practice license (independent license). The examination uses as a framework for assessment the core practice competencies established by the Association of Canadian Psychology Regulators as necessary for the practice of Psychology in Canada, the candidate's declared/intended area(s) of practice, ethics and jurisprudence, and if applicable diagnostic knowledge and competence. Full Practice members who did not at initial licensure apply for the Authorized Practice Endorsement (APE; diagnostic competence) may apply for an examination focussed specifically on diagnostic competence.

There are two components of the oral examination interview: the competency portion and diagnostic competence (only if one is eligible for the APE). Regardless of whether the examination is being conducted to determine readiness to practice independently or competence to convey diagnoses in practice, the framework for assessment is the same, that is the use of the core competencies, the candidate's declared/intended area(s) of practice, ethics and jurisprudence, and diagnostic competence if applicable.

Candidates must submit work samples for the examination. **The samples must be current (within 6 months of application for examination), must be co-signed by the supervisor, must be pertaining to actual clients, cannot be pertaining to only one client, and must demonstrate an example of the candidate's best work.** The work samples will be **pre-screened on one occasion only** by the OEC. The samples are **not pre-screened for errors in terms of the accuracy of the content or the accuracy of the conclusions made**, but rather to identify glaring errors in format and/or presentation, and/or typographical errors. Candidates are given **one opportunity to resubmit samples** identified as problematic – these are not screened prior to being sent to the examination panels. **It must be stressed that the fact that one's sample was pre-screened and approved or was resubmitted, is not a tacit endorsement by the OEC or the College of the quality of the sample or of the candidate's readiness for independent practice.**

Examinations are held twice a year at a date and location established by the OEC. 10 candidates are examined at each sitting. Each candidate has an examination panel established for them which is comprised of 3 eligible and approved Full Practice members of the College, who as a group cover the candidate's declared/intended areas of practice. Candidates and potential panel members are asked to declare any conflict-of-interest which may exist, prior to the examination date. Candidates may refuse a panel, but must recognize that this may mean a delay in when they can take the examination until a suitable panel can be established.

If candidates believe that they require a specific accommodation for the examination due to a differing ability, a restriction which may negatively impact the examination, or a medical condition they must submit supporting documentation i.e. medical documentation or a professional assessment to the Registration Committee for consideration. Requests for an accommodation must be submitted at the time of application for the examination and not post-result. The Registration Committee must approve

the accommodation and will notify the candidate of the decision prior to the examination. The submission of a request for an accommodation does not guarantee its approval. The documentation must indicate:

1. The condition for which the accommodation being requested
2. The specific accommodation required
3. Be endorsed by the professional as necessary

To take the overall examination candidates must:

- a. Have successfully completed all other requirements of the Provisional licensure process as established by the College
- b. Have applied to the Registration Committee to take the examination, and been endorsed as eligible
- c. Have submitted all necessary applications, fees, and documentation
- d. If applying for the APE they must have submitted the necessary application materials, fee, and have been endorsed by the Registration Committee as eligible for the endorsement
- e. Have been notified by the College office that a place has been reserved for them at the oral examination

To take the APE–only examination candidates must:

- a. Have made application and been approved by the Registration Committee of the College as eligible to have the endorsement
- b. Have submitted the necessary application, fees, and documentation
- c. Have been notified by the College office that a place has been reserved for them at the oral examination

The length of examination is approximately 90 minutes (actual questioning) for the overall examination and approximately 60 minutes (actual questioning) if you are being examined only for the APE. Examination panel deliberations regarding the result are approximately 30 minutes. It must be noted, however, that the timeline for the examination and panel deliberations may be lengthened or shortened at the discretion of the Chair.

Examination results will be conveyed to the candidate verbally following the panel’s deliberations. The results are not official until endorsed by the Registration Committee and have been communicated to the candidate in writing by the College office. Thus the candidate must continue to practice under direct supervision, using the “Provisional” disclaimer until written notification of the result is received. The applicant’s **supervisor will be notified by the College of all unsuccessful examination results**. Written feedback from the examination panel and/or the Registration Committee review panel will be provided to the candidate and the supervisor when requested by the panels.

Candidates have three opportunities in total to successfully pass the examination. Please see the relevant advisories on examinations – *Oral Examination Incomplete Passes/Failures* and *APE Examination*. Unsuccessful results are provided an automatic review by the Registration Committee. Candidates must wait a minimum of 6 months from the date of the Registration Committee’s review decision before they are eligible to retake the examination. In the case of the overall examination, it must be re-taken within 12 months of the date of the review decision. Unsuccessful examination results are not delegated decisions and as such are not open to appeal to Executive Council. Only decisions pertaining to the denial of licensure are open to appeal.