



# Resource Guide for Completing Board Certification through the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology



## **“MUST HAVE” INFORMATION FOR ALL APPLICANTS**

**Are you looking for definitive, up-to-date information about candidate eligibility and the application and examination process?**

**Access:** The American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology website ([www.theabcn.org](http://www.theabcn.org))

**Summary:** ABCN is responsible for determining candidate eligibility and administering each stage of the examination. The ABCN website should be the first stop for all applicants. The website provides access to the Candidate's Manual (which contains current information about the application process), eligibility criteria, and summary information about the written exam, work sample submission, and oral exam process. The website also provides upcoming exam schedules, submission deadlines, links to the online ABCN application, links to generic and specialty-specific information on the website of the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP), access to a portal through which practice samples can be submitted, and contact information for the ABPP and ABCN offices.

## **BOOKS & PUBLISHED MATERIALS**

**Seeking a thorough, step-by-step “how to” resource for all stages of the exam process?**

**Consider reading:** *Board Certification in Clinical Neuropsychology: A Guide to Becoming ABPP/ABCN Certified Without Sacrificing Your Sanity*, authored by Armstrong, Beebe, Hilsabeck, & Kirkwood (2008) and published by Oxford University Press.

**Summary:** This Oxford Workshop Series book includes dedicated chapters about each stage of the exam process. Highlights include an easy-to-read humorous writing style, suggested preparation timelines, recommended readings, tips on how to study for the written exam and choose acceptable work samples, and a thorough description of each of the three components of the oral exam. It also addresses the importance of time management at each stage and includes advice for staying motivated. Some details are now a bit dated so candidates are encouraged to access the ABCN website for definitive current information.

**Looking for a comprehensive content-based study guide for the written examination?**

**Consider reading:** *The Clinical Neuropsychology Study Guide and Board Review*, edited by Stucky, Kirkwood, & Donders (release: Fall 2013) and published by Oxford University Press.

**Summary:** This content-based volume is specifically designed to assist individuals preparing for the written exam. The lead authors for the 30+ chapters are board certified neuropsychologists, many of whom are preeminent authorities in the field. The text is divided into three sections covering the foundations of clinical neuropsychology, fundamentals of assessment, and specific disorders/conditions. Materials are provided in a concise, outlined manner with liberal use of bullets, boxes, and illustrations, allowing readers to easily review and integrate information. Highlights include: detailed charts and summary tables, concise coverage of pediatric, adult, and geriatric issues/conditions, and 500+ mock exam questions.

## **DIDACTICS, PRESENTATIONS, & ONLINE RESOURCES**

**Are you seeking a comprehensive in-person overview of the examination process and opportunity to receive face-to-face feedback and advice?**

**Consider attending:** Bieliauskas & Howieson's *Preparing for Examination for ABPP Board Certification in Clinical Neuropsychology* CE workshop series that is offered regularly at AACN and NAN.

**Summary:** This three-part CE workshop series reviews the policies and procedures of the ABCN examination and provides advice on studying and preparation. The process is described in detail and participants are given the opportunity for hands-on practice with the kinds of questions that they may encounter during both the written and oral components of the exam. Attendees can participate in or observe simulations of portions of the exam. They can also bring a de-identified clinical report for review. Participants who submit a case report will be provided with individualized feedback to assist them as they prepare for the final steps of the process.

**In need of peer support and supplemental study materials designed by other examinees as they prepared for the examination?**

**Consider joining:** *BRAIN: Be Ready for ABPP In Neuropsychology*. This free resource can be accessed through the Study Materials link in the Documents menu at [www.theaacn.org](http://www.theaacn.org)

**Summary:** BRAIN is a comprehensive study support network that includes a list-serve for neuropsychologists at all stages of the board certification process. A multitude of online resources are also available including study outlines, flashcards, several 100-item mock exams, and study schedules for individuals preparing for the written and oral components of the exam. The site also includes multimedia study materials including a number of videos, podcasts, interactive images, and graphics/visual aides to help bring concepts to life. BRAIN members can also join small study groups for the written and oral exams, and be linked up with board certified neuropsychologists who will conduct mock fact-findings.

## **ADDITIONAL PEER SUPPORT & MENTORING**

**Would you benefit from structured mentoring from a board certified neuropsychologist?**

**Consider joining:** The free AACN mentoring program. Information about the program can be accessed by clicking on the Study Materials link in the Documents menu at [www.theaacn.org](http://www.theaacn.org)

**Summary:** Candidates who have had their credentials accepted by ABPP/ABCN to proceed with the exam process have the opportunity to request a mentor to help them prepare for the various steps. Mentors are board certified neuropsychologists whose role is to assist candidates in preparing for the written exam, select cases for work samples, and conduct mock oral exams. Although not required in order to sit for any of the exam stages, signing up for a mentor can be of considerable benefit to candidates.

**Seeking informal peer support?**

**Consider:** Asking a friend who has already been through the board certification process.

**Summary:** This (hopefully free) resource may be just what you need to get you motivated to take the next step. Most board certified neuropsychologists are more than happy to share their experiences, as well as provide advice and reassurance. Consider asking board certified friends and colleagues about what study techniques/resources they found to be most useful, if they would be willing to review and provide feedback about your work samples, or do a mock run-through of one or more components of the oral exam. Of note, colleagues who have completed any stage of the exam can provide *general* advice, but are prohibited from sharing any information about specific exam content.