The Relevance 2050 Student Pipeline Subcommittee Presents:

PERCEIVED BARRIERS TO BOARD CERTIFICATION (AND HOW TO OVERCOME THEM)
Presenters

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Learning Objectives

• Benefits of board certification
• Perceived barriers
  – Time
  – Finances
  – Resources
  – “Gaps” in clinical knowledge
  – Mentorship
  – Confidence
• Personal challenges & lessons learned
• Q&A
Top 10 Reasons to Pursue Board Certification

1. Higher Income
2. Greater Job Satisfaction
3. Becoming a Job Requirement
4. Professional/Inst Credibility
5. License/Practice Mobility
Top 10 Reasons to Pursue Board Certification (Continued)

6. Ease of Credentialing
7. Sets Clear Public Standard
8. Promotes Training Quality
9. Increases Personal Knowledge
10. Personal Validation/Modeling
Time Barrier

Board certification takes too long.
Reality

**Application to Candidacy**
- Review to establish candidacy
- Generic & Specialty Requirements
- Verify License, Doctoral Degree,
- Post-Doctoral Education and
  Experience

1 Month

**Written Examination**
- 2 - 3 hour Objective Examination
  (Neuropsychology & Forensic
  Psychology only)

2 - 4 Months

**Practice Sample**
- Review to meet Specialty Board
  requirements

2 - 6 Months

**Oral Examination**
- 3 - 4 Hours test time
- 3-member Certified Specialist
  Examination Team

2 - 6 Months

**Specialty Board Certification**

1 - 1.5 Years

**Optimal Time to Completion**
Reality

TIME MANAGEMENT

Set Goals
Prioritize Wisely
Organize Yourself
Plan Ahead
Use PTO
Just Say “No”
Money Barrier

Board Certification in Neuropsychology is too expensive.
Reality

2020 Total Cost: $1415

- Application $125 ($25)
- Written Exam $300
- Testing Center $290
- Practice Sample $250
- Oral Exam $450

Cost of becoming a Board Certified Neurologist: $1685

Fees cover the cost of developing and administering the exam as we are a volunteer operation.
Resource Barrier

I don’t have the resources to prepare.
RESOURCES

Books & Journals

APACN Fellowship

AACN Mentors

Websites

BRAIN

Reality
Web Sites:
www.abpp.org
www.theabcn.org
www.theaacn.org
https://brinaacn.org/

AACN Study Guide:

ABCN Candidates Manual:
Be Ready for the ABPP Board in Neuropsychology (BRAIN) https://brainaacn.org/

- BRAIN is a study group that was started by ABCN candidates in 2002
- Over 100 members
- At all stages of candidacy (some people just considering applying) and diplomacy (over 30 diplomates)
- Manages a listserve of candidates
- Share study tips and notes
- Provides support and guidance
- Platform for developing study groups
- New members require a sponsor (member of AACN or BRAIN)
- Members must be licensed psychologists
Books Specifically on Board Certification


  - Sections covering the foundations of clinical neuropsychology, fundamentals of assessment, and specific disorders/conditions
  - Detailed charts and summary tables
  - Concise coverage of pediatric, adult, and geriatric issues and conditions
  - Over 500 mock exam questions
  - *2nd edition will be released on 9/11/20!*

Other Books

- Blumenfeld (2010), *Neuroanatomy through clinical cases (2nd ed.)*, Sinauer Associates
Other Books (continued)

- Morgan, Baron, & Ricker (2010), *Casebook of clinical neuropsychology*, Oxford University Press.
- Weiner, Goetz, Shin & Lewis (2010), *Neurology for the non-neurologist*, Lippincott. [Includes study questions]
- Vanderah & Gould (2015), *Nolte’s the human brain: An introduction to its functional neuroanatomy*, Mosby. [Includes study questions]
- Published AACN and American Academy of Neurology Practice Guidelines (pertaining to neuropsychology)
- Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders
- APA Code of Ethics
Journals

• Read major published review articles and consensus guidelines in neuropsychology
• Look through a full year of issues of the major neuropsychology journals to see what you might have missed
• Form a journal club with colleagues so you’ll make a regular habit of reading some of the major journals
• Brush up on the relevant literature as you see clinical cases
Fellowship Training

• While not required, an APA accredited fellowship in neuropsychology or an APPCN affiliated fellowship is highly recommended
  – Guarantees that the training will be based on Houston Conference Guidelines
  – Will provide opportunity to work with ABCN Diplomates
  – Will include opportunity to participate in mock written and oral exams

• Don’t cut corners on training
  – Avoid leaving fellowship early
  – Avoid “cobbled together” fellowships
Resource Barrier

I am a pediatric neuropsychologist with little to no experience in adult neuropsychology (or vice versa)
Create a Study Group with Mixed Clinical Backgrounds

• Allows you to “fill in the gaps” of your clinical knowledge with peers who are more knowledgeable than you are.
• If you do not already have colleagues who will compliment a study group, BRAIN will help you form a well-rounded study group.
Mentorship Barrier

I have no one to turn to for help.
AACN Mentorship Program

• Accessible through AACN website
• Purpose is to provide guidance and support to neuropsychology doctoral students who lack access to faculty or practicum mentors
• Program identifies and arranges for an appropriate mentor
• Mentor provides information, helps mentee develop goals and action plan, and facilitates contact with other professionals
• Mentors are
  – Current AACN members
  – Donate their time
  – Racially, ethnically, and gender diverse if mentee expresses a preference related to identity
Confidence Barrier

Can I really do this?
Credential Review Outcome

Percent Passing Credential Review

- 2015: n=130
- 2016: n=133
- 2017: n=126
- 2018: n=175
ABCN Written Exam Pass Rates
2001 - 2010

Year
2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010

Percent Passing
0 20 40 60 80 100

ABCN

Red
ABCN Oral Exam Award Rates
2001 - 2010
ABCN Oral Exam Award Rates
2011 - 2018

Percent Passing

Year

2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018

Axis

ABCN
Meet a Board Certified Neuropsychologist

https://legacy.abpp.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=3493

CDR Aditya A. Bhagwat, Ph.D., ABPP/ABCN, is a board certified clinical neuropsychologist currently serving as Program Manager for the Primary Care Behavioral Health program in the Office of the US Army Surgeon General.

Dr. Desiree Byrd, ABPP/ABCN is on the faculty in the Departments of Neurology and Psychiatry at Mount Sinai School of Medicine and practices at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.
Meet a Board Certified Neuropsychologist

Dr. Samantha Glass, ABPP/ABCN writes: “I am Hispanic, raised with both heavy Mexican and Cuban influences. My ethnic background is not immediately obvious because I have albinism. I am [also] legally blind.”

Dr. Laura Renteria, ABPP/ABCN was born in central California to immigrant farm laborers who had limited educational and economic opportunities. She was very motivated to escape the backbreaking work endured by her parents and grandparents.
Meet a Board Certified Neuropsychologist

Dr. Anita Sim, ABPP/ABCN writes: “Like many full time clinicians, I do not always have the luxury to just quietly sit and read the newest neuropsychology book …. Many people genuinely want to see you succeed as we recognize that the field of neuropsychology is only strengthened by increased diversity.”

Dr. Brenda Spiegler, ABPP/ABCN former Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics in the University of Toronto School of Medicine, and former Director of Psychology at the Hospital for Sick Children. She writes: “I passed the oral exam on my SECOND try!” And of course, Dr. Spiegler went on to become an oral examiner herself and President of ABCN.
Personal Challenges & Lessons Learned