

American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology
(ABCN)

Maintenance of Certification (MOC):
An Updated Review of Process and
Procedures

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Disclosures

- Dr. Vega is currently serving on the ABCN Board. He has no other disclosures of conflicts of interest in regards to this talk.
- Dr. Guidotti Breting is currently serving on the ABCN Board. She has no other disclosures of conflicts of interest in regards to this talk.

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Learner Objectives

Discuss

Demonstrate

Apply

Discuss the rationale and benefits of ABCN Maintenance of Certification (MOC)

Demonstrate understanding of MOC processes and procedures, including who is expected to participate and when.

Apply knowledge gained to support future submission of an actual MOC application through the electronic submission portal.

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Outline



1. MOC: Why, What, Who, and When?

2. MOC Basics: Review of Process & Procedure

3. MOC Application Exercise ("Mock MOC" Application)

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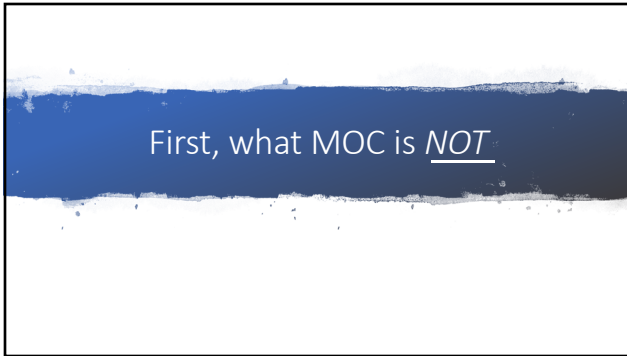
Why Was MOC Developed?

- MOC was developed "as a result of converging forces within psychology and the broader healthcare community, that insist upon competent practice throughout the career of a psychologist" (<https://www.abpp.org/About/Maintenance-of-Certification-FAQ.aspx>).
- In light of the "limited half-life" of psychology competencies, the ABPP Board of Trustees concluded that "regular demonstration of competence is necessary for the ABPP certificate to continue to be a viable and credible credential."
- MOC is a process of self-review that would assure quality care & the protection of the public consistent with the highest professional standards.

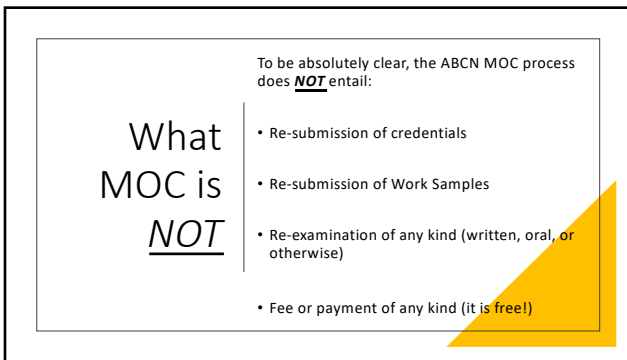
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What is MOC?

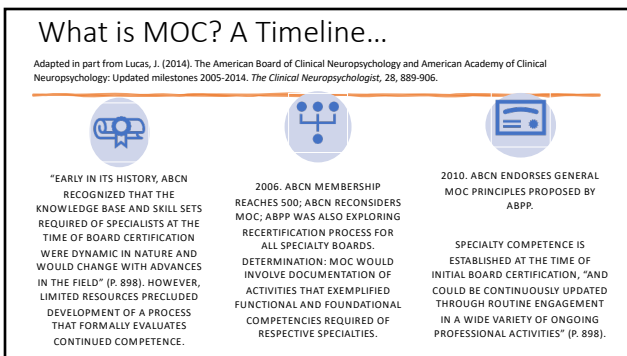
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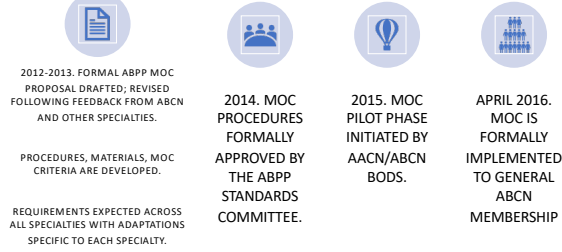
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What is MOC? A Timeline... cont...

Adapted in part from Lucas, J. (2014). The American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology and American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology: Unfulfilled milestones 2005-2014. *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*, 28, 889-906.



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What is MOC?

The Bottom Line:

ABPP (ABCN) MOC is a process that involves periodic documentation of routine professional activities that demonstrate Specialists' continuing professional development and competence.

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Who Will Participate in MOC?

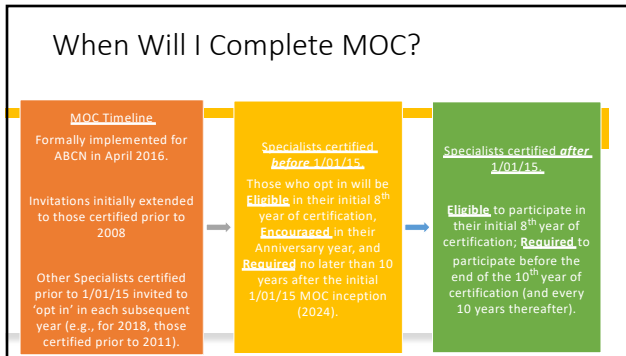
If Specialists are certified before 1/01/15: MOC is not required but is strongly encouraged.

If Specialists are certified after 1/01/15: MOC is required every 10 years AND every 10 years thereafter.

Every ABCN Specialist, regardless of the time of original certification, is strongly encouraged to participate in MOC!

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When Will I Complete MOC?



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Why Should I Participate If I Am Not Required To Do So?

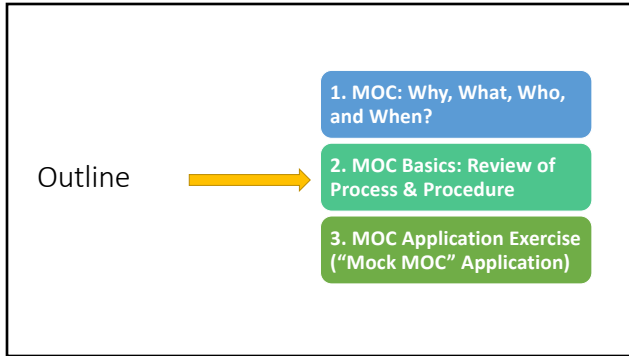
- As noted by ABCN (www.theabcn.org), clinical neuropsychology is a growing, evolving, complex field of practice, and competencies demonstrated at the time of initial certification are not static.
- MOC offers an efficient, structured means of documenting the efforts that competent Specialists and Subspecialists already pursue.
- Commitment to the highest standards of practice and regard for public welfare.
- Sets a clear leadership example for colleagues and neuropsychology students across all levels of training
- Supports ABPP in its mission to establish and uphold standards for specialty clinical practice.

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What are the benefits of MOC?


- Helps protect the public. In medicine, passing MOC is associated with decreased state medical board disciplinary actions (McDonald et al JGenInternMed33(8) 2018).
- Helps maintain and improve our individual practices. Many areas of neuropsychology are rapidly developing and will require ongoing, focused effort to achieve and maintain competence.
 - Cultural competency/Relevance 2050
 - New and potentially disruptive technologies including telehealth/assessment
 - Neuropsychological impacts of SARS CoV-2/COVID-19 disease
- May be desired or required by external credentialing bodies (e.g., medical privileges, promotions)
- Supports the profession as a whole by demonstrating our commitment to self-regulation.

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How Does the MOC Process Work?



Specialists will receive notification from ABPP that MOC applications can be submitted (those certified prior to 1/01/15 will be asked if they would like to 'opt in' to the process).




At the time of MOC Eligibility (or Requirement), Specialists will complete the MOC application, documenting professional activities aggregated over the last 2 years, and submit to ABPP electronically.



Informational documents, inclusive of MOC procedures/policies, and application materials/requirements, will be made available electronically by ABPP at the time of MOC notification of Eligibility.

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How Does the MOC Process Work?

- The MOC application allows Specialists to document a wide array of professional activities that can be used in support of ongoing competence.
- Professional activities are organized under 5 categories:
 - (1) Collaborative Consultation
 - (2) Teaching and Training
 - (3) Ongoing Education
 - (4) Research and Methodologies
 - (5) Professional Leadership
- Activities are then translated into 'credits' in support of MOC Application
 - 40 Credits Minimum Required for Overall MOC
 - 30 Credits Minimum Required for Specialty
 - 20 Credits Minimum Required for Subspecialty (e.g., Pediatric)

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How Does the MOC Process Work?

The MOC application itself consists of 2 parts:

1. Specialty Continuing Professional Development (SCPD) Grids (5 Activity area)
 - (a) Collaborative Consultation
 - (b) Teaching and Training
 - (c) Ongoing Education
 - (d) Research and Methodologies
 - (e) Professional Leadership

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How Does the MOC Process Work? Cont...

2. Narrative Summary (750 words maximum; elaborate upon Grid activities/competencies)

- (a) Brief description of current professional neuropsychological activities
- (b) One-paragraph vignette from typical neuropsychological work.
- (c) One-paragraph describing a recent ethical or individual/cultural diversity issue
- (d) Means of evaluating effectiveness of professional activities.
- (e) Summary of additional relevant activities not described in the SCPD grid (if relevant)
- (f) Summary of professional activities outside specialty of neuropsychology (if relevant)

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How Does the MOC Process Work?

- Professional activities are simultaneously cited as evidence of ongoing competency, specifically defined by the ABPP/ABCN Foundational and Core Functional Competencies:

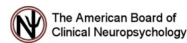
Foundational Competency	Functional Competency
Scientific Knowledge & Methods	Assessment (ABCN Core)
Evidence Based Practice	Consultation (ABCN Core)
Individual and Cultural Diversity	Intervention (ABCN Core)
Ethical Legal Standards & Policy	Research/Evaluation
Professionalism	Supervision
Relationships	Teaching
Interdisciplinary Systems	Management-Administration
Reflective Practice/Self-Assessment/Self-Care	Advocacy

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Where are the instructions?

<https://theabcn.org/maintenance-of-certification/>

AMERICAN BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
AMERICAN BOARD OF CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY



BOARD CERTIFICATION GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

CANDIDATE'S MANUAL
February 2021

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Where are the instructions? <https://abpp.org/>

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MOC
Application:
Part 1
(SCPD
Grids)

Specialty Continuing Professional Development (SCPD) (5 Activity area Grids)


- (a) Collaborative Consultation
- (b) Teaching and Training
- (c) Ongoing Education
- (d) Research and Methodologies
- (e) Professional Leadership

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How Does MOC Work?



ABPP criteria require that Specialists document a *minimum cumulative total of 40 professional development credits* on the SCPD grid during the two years prior to their MOC submission deadline. The grid allows Specialists to document and sum an unlimited number of activities and credits within each of the five categories; however, one can only apply a maximum of 20 credits to a single category.




Many professional activities could be counted under many or all of the five categories, please count each activity under only one category.



A *minimum of 30 SCPD credits* specific to the science or practice of clinical neuropsychology. The combination of specialty-specific activities should reflect maintenance of the core ABCN Functional Competencies, as well as Foundational Competencies as they apply to neuropsychological practice.

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Pediatric subspecialty

- ABCN requires that subspecialists document a *minimum of 20 credits* in activities or topics that reflect maintenance of competencies in the pediatric subspecialty.
- These credits may contribute to the 30 credits required to demonstrate specialty MOC as described above.

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Collaborative Consultation

- Case Consultation
5 consultations = 1 credit
- Multidisciplinary Consultation
5 consultations = 1 credit
- Journal Club
5 journal clubs = 1 credit
- Research Group Meetings
5 research group meetings = 1 credit
- Mentoring
5 hours of mentoring = 1 credit

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Example Collaborative Consultation: Multidisciplinary Consultation

I participated in weekly clinical consultation with a multidisciplinary team (neurosurgery, neurology, radiology, social work, etc.) as part of epilepsy surgical planning (104 team meetings over two years).

5 meetings = 1 credit

104 meetings = 20 credits earned

Specialty Specific? **YES**

Foundational Competencies

Evidence Based Practice
Individual and Cultural Diversity
Ethical Legal Standards
Relationships
Interdisciplinary Systems

Functional Competencies

Assessment
Intervention
Consultation
Management/Administration
Advocacy

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**Example Collaborative Consultation:
Research Group Meetings**

I participated in monthly Research Group Meetings as part of a study comparing language mapping modalities

5 hours = 1 credit

12 hours of mentorship = 2 credits earned

Specialty Specific?
YES

Foundational Competencies
Scientific Knowledge and Methods
Evidence Based Practice
Interdisciplinary Systems

Functional Competencies
Assessment
Intervention
Consultation
Research Evaluation

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**Example Collaborative Consultation:
Mentoring**

I provided 20 hours of individual mentorship to two colleagues who hope to increase their competencies when conducting forensic neuropsychological assessments.

5 hours = 1 credit

20 hours of mentorship = 4 credits earned

Specialty Specific?
YES

Foundational Competencies
Scientific Knowledge and Methods
Evidence Based Practice
Individual and Cultural Diversity
Ethical Legal Standards
Relationships
Professionalism
Reflective Practice

Functional Competencies
Assessment
Intervention
Consultation
Research Evaluation
Supervision
Teaching

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Teaching and Training

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Teaching and Training

Teaching/Supervision

1 hour of supervision = 1 credit

1 semester course = 20 credits

Dissertation Committee

Committee Chair = 15 credits

Committee Member = 10 credits

Professional/Staff Training/Education

1 hour = 1 credit

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Teaching and Training Cont.

Workshop Presentation

1 hour = 1 credit

Training Program Instructor

Development of a new professional training program at the graduate, internship, or postdoctoral level. Program directors may earn credit per program. Faculty who assist in program development may earn credit per hour spent contributing to the process.

1 hour = 1 credits (10 credits max for faculty contributors)

1 program = 20 credits (program director)

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Example Teaching and Training: Professional/Staff Training

- I provided one-hour in-service trainings to medical residents, fellows, and faculty in the Department of Neurology ("The Role of Neuropsychology in Epilepsy Treatment")

1 hours = 1 credit

2 hours of staff training = 2 credits earned

Specialty Specific?

YES

Foundational Competencies

Scientific Knowledge and Methods

Evidence Based Practice

Individual and Cultural Diversity

Ethical Legal Standards

Relationships

Professionalism

Interdisciplinary Systems

Functional Competencies

Assessment

Intervention

Consultation

Teaching

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Ongoing Education

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Ongoing Education

- Conference Attendance (No CE)
1 attendance day – 1 credit
- Conference Attendance (conference CE from approved sponsor)
1 hour = 1 credit
- Completion of a graduate level psychology course from an accredited academic institution
1 course = 20 credits
- Completion of ABPP Board Certification in another specialty
Each additional ABPP certification = 20 credit
- Self-directed learning (reading, journal-based CE, web-based CE)
1 hour of self-directed learning = 1 credit
1 journal article read = 1 credit

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Example: Ongoing Education Conference-based CE Attendance

I attended the following courses at the INS 2022 conference:	1 hours = 1 credit	Foundational Competencies
• Medical, Educational, and Psychosocial Impacts of COVID-19 on Children (3 credits)		Scientific Knowledge and Methods
• Perspectives on Neuropsychological Assessment of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and Adults (3 credits)		Evidence Based Practice
• Impaired Self-Awareness After Brain Injury: Applying Guidelines for Assessment and Management (3 credits)		Individual and Cultural Diversity
	9 hours of conference based CE = 9 credits earned	Ethical Legal Standards
	Specialty Specific?	Relationships
	YES 9	Professionalism
	Pediatric Subspecialty?	Interdisciplinary Systems
	Yes 6	Reflective Practice
		Functional Competencies
		Assessment
		Intervention
		Consultation
		Research Evaluation
		Teaching
		Management/Administration
		Advocacy

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Example Ongoing Education

Self-directed learning

I read the following articles: 1 hours = 1 credit

- Batchelor & Taylor (2021). Young adults with epilepsy: Relationships between psychosocial variables and anxiety, depression, and suicidality. *Epilepsy & Behavior*
- Kanner et al. (2022). Long-term seizure and psychiatric outcomes following laser ablation of mesial temporal structures. *Epilepsia*

2 hours of journal reading = 2 credits earned

Specialty Specific? NO

Foundational Competencies
Scientific Knowledge and Methods
Evidence Based Practice
Interdisciplinary Systems
Reflective Practice

Functional Competencies
Assessment
Intervention
Consultation
Research Evaluation

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Research Methodologies

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Research Methodologies

- Peer-reviewed Journal Publications
First or Senior author = 10 credits per publication
Co-author = 5 credits per publication
- Book chapter authorship
1 chapter = 5 credits
- Grantsmanship
Principal Investigator or Co-PI = 20 credits Co-Investigator = 10 credits
- Development or implementation of innovative evidence-based clinical programs
1 program = 5 credits
- Activities directed toward patient advocacy and program quality assurance
1 hour = 1 credit

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Research Methodologies Cont.

Monitoring Practice Outcomes. Performing systematic assessment of one's own clinical practice outcomes (e.g., engaging in client outcomes assessment, seeking feedback from referral sources, involvement in institutional quality assurance monitoring, etc.).
1 hour of outcome assessment activity = 1 credit
1 cycle of institutional practice performance evaluation = 5 credits

Editorial Responsibilities. Serving as editor, co-editor, associate editor, editorial board member, or ad-hoc reviewer of books or peer-reviewed journals.

Editor, Associate Editor, Co-editor = 20 credits per book/journal
Editorial Board member = 10 credits per journal
Ad-Hoc Reviewer = 1 credit per publication reviewed.

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Example: Research Methodologies Peer-reviewed Journal Publications / Editorial Responsibilities

- 1st author peer-reviewed manuscript on impact of COVID-19 on neuropsychology trainees = 10 credits
- Ad-hoc reviewer of 4 manuscripts for TCN = 4 credits

14 hours of research methodologies

Specialty Specific?
YES 14

Foundational Competencies
Scientific Knowledge and Methods
Evidence Based Practice
Individual and Cultural Diversity
Professionalism
Interdisciplinary Systems
Reflective Practice

Functional Competencies
Assessment
Intervention
Consultation
Research Evaluation
Advocacy

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Professional Leadership

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Professional Leadership

Management/administration of clinical services, e.g., practice manager, clinical service director, program manager, etc.
Each year of service = 10 credits

Management/administration of psychological service providers, e.g., Section Head, Division/Department Chair, other institutional leadership role
Each year of service = 10 credits

Leadership in professional organizations, boards, etc. (e.g., Executive Officers, Board Members, Committee Chairs).
10 credits per office per year.

Committee Work. Participation on professional committees, subcommittees, work groups, or task forces.
5 credits per year

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Professional Leadership Cont.

Board Examiner/Reviewer. Written Examination Item Writer, Practice Sample Review Cadre Member, Oral Examination Cadre Member, MOC Reviewer.
10 credits per activity

Grant Review. Participation in grant study sections, scientific review groups, or other grant review panels.
1 review session = 5 credits.

Membership on regulatory or institutional review boards.
10 credits per office per year

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Example: Professional Leadership Administration / Committee Work

- Neuropsychology Division Head for 1 year = 10 credits
- AACN Student Affairs Committee Member for 2 years = 10 credits (5 credits for each year served)

20 hours of professional leadership

Specialty Specific? YES 20

Foundational Competencies

Individual and Cultural Diversity

Ethical Legal Standards

Relationships

Professionalism

Interdisciplinary Systems

Reflective Practice

Functional Competencies

Advocacy

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Candidate's completed Specialty Continuing Professional Development (SCPD) grid

Competency	Overall Credits	Specialty Specific
Collaborative Consultation	9	8
Teaching and Training	4	2
Ongoing Education	11	9
Research and Methodologies	14	14
Professional Leadership	20	20
TOTALS	58	30

At least 40 Overall credits- ACHIEVED!

At least 30 Credits specific to specialty- ACHIEVED!

No more than 20 credits obtained in any single competency area – ACHIEVED!

All Foundational and Functional competency areas maintained – ACHIEVED!

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MOC Application: Part 2 (Narrative Summary)

Narrative Summary (750 words maximum; elaborate upon Grid activities/competencies)

- (a) Brief description of current professional neuropsychological activities
- (b) One-paragraph vignette from typical neuropsychological work.
- (c) One-paragraph describing a recent ethical or individual/cultural diversity issue
- (d) Means of evaluating effectiveness of professional activities.
- (e) Summary of additional relevant activities not described in the SCPD grid (if relevant)
- (f) Summary of professional activities outside specialty if neuropsychology (if relevant)

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Narrative summary questions and answers 750 words only

- Briefly describe your current professional neuropsychological activities, including (a) services provided, (b) settings in which those services are rendered, (c) populations served, (d) a brief overview of the primary theoretical orientation that informs your professional activities, and (e) any other information you believe is important to assist reviewers in understanding your current practice.
- Provide a one-paragraph vignette from your current professional activities that represents your typical neuropsychological work. The vignette should highly one or more of the core ABCN functional competencies of Assessment, Intervention, and Consultation. Specialists who engage only in non-clinical activities may choose to provide a vignette highlighting their typical work in teaching, research, supervision, administrative leadership, or advocacy, highlighting the competencies demonstrated by their professional activity.

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Narrative summary questions and answers

750 words only

- Provide a one paragraph vignette describing EITHER: (a) an ethical dilemma OR, (b) an individual/cultural diversity issue you have encountered in your professional practice within the past two years. The vignette should include: (1) a description of the presenting problem, (2) the steps taken by the Specialist to understand and resolve the issue, (3) the outcome (or current status) of the situation.
- Describe the specific means by which you evaluation the effectiveness of your professional activities. These may include, but are not limited to: peer review mechanisms, patient satisfaction surveys, institutional performance reviews, formal outcome assessment measures, 360-degree assessments, student ratings, etc. Indicate which of these measures you have completed within the past two years. If you have not evaluated the effectiveness of your professional activities within the past two years, discuss the rationale and justification of this decision.

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Narrative summary – optional questions

- (Optional) If you have engaged in professional development activities contributing to the maintenance of your competence in Clinical Neuropsychology that are not reflected above or in your SCPD grid, please describe them and explain how they have contributed to the maintenance of foundational and functional competencies.
- (Optional) If you currently engage in other professional psychological activities that are outside the specialty of neuropsychology, please describe.

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How is a MOC Application Reviewed?

Applications forwarded from ABPP to ABCN MOC Committee for evaluation:

'Pass'

- Application clearly meets ABCN criteria; recommendation that Specialist maintain certification for another 10 years.
- 100% pass rate for all submitted MOC applications to date

'Needs More Information'

- Application is incomplete/unclear; recommendation that Specialist clarify
- Applicant will have 90 days to submit requested information (after that time, Reviewer will prepare written feedback, recommend remediation)

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How is a MOC Application Reviewed?

'Fail'

- Application does not clearly meet ABCN criteria; written feedback prepared; recommendation for remediation)
- Applicant will have 1 year to resubmit MOC materials
 - If initial deficiencies are adequately addressed, recommendation that Specialist maintain certification for another 10 years
 - If initial deficiencies are not adequately addressed, or if Specialist does not resubmit within the 1 year, recommendation that certification be revoked.

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Live Demonstration –
In person attendants only

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Thank You!

For latest information related to MOC process, procedures, and timeline, please refer to:

www.abpp.org

www.theabcn.org

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