

**§ 90-270.136. Definitions.**

(6) Licensed psychologist. - An individual to whom a license has been issued pursuant to the provisions of this Article, whose license is in force and not suspended or revoked, and whose license permits him or her to engage in the practice of psychology as defined in this Article.

(6a) Licensed practitioner of psychology – An individual to whom a license has been issued pursuant to the provisions of this Article, whose license is in force and not suspended or revoked, and whose license permits him or her to engage in the practice of psychology as defined in this Article.

(7) Licensed psychological associate. - An individual to whom a license has been issued pursuant to the provisions of this Article, whose license is in force and not suspended or revoked, and whose license permits him or her to engage in the practice of psychology as defined in this Article.

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(8) Practice of psychology. –

(a) For Licensed psychologists and licensed psychological associates: The observation, description, evaluation, interpretation, or modification of human behavior by the application of psychological principles, methods, and procedures for the purpose of preventing or eliminating symptomatic, maladaptive, or undesired behavior or of enhancing interpersonal relationships, work and life adjustment, personal effectiveness, behavioral health, or mental health. The practice of psychology includes, but is not limited to: psychological testing and the evaluation or assessment of personal characteristics such as intelligence, personality, abilities, interests, aptitudes, and neuropsychological functioning; counseling, psychoanalysis, psychotherapy, hypnosis, biofeedback, and behavior analysis and therapy; diagnosis, including etiology and prognosis, and treatment of mental and emotional disorder or disability, alcoholism and substance abuse, disorders of habit or conduct, as well as of the psychological and neuropsychological aspects of physical illness, accident, injury, or disability; and psychoeducational evaluation, therapy, remediation, and consultation. Psychological services may be rendered to individuals, families, groups, and the public. The practice of psychology shall be construed within the meaning of this definition without regard to whether payment is received for services rendered.

(b) For licensed practitioners of psychology: All items in section 8(a) above except those involving neuropsychological functioning, evaluation of personality (including the use of projective techniques), or services intended to address questions and issues relating to law and the legal system or other questions not directly related to treatment of mental health, substance abuse, or developmental disabilities, such as determining liability and extent of damages in litigation, appropriateness of medical and surgical interventions, or determining fitness for duty. Licensed practitioners of psychology may administer and score measures related to neuropsychological functioning, related to personality evaluation, or which are intended to assist in a more comprehensive evaluation addressing a legal question, if the licensed practitioner of psychology serves on

a team that includes a licensed psychologist who is authorized to interpret such measures, and who assumes responsibility for the report.

90-270.139. Application; examination; supervision; provisional and temporary licenses.

(c) All individuals who have yet to apply and who are practicing or offering to practice psychology in North Carolina, and all applicants who are practicing or offering to practice psychology in North Carolina, shall at all times comply with supervision requirements established by the Board. The Board shall specify in its rules the format, setting, content, time frame, amounts of supervision, qualifications of supervisors, disclosure of supervisory relationships, the organization of the supervised experience, and the nature of the responsibility assumed by the supervisor. Individuals shall be supervised for all activities comprising the practice of psychology until they have met the following conditions:

- (1) For licensed psychologist applicants, until they have passed the examination to which they have been admitted by the Board, have been notified of the results, have completed supervision requirements specified in subsection (d) of this section, and have been informed by the Board of permanent licensure as a licensed psychologist; or
- (2) For licensed psychological associate applicants, until they have passed the examination to which they have been admitted by the Board, have been notified of the results, and have been informed by the Board of permanent licensure as a licensed psychological associate, after which time supervision is required only for those activities specified in subsection (e) of this section.; or
- (3) For licensed practitioner of psychology applicants, until they have passed the examination to which they have been admitted by the Board, have completed supervision requirements specified in subsection (d1) of this section, and have been informed by the Board of permanent licensure as a licensed practitioner of psychology. A licensed practitioner of psychology applicant who meets all criteria for licensure except for supervised practice, and who meets all criteria for licensure as a licensed psychological associate, shall instead be licensed as a psychological associate.

(d) For permanent licensure as a licensed psychologist, an otherwise qualified psychologist must secure two years of acceptable and appropriate supervised experience germane to his or her training and intended area of practice as a psychologist. The Board shall permit such supervised experience to be acquired on a less than full-time basis, and shall additionally specify in its rules the format, setting, content, time frame, amounts of supervision, qualifications of supervisors, disclosure of supervisory relationships, the organization of the supervised experience, and the nature of the responsibility assumed by the supervisor. Supervision of health services must be received from qualified licensed psychologists holding health services provider certificates, or from other psychologists recognized by the Board in accordance with Board rules.

- (1) One of these years of experience shall be postdoctoral, and for this year, the Board may require, as specified in its rules, that the supervised experience be comparable to the knowledge and skills acquired during formal doctoral or postdoctoral education, in accordance with established professional standards.

- (2) One of these years may be predoctoral and the Board shall establish rules governing appropriate supervised predoctoral experience.
- (3) A psychologist who meets all other requirements of G.S. 90-270.145(a) as a licensed psychologist, except the two years of supervised experience, may be issued a provisional license as a psychologist or a license as a psychological associate, without having received a master's degree or specialist degree in psychology, by the Board for the practice of psychology.

(d1) For permanent licensure as a licensed practitioner of psychology, an otherwise qualified psychologist must secure 4,000 hours of appropriate supervised experience germane to his or her training and intended area of practice as a psychologist. At least 1,000 of these hours shall include treatment or remediation, and 1,000 of these hours shall include assessment beyond a standard intake interview. The Board shall permit such supervised experience to be acquired on a less than full-time basis, and shall additionally specify in its rules the format, setting, content, time frame, amounts of supervision, qualifications of supervisors, disclosure of supervisory relationships, the organization of the supervised experience, and the nature of the responsibility assumed by the supervisor. Supervision of health services must be received from qualified licensed psychologists holding health services provider certificates, or from other psychologists recognized by the Board in accordance with Board rules.

- (1) At least 1,000 hours shall include treatment or remediation efforts. At least 1,000 hours shall include assessment (which may include testing) or evaluation beyond a typical intake interview.
- (2) The Board shall establish rules governing appropriate supervised experience, and appropriate supervision.

**§ 90-270.140. Psychology Board; appointment; term of office; composition.**

For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Article, there is created a North Carolina Psychology Board, which shall consist of seven members appointed by the Governor. At all times three members shall be licensed psychologists, two members shall be licensed psychological associates or licensed practitioners of psychology (with at least one of these being a licensed practitioner of psychology no later than January 1, 2027), and two members shall be members of the public who are not licensed under this Article. The Governor shall give due consideration to the adequate representation of the various fields and areas of practice of psychology and to adequate representation from various geographic regions in the State. Terms of office shall be three years. All terms of service on the Board expire June 30 in appropriate years. As the term of a psychologist member expires, or as a vacancy of a psychologist member occurs for any other reason, the North Carolina Psychological Association, or its successor, shall, having sought the advice of the chairs of the graduate departments of psychology in the State, for each vacancy, submit to the Governor a list of the names of three eligible persons. From this list the Governor shall make the appointment for a full term, or for the remainder of the unexpired term, if any. Each Board member shall serve until his or her successor has been appointed. As the term of a member expires, or if one should become vacant for any reason, the Governor shall appoint a new member within 60 days of the vacancy's occurring. No member, either public or licensed under this Article, shall serve more than three complete consecutive terms.

90-270.145. Licensure; examination; foreign graduates.

(b1) Licensed Practitioner of Psychology –

The Board shall issue a permanent license to practice psychology to any applicant who pays an application fee, and any applicable examination fee as specified in G.S. 90-270.151(b), who passes an examination in psychology as prescribed by the Board, and who submits evidence verified by oath and satisfactory to the Board that he or she:

- a. Is at least 18 years of age;
- b. Is of good moral character;
- c. Has received a master's degree in psychology or a specialist degree in psychology from an institution of higher education. The degree program, wherever administratively housed, must be publicly identified and clearly labeled as a psychology program. The Board shall adopt rules implementing and defining these provisions, including, but not limited to, such factors as residence in the program, internship and related field experiences, number of course credits, course content, numbers and qualifications of faculty, and program identification and identity.

(c) Foreign Graduates. - Applicants trained in institutions outside the United States, applying for licensure at either the licensed psychologist, licensed practitioner of psychology, or licensed psychological associate level, must show satisfactory evidence of training and degrees substantially equivalent to those required of applicants trained within the United States, pursuant to Board rules and regulations.

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(e) Transition from licensed psychological associate to licensed practitioner of psychology. Any licensed psychological associate whose license is currently in good standing, may file an application with the board to change that psychologist's license to that of a licensed practitioner of psychology. The psychologist shall submit an application documenting that the psychologist:

(1) Has 4,000 hours of post-licensure experience in the delivery of psychological services under the supervision of one or more qualified licensed psychologists with a time period of at least 24 consecutive months and less than the most recent 60 months. For Licensed Psychological Associates whose license was issued prior to January 1, 2029, the number of hours of required experience is 3,000.

(2) Has met the supervision requirements in subsection (1) above, and that all performance ratings for this supervised practice have been average or above average

(3) For licensed psychological associates whose license was issued on or after January 1, 2029, has achieved at least the score required of Licensed Practitioners of Psychology on any required national examination. If the candidate has not achieved such a score, the candidate shall sit for no more than two subsequent examinations as directed by the Board in order to achieve such a score. If the candidate fails these two subsequent examinations, the application will be null and void, without prejudice on the candidate's existing license.

When a psychologist has filed an application for transition under this subsection, that psychologist shall remain a licensed psychological associate and subject to all existing supervision requirements. If a psychologist is transitioned from licensure as a psychological associate to practitioner of psychology, that psychologist is no longer required to engage in supervised practice.

- (a) Except as permitted in G.S. 90-270.138 and G.S. 90-270.139, it shall be a violation of this Article for any person not licensed in accordance with the provisions of this Article to represent himself or herself as a psychologist, licensed psychologist, licensed practitioner of psychology, licensed psychological associate, or health services provider in psychology.

**90-270.151. Disposition and schedule of fees.**

- (b) Fees for activities specified by this Article are as follows:
- (1) Application fees for licensed psychologists, licensed practitioners of psychology, and licensed psychological associates per G.S. 90-270.145(a) and (b)(1), or G.S. 90-270.146, shall not exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

**§ 90-270.153. Provision of health services; certification as health services provider.**

- (a) Health services, as defined in G.S. 90-270.136(4) and G.S. 90-270.136(8), may be provided by qualified licensed psychological associates, qualified licensed psychologists holding provisional, temporary, or permanent licenses, qualified licensed practitioners of psychology holding provisional, temporary, or permanent licenses, or qualified applicants. Qualified licensed psychological associates, qualified licensed psychologists holding provisional or temporary licenses, qualified licensed practitioners of psychology holding provisional or temporary licenses, or qualified applicants may provide health services only under supervision as specified in the duly adopted rules of the Board.

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(c1) Any licensed practitioner of psychology who is qualified by education may be granted certification as a health services provider psychologist (HSP-P). The Board may, upon verification of qualifications and the meeting of all requirements as a licensed practitioner of psychology, issue the license and certificate simultaneously. An application fee, as specified in G.S. 90-270.151(b)(9), must be paid.

- (d) After January 1, 1995, any licensed psychologist or licensed practitioner of psychology holding a provisional license who is qualified by education may be granted certification as a health services provider psychologist (provisional) (HSP-PP) by the Board. The Board may, upon verification of qualifications and the meeting of all requirements for a provisional license, issue the license and certificate simultaneously. An application fee, as specified in G.S. 90-270.151(b)(9), must be paid.

**§ 90-270.155. Criminal history record checks of applicants for licensure and licensees.**

- (a) The Board may request that an applicant for licensure or reinstatement of a license or that a licensed psychologist, licensed practitioner of psychology, or psychological associate currently under investigation by the Board for allegedly violating this Article consent to a criminal history record check. Refusal to consent to a criminal history record check may constitute grounds for the Board to deny licensure or reinstatement of a license to an applicant or take disciplinary action against a licensee, including revocation of a license. The Board shall be responsible for providing to the State Bureau of Investigation the fingerprints of the applicant or licensee to be checked, a form signed by the applicant or licensee consenting to the criminal record check and the use of fingerprints and other identifying information required by the State or National Repositories, and any additional information required by the State Bureau of Investigation. The Board shall keep all information obtained pursuant to this section confidential.

The Board shall collect any fees required by the State Bureau of Investigation and shall remit the fees to the State Bureau of Investigation for the cost of conducting the criminal history record check.

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