Validity of the EPPP (Part 2-Skills)

Because the EPPP (Part 2-Skills) is a new assessment, ASPPB has received many questions regarding the validity of the exam. The process of development of both the EPPP (Part 1-Knowledge) and the EPPP (Part 2-Skills) follows a rigorous content validation methodology that complies with the Guidelines for the Standards in Educational Testing described by American Psychological Association (APA), American Educational Research Association (AERA), and the National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME).

Overview of the Process

Job Task Analysis (JTA) - A comprehensive study that involves Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) who are licensed psychologists that establish the knowledge and skills that are required for practice in psychology. The resulting requirements are sent via survey to thousands of licensed psychologists throughout the United States and Canada. The survey respondents indicate which areas are important for entry level practice. The results establish the test specifications (blue print) for the exam. Essentially, the expertise of licensed psychologists establishes what should be assessed by the exam.

Item Writing - SMEs write exam items according to the test specifications established from the JTA. All writers for the EPPP (Part 2-Skills) are licensed in the United States or Canada.

Item Review - Each item is reviewed by an Item Development Committee (IDC) SME in that Domain who is an established expert in that specific area. Items are reviewed in an iterative process between the reviewer and the item writer until the item is acceptable to both or discarded.

Exam Form Review - Each item is again reviewed prior to being placed on an exam by the Examination Committee. This committee is comprised of 10 SMEs who are psychologists that have particular expertise in each of the domains on the exam and represent various areas of psychology practice and training. Items that have been approved by the IDC are again reviewed for accuracy, relevancy to practice, clarity, and freedom from bias, among other factors.

Psychometric Review - Once approved by the Examination Committee, each item is pretested (or beta tested) prior to being an active item that is scored item on an exam. Items that do not perform well during pretesting, according to psychometric standards, are not included on a candidate's overall scores.

Standard Setting - The pass point of the exam is established though a rigorous review process called a standard setting. This involves a committee of SMEs who are licensed psychologists, most of whom are typically early career psychologists. These SMEs review the exam form item by item and provide rating data on difficulty. The data is analyzed to determine the appropriate pass point which represents the minimal knowledge or skills required for entry level practice.

These multiple levels of review by Psychologists and the ongoing analysis of psychometric data ensures that the examination is accurate, relevant, valid and legally defensible.