

Steps to becoming a Licensed Psychologist

1

**Obtain
Doctoral
Degree**

4-6 years of organized graduate study in psychology

Dissertation based on original research

Degree must be from a program accredited by the American Psychological Association or from a regionally accredited institution.

2

**Pass
EPPP**

All applicants are required to pass the Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) prior to the Board granting licenses. The minimum acceptable score for the EPPP is 70 percent.

3

**Pass
Jurisprudence
Exam**

The Jurisprudence Examination is required of all candidates for licensure and covers the Texas Psychologists' Licensing Act, Board rules, and other applicable laws. The minimum score for licensure for psychologists must receive a minimum score of 90 percent.

4

**Obtain 3,500+
supervised
hours**

Two years of supervised experience, at least one of which must have been received after the conferral or completion of the doctoral degree. At least one year of experience must be satisfied by a formal internship. Minimum of 3,500 hours of supervised experience.

5

**Pass
Oral Exam**

After predoctoral and postdoctoral internship hours, all candidates for licensure must pass an in-person oral examination.

6

**Obtain
Licensure**

Obtain Provisionally Licensed Psychologist Licensure in which PLP is supervised by a licensed psychologist for two years before obtaining full license.

To maintain license, psychologists must receive 20 hours of professional development each year.

4-6 years

2 years



For more information visit www.texaspsyc.org.

**Total Mental
Health Education 6-8 years**

Steps to becoming a Prescribing Psychologist

7

Obtain Post-Doctoral Master's Degree

Two years of biomedical sciences including general pharmacology and psychopharmacology training or equivalent certificate program.

2 years

8

Complete Preceptorship

One year of preceptorship writing prescriptions under physician supervision.

1 year

9

Pass National Exam

After obtaining a master's degree and completing the one year preceptorship, all candidates must pass a national exam.

10

Maintain Licensure

To maintain license, prescribing psychologists must receive 20-30 hours of professional development each year.

This number varies among states.

What is a prescribing psychologist?

Prescribing psychologists have received all the education and training as psychologists (blue) plus the additional education and training. They are able to prescribe certain psychotropic medications to patients and work in collaboration with physicians.

Total Mental Health Education 9-11 years



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#4 Obtaining 3,500+ supervised hours

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1,750 hours predoctoral hours

The following are common responsibilities, tasks, education, and training obtained during the pre-doctoral hours:

- Learn to provide a broad range of therapy services
- Build ethical judgment and clinical decision-making skills
- Become competent in the use of psychological assessment instruments
- Gain experience in handling clinical crises
- Develop professional identity in the clinical workplace
- Participate in training-focused supervision 4 hours weekly
- Complete weekly didactic training covering essentials of clinical practice

1,750 hours post-doctoral hours

The following are common responsibilities, tasks, education, and training obtained during the postdoctoral hours:

- Develop advanced skill sets specific to career goals
- Obtain training necessary to qualify for board certification
- Participate in mentoring supervision 2 hours weekly
- Attend weekly didactic training covering advanced topics in specialty practice
- Learn supervision skills
- Become an expert in one or more clinical areas
- Extend research skills and goals

Mental Health Providers Education + Practice Parameters

	Licensed Psychologist	Licensed Psychological Associate		Licensed Professional Counselor
		Currently	Proposed	
Graduate Education in Mental Health	100-125 semester hours of organized graduate study in psychology Dissertation based on original research	42 semester hours with at least 27 being in psychology	60 semester hours	48 or 60 semester hours Beginning Aug. 1, 2017 must be 60 semester hours
Internship/ Supervision	3,500 hours of supervised experience One year of predoctoral supervision and one year of supervised experience by licensed psychologist	450 hours of supervised practicum, internship, or experience in psychology	3,000 hours of supervised experience after graduation	3,000 hours of supervised experience after graduation plus 300 hours of supervised practicum prior to graduation
Post-doctoral Training	One year of supervised experience by licensed psychologist	N/A	N/A	N/A
Required Education Level for License	Doctorate	Master's Degree	Master's Degree	Master's Degree
Average Years of Formal Mental Health Training	6-8 years	2.5 years	3-4 years	3-4 years
Continuing Education	20 hours annually	20 hours annually	20 hours annually	24 hours every two years
Supervision to Practice	None	Must be under the supervision of a Licensed Psychologist and may not engage in independent practice, except in exempt settings	None	None
Settings to Practice	All	All as long as supervised	All	All

Complaint Resolution Time by State Agency

Entity	# Licensees	Average length of time required for jurisdictional complaint resolution
Board of Examiners of Psychologists	9,512	217 days
Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiner	23,797	911 days
Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors	22,543	673 days
Council on Sex Offender Treatment	557	217 days
Chemical Dependency Counselor Licensing Program (LCDC)	10,445	317 days
Texas State Board of Marriage and Family Therapists	3,511	639 days