

TSBEP Newsletter

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Board Rules Set Limits for Length of Internships Required for Licensure as a Psychologist and Licensure as a Specialist in School Psychology

The Psychology Board believes that, in accordance with the Act, the right to provide psychological services without licensure should be well-defined and limited to those who are meeting licensure requirements and to those who work in exempt settings. Therefore, individuals who have completed their training requirements and internship requirements should pursue licensure in a timely manner.

Board rules are specific about the length of time for internships that are required for licensure as a psychologist or as a specialist in school psychology. This means that an individual who applies for license with the Board must not have had an internship that extends beyond the time allowable for such an internship as set by Board rule, if they are to meet the requirements for licensure. Applicants who violate these rules are subject to Board eligibility orders.

Board rule 463.11(c), Licensed Psychologist, states: "Supervised experience must be obtained in a minimum of two, and no more than three, calendar years, for full-time service." The Rule further explains that half-time experience is also acceptable. Definitions for full and half time experience are provided in this rule.

For example, if an applicant indicates that his or her internship extended beyond the three calendar years, the Board would require the applicant to provide in writing to the Board how the individual was able to continue to practice beyond the three year time period. An acceptable reason would be working in an exempt setting. However, it should be noted that simply being registered in a training program for an additional internship beyond what the applicant has already accrued which meets requirements for licensure, is not an acceptable reason.

Eligibility orders can delay licensure, require the applicant to obtain additional continuing education, require a monitor after licensure is obtained, place the new licensee on probation for a period of time and fine the applicant. The supervising licensee who allows such internships to continue or to occur is subject to disciplinary action from the Board.

Board rule 463.9(c) Licensed Specialist in School Psychology, states: "Internships... may be obtained in not less than one or more than two academic years." An academic year is considered to be 10 months and not more than 12 months. Enrollment in another formal internship or practicum after the applicant has obtained an internship which meets Board rules is not an acceptable excuse.

There is no time limit on the 450 clock hours of practicum or internship required for the licensed psychological associate.

Questions regarding internships should be directed to Board licensing staff at the Board office: 512-305-7700.
