

## **ABPP CN Postdoctoral Fellowship Guidelines**

(From the ABPP website <http://www.abpp.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3402>)

B. Specialty Specific Requirements. Once the generic credentials are approved by ABPP, the ABCN credentials committee determines eligibility specific to Clinical Neuropsychology. The specialty review examines both the content and the process by which the applicant has acquired their knowledge and skill in neuropsychology. As such, candidates must carefully document their didactic and experiential training.

1. Didactics. All applicants must document didactic experiences across 8 core knowledge areas. These experiences may be obtained any time during training. Most didactic requirements will be fulfilled during graduate coursework; however, some may be obtained through less formal/structured educational activities, such as seminars, brain cutting conferences, specialty rounds, case conferences, etc. The core knowledge domains include:

- Basic neurosciences
- Functional neuroanatomy
- Neuropathology
- Clinical neurology
- Psychological assessment
- Clinical neuropsychological assessment
- Psychopathology
- Psychological intervention

2. Postdoctoral Training. Postdoctoral residency education and training are required to develop an advanced level of competence in the specialty of clinical neuropsychology. ABCN understands, however, that training standards have changed significantly over the relatively short period during which clinical neuropsychology has been a specialty. To promote uniformity in training standards, ABCN has endorsed the Houston Conference Guidelines for specialty training in Clinical Neuropsychology for individuals who completed their neuropsychological training on or after January 1, 2005. For individuals trained prior to that date, eligibility criteria for postdoctoral training are defined in relation to the criteria in place at the time the candidate completed training in neuropsychology.

For candidates whose neuropsychology education and training (e.g., coursework, practica, internship) occurred primarily during their graduate education, eligibility criteria are tied to the completion date of graduate training.

Applicants initially trained in another specialty who later go on to complete a formal re-specialization program in clinical neuropsychology are expected to meet criteria

for eligibility in place at the time they complete their re-specialization program, not the date of their original graduate education.

All applicants must demonstrate a formal foundation for the acquisition of the neuropsychological skill set. Experiential or informal training models will be considered only for those applicants trained prior to 1981; detailed documentation of those experiences will be helpful during the credential review.

ABCN encourages applications from neuropsychologists trained during all eras, including those pre-dating the Houston Conference. Specific postdoctoral training criteria are detailed below.

a. Doctoral training or respecialization completed on or after 01/01/2005:

- Training conforms to Houston Conference Guidelines  
The length of the residency must be the equivalent of 2 full years of education and training in clinical neuropsychology and neuropsychology-related disciplines, completed on at-least a half-time basis. Training in neuropsychology-related activities must comprise a minimum of 50% of the resident's time and may include supervised clinical activities done as part of research. ABCN will accept minor deviations from these requirements that may arise based on medical, personal or professional factors. Such situations are reviewed by the Credentials Committee on a case-by-case basis and require written documentation from the residency director that the candidate:

1) left the residency in good standing,

2) met all requirements of the residency,

3) obtained the requisite skills and knowledge base described by the Houston Conference Guidelines.

- ABCN requires that the postdoctoral program reflect a structured and sequenced set of clinical and didactic experiences, provide on-site supervision of all clinical cases, and put the learning needs of the candidate ahead of the operational needs of the program.

- Recognizing that some aspects of the Houston Conference model remain aspirational, ABCN will allow the following exceptions:

- ◆ ABCN will not require that the program faculty include an ABCN certified neuropsychologist. Training must be conducted by supervisors who are themselves neuropsychologists and the candidate may be asked to provide additional materials

regarding details of the residency program and/or the credentials of their supervisors.

◆ ABCN does not currently require applicants to train in accredited postdoctoral programs; however, candidates who complete an APA-accredited specialty program in clinical neuropsychology or a full member program of the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN) may skip items on the specialty application form and complete the credential review process more quickly. Please refer to the online application for more information.

◆ ABCN does not require neuropsychological training during internship. In addition, although ABCN prefers that applicants have completed an APA or CPA accredited internship program, the review decision regarding internship training is made by ABPP Central Office during the generic review. If ABPP passes the candidate's non-APA/CPA internship credentials during generic review, ABCN will typically defer to that decision,

b. Doctoral training or respecialization completed from 01/01/1990 to 12/31/2004:

- Successful completion of systematic didactic and experiential training in neuropsychology at a regionally accredited university;
- Two years of appropriate supervised training applying neuropsychological services in a clinical setting. One of these years may be pre-doctoral. For both years of training:

1) Supervision must be provided on-site and for all clinical cases;

2) The training program should include a combination of didactic and experiential training;

- A letter of endorsement from a supervisor who can document the extent, nature and completion of the above training is highly desirable.

c. Doctoral training or respecialization completed from 01/01/1981 and 12/31/89:

- 1600 hours of clinical neuropsychological experience supervised by a clinical neuropsychologist at the predoctoral or postdoctoral level.

- d. Doctoral training or respecialization completed prior to 1981:
- 4800 hours of postdoctoral experience in a neuropsychological setting, involving a minimum of 2400 hours of direct clinical service.

### **Houston Guidelines for Postdoctoral Fellowship Training**

(From the AACN website:

[http://www.theaacn.org/position\\_papers/houston\\_conference.pdf](http://www.theaacn.org/position_papers/houston_conference.pdf))

#### X. Residency education and training in clinical neuropsychology.

Residency education and training is designed to provide clinical, didactic and academic training to produce an advanced level of competence in the specialty of clinical neuropsychology and to complete the education and training necessary for independent practice in the specialty. The postdoctoral residency program is a required component in specialty education in clinical neuropsychology. The expected period of residency extends for the equivalent of two years of full-time education and training. The residency experience must occur on at least a half-time basis.

These programs will pursue accreditation supporting the following assurances:

1. The faculty is comprised of a board-certified clinical neuropsychologist and other professional psychologists;
2. Training is provided at a fixed site or on formally affiliated and geographically proximate training sites, with primarily on-site supervision;
3. There is access to clinical services and training programs in medical specialties and allied professions;
4. There are interactions with other residents in medical specialties and allied professions, if not other residents in clinical neuropsychology;
5. Each resident spends significant percentages of time in clinical service, and clinical research, and educational activities, appropriate to the individual resident's training needs.

Entry into a clinical neuropsychology residency program should be based upon completion of an APA or CPA accredited doctoral education and training program. Clinical neuropsychology residents will have successfully completed an APA or CPA accredited internship program which includes some training in clinical neuropsychology.

Exit criteria for the residency are as follows:

1. Advanced skill in the neuropsychological evaluation, treatment and consultation to patients and professionals sufficient to practice on an independent basis;
2. Advanced understanding of brain-behavior relationships;

3. Scholarly activity, e.g., submission of a study or literature review for publication, presentation, submission of a grant proposal or outcome assessment.
4. A formal evaluation of competency in the exit criteria 1 through 3 shall occur in the residency program.
5. Eligibility for state or provincial licensure or certification for the independent practice of psychology.
6. Eligibility for board certification in clinical neuropsychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology.

### **ABN Postdoctoral Fellowship Guidelines**

(From the ABN website <http://abn-board.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/ABNSpecialtySpecificRequirements-9-1-14.pdf>)

For candidates completing the doctoral degree on or after January 1, 2005: (applicants of this graduation era who completed their post doctoral training in Canada should refer to ABN Canadian Guidelines, below.)

Applicants completing their doctoral degree on or after January 1, 2005 are required to have completed the equivalent of 2 years of full-time postdoctoral education and training, on at least a half-time basis that closely follows Houston Conference guidelines. Completion of a formal 2 year postdoctoral training fellowship, such as those offered by APPIC or AABN, is preferred. However, ABN recognizes that historically, there have been insufficient numbers and locations of these programs to meet the combined needs of practitioners and consumers of neuropsychological services. Accordingly, in order to be as inclusive as possible while still ensuring that candidates demonstrate advanced competence in the independent provision of clinical neuropsychology services, ABN Applicants are required to fulfill all content guidelines as defined by the Houston Conference, though they may be allowed specified areas of flexibility in methods and time frames of doing so. ABN Candidates are required to produce in the ABN Application and in responses to any corresponding inquiries from the Examination Committee, detailed evidence of their having satisfied these requirements.

The required training experiences are to be confirmed by the program director or supervisor(s) whose correspondence must indicate: Successful completion of all requirements, and attainment of skills and knowledge base according to the Houston Conference Guidelines. The 2-year postdoctoral program or equivalent must be organized according to a structured set of experiential and didactic requirements, including supervision on all program casework. Supervisors are not required to be board certified in neuropsychology, though supervision by staff board certified by ABN, ABCN and/or ABPdN is strongly encouraged.

Training program criteria are described above, with the following added descriptors:

A. Training and supervision occurs at specified sites, with supervision promptly available. Supervision is by clinical neuropsychologist(s). If the primary supervisor is not boarded by ABN, ABPdN or ABCN, the supervisor may be asked to show evidence of his/her qualifications.

B. Access is provided to training in medical, allied health, and rehabilitation services.

C. Opportunities are provided for peer activity and collaboration with other specialty providers.

D. Activities include: Clinical service provision, research activity, educational activities, other activities appropriate to developing core knowledge and skill development, professional identity, and professional practice competence and advocacy skills.

E. Postdoctoral training should include but not be limited to:

1. Neuroanatomy
2. Neurological disorders
3. Psychiatric disorders
4. Neuroimaging
5. Neuropathology
6. Neuroscience
7. Neurochemistry
8. Psychometrics
9. Brain behavior relationships
10. Neuropsychological Assessment

Exit criteria include:

1. Attainment of competency in neuropsychological evaluation, treatment and consultation at an independent level, as indicated by the professional references.
2. Formal documentation of training requirements, including satisfying ABN Application criteria.
3. Licensure for the independent practice of psychology.
4. Eligibility for board certification in clinical neuropsychology by the American Board of Professional Neuropsychology, the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology, or the American Board of Pediatric Neuropsychology