THE EPPP 1 & 2: CAP Update
November 14, 2019

Introduction
The EPPP is the foundational knowledge examination that is currently in use by the vast majority of psychological licensing jurisdictions across North America. It is developed and administered by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB). It is designed to assess the minimal important knowledge in the field of psychology required to practice. ASPPB has now developed a (second) a skills-based examination to assess foundational knowledge called the EPPP-2. This examination is consistent with the current trend in regulatory environments that highlight competency rather than strictly academic credentials.

With the January 2020 implementation of the EPPP-2 in some North American jurisdictions, the College of Alberta Psychologists (CAP) has received an increasing number of member inquiries regarding the new examination. In Alberta, a multivariable assessment of applicants to the profession is undertaken that includes:

1. an examination of credentials (including at minimum an acceptable graduate degree in psychology);
2. 1600 hours of evaluated supervised practice;
3. completion of the Law and Ethics for Alberta Psychologists (LEAP) Examination;
4. criminal and vulnerable sector background checks;
5. Fitness to Practice Declaration;
6. Registration Verification;
7. three professional references; and
8. successful completion of the EPPP-1.

It is the culmination of these individual methods that enhances the public’s confidence in the entry to practice requirements for the regulated profession of psychology in Alberta.

EPPP-1 (Part 1 – Knowledge)
Given the variety of pathways to psychology the examination is a knowledge-based quality assurance measure for promoting public protection. Content covered in the EPPP-1 includes psychological ethics, theory/interventions, knowledge in the areas of cognition, affect, biological bases of behaviour, human development, assessment, and research.

EPPP-1: Domains and Weights
1. Biological Bases of Behaviour (10%)
2. Cognitive-Affective Bases of Behaviour (13%)
3. Social and Cultural Bases of Behaviour (11%)
4. Growth and Lifespan Development (12%)
5. Assessment and Diagnosis (16%)
6. Treatment, Intervention, Prevention, and Supervision (15%)
EPPP-2 (Part 2 – Skills)
The EPPP-2 is designed to evaluate the application of foundational psychological knowledge. It includes questions about common real-world situations psychologists face. It is a skills-based examination that addresses what a psychologist should do given a set of facts. It is an innovative effort to provide a universal baseline of basic psychological skills across jurisdictions.

EPPP-2: Domains and Weights
1. Scientific Orientation (6%)
2. Assessment and Intervention (33%)
3. Relational Competence (16%)
4. Professionalism (11%)
5. Ethical Practice (17%)
6. Collaboration, Consultation, and Supervision (17%)

Like the EPPP-1, the EPPP-2 is one quality assurance measure designed to proactively protect the public ensuring a minimum level of skill is obtained prior to undertaking independent practice.

Frequently Asked Questions (New for EPPP-2)

When will the EPPP-2 be implemented?
CAP has not established a definite timeframe for implementing the EPPP-2. It is anticipated that more than a handful of North American jurisdictions will be moving forward in January 2020 and they have been identified as “early adopters.” As the addition of this examination, in and of itself, is not deemed imminently critical to protecting the public interest, the College has decided to evaluate the experiences of the early adoption jurisdictions prior to establishing a firm implementation timeline. Any timeline will likely give existing provisional psychologists ample lead time to complete their requirements without having to undertake the EPPP-2. It is highly unlikely that the EPPP-2 will be implemented prior to 2021.

Will I have to take the EPPP-2 if I am already fully registered?
No. While this is perceived to be a jurisdictional decision, the EPPP-2 is designed for those seeking initial licensure. This is similar to the EPPP-1.

Will I have to take the EPPP-2 if I am not fully registered but have already completed the EPPP-1?
Possibly. Registered provisional psychologists should take the EPPP-1 and complete their registration requirements as soon as possible to reduce the possibility of having to take both examinations.

Will I have to take the EPPP-2 if I became provisional before the implementation of the EPPP-2?
Possibly. CAP Council has yet to approve a firm implementation strategy. Current registered provisional psychologists will receive a window of opportunity to complete the EPPP-1 prior to making the EPPP-2 a mandatory part of initial registration.
What will the EPPP-2 look like?
The EPPP-2 is a computer-based examination employing similar technology to that of the EPPP-1. However, the EPPP-2 will contain scenarios many with multiple questions and answers. Some animation is employed. Multiple choice, matching, and sorting questions are included.

How long is the EPPP-2?
The EPPP-2 is designed to be completed within 4 hours and 15 minutes. This is the same amount of time that is allowed for the EPPP-1. Examination accommodations (with supporting documentation) may be considered by the Registrar on an individual basis.

What is the passing score of the EPPP-2?
Similar to the EPPP-1, the CAP-required passing scaled score for independent practice is 500.

Can I take the EPPP-2 without completion of the EPPP-1?
No. You must take them in sequence. Successful completion of the EPPP-1 is a prerequisite to taking the EPPP-2.

How are the results of the EPPP-2 provided?
Similar to the EPPP-1, unofficial results are provided at the time of examination completion. This will be followed by official correspondence from the College.

What will be the cost of the EPPP-2?
The current cost of the EPPP-1 is $600.00 USD. The EPPP-2 will cost the same. This is addition to the application fee and Pearson-Vue fee.

What if I wish to apply to a jurisdiction that has adopted the EPPP-2?
It will be up to each jurisdiction to determine if mobility applicants will be required to take the EPPP-2. However, local mobility legislation may override jurisdictional autonomy.

How does the College know if the EPPP-2 is a valid examination?
The accepted validity for licensure exams is content validity. The EPPP-2 is derived from a job task analysis. The most recent job task analysis conducted by the ASPPB was in 2016.

Where do I obtain additional information?
You may obtain additional information by contacting the ASPPB or visiting their website at www.asppb.net.

If there are additional questions, please contact Sheri Price, Examinations Coordinator, at 780-424-5070 Ext 312 or s.price@cap.ab.ca.