

Frequently-Asked Questions about Implementation of HB 488 (2010 GA) Revision of the Psychology Licensing Law (KRS 319)

Q. What is the basic change in the law with regard to the Sequence of Training and the possibility of earlier licensure of doctorally-trained psychologists?

A. Following the recommendation of the APA Council of Representatives, the legislation removes the absolute requirement for one year of post-doctoral supervised experience before the applicant can be granted licensure. Instead, the requirement in the law is for the applicant to have completed the equivalent of two (2) years of supervised professional experience acceptable to the Board (KY Board of Examiners of Psychology – “KBEP”).

One (1) year must be a predoctoral internship of 1,800 hours with at least 100 hours of supervisory sessions.

The other year or its equivalent (1,800 hours) may be predoctoral, postdoctoral or a combination of pre- and postdoctoral supervised professional experience acceptable to the board.

Q. What will be the criteria for approving pre-doctoral supervised experience as meeting the requirements for licensure?

A. The revised licensing law gives greater flexibility toward accumulating and counting supervised professional experience in meeting the licensure requirement. In addition to an 1800-hour predoctoral internship with at least 100 hours of supervisory sessions, the law requires an additional 1,800 hours of supervised professional experience acceptable to the board.

Recognition of appropriately supervised experience in the doctoral training program may consist of practica, field placements or other professional experiences beyond the initial courses and beginning practica in assessment and intervention techniques.

In determining the 1,800 hours of supervised professional experience which may be earned during the doctoral training program, the Board will use the *ASPPB Guidelines for Practicum Experience* (October, 2008) which recommends “At least 50% of the supervised experience shall be in service-related activities, such as treatment, assessment, interviews, report-writing, case presentations, and consultations.”

The criteria for supervision of professional experience in the doctoral training program is as follows:

1. There shall be a minimum of 100 hours of supervision.
2. At least 75% of the required hours of supervision must be done with a Licensed Psychologist supervisor, at least one-third of which (25 hours) shall be conducted in an individual, face-to-face format.
3. No more than 25% of the required hours of supervision (25 hours) may be done with a licensed mental health professional other than a Licensed Psychologist as the supervisor.
4. Of the total supervision hours, no more than 50% (50 hours) may be done via secure interactive videoconferencing.

If the supervised experience earned in the doctoral training program does not meet the 1,800 hour requirement, additional supervised professional experience satisfactory to the board may be earned with supervision by a board-approved Licensed Psychologist of a minimum of one (1) hour of individual, face-to-face supervision on a weekly basis.

Q. When does the law go into effect and what are the timelines?

A. The law went into effect on July 15, 2010. The licensure board (KBEP) is in the process of finalizing the regulations for implementing HB 488. The process of drafting and getting approval of the regulations will take several months, as it involves legislative committee action as well. The timelines are these:

1. Between July 15, 2010 and July 1, 2013, applicants for licensure at the doctoral level as a Licensed Psychologist may apply under the rules and definitions which were in place at the time the law was passed (March, 2010) or under the rules and definitions which will be adopted when the regulations have received final approval. During this period, the Health Service Provider (HSP) designation may be earned by having one additional year of supervised professional experience while temporarily licensed or after achieving licensure status.
2. After July 1, 2013, the Health Service Provider (HSP) designation will require a full year of supervised experience after licensure has been granted. The HSP designation is not required for unsupervised practice, but is required if the Licensed Psychologist wishes to be a supervisor approved by the board.
3. The CE requirement for licensure renewal has been increased from 30 CEs/3-year renewal cycle to 39 CEs/3-year renewal cycle. The new CE requirement applies to licenses as they are renewed on or after July 1, 2013.

Q. I have just received my doctorate in psychology and want to apply for licensure in Kentucky. What do I need to do?

A. While the law went into effect on July 15, 2010, the licensure board (KBEP) is in the process of finalizing the regulations for implementing HB 488. The regulations process will take several months, as it involves legislative committee action as well. Until the new regulations are approved, the current regulations and procedures are in effect.

In the meantime, you should fill out the application form for licensure as a Licensed Psychologist and should attach to it all documentation that you have of your pre-doctoral supervised experience (including a signed copy of your APPIC internship application). The application for licensure also serves as the application for being temporarily licensed, once approved by the board.

The pre-doctoral supervised experience documentation should note the following:

- frequency of supervision (once a week, etc),
- whether supervision was done individually or in group (and size of the group),
- in what format (face-to-face or other), and
- who the supervisor of record was (Licensed Psychologist or other licensed mental health professional).

If further information or documentation is needed by the board, you will be contacted and asked to supply it.

Q. What happens while the regulations are being put into place? Can I work as a psychologist while I am in the process of getting my license?

A. The law continues to allow for a period of temporary licensure for candidates. You may make your application as described above and then submit a joint letter with a Licensed Psychologist who is approved by KBEP to be a supervisor to be granted temporary licensure while your application is in process. Once your supervision arrangement is approved, you may practice psychology under supervision with a temporary license.

Q. What happens after the regulations are finalized?

A. Once the regulations are in place, the criteria established for supervised experience satisfactory to the board will be used to examine your pre-doctoral supervised experience and a determination will be made by KBEP as to whether your documented supervised experience does or does not satisfy the requirement of 1,800 hours. If it does meet the criterion and you have completed the pre-doctoral internship, then you would be eligible to be examined for licensure. If you do not yet have the required 1,800 hours, then your supervised experience during the period of temporary licensure can be counted toward meeting that requirement.

Q. When I receive my license as a Licensed Psychologist, will I also receive the Health Service Provider (HSP) designation?

A. No, the HSP designation has been separated from the licensure process and will not be given automatically with the granting of the license. You will be able to function completely autonomously as a Licensed Psychologist once you have received your license. However, if you wish to obtain the HSP designation, you will have to earn it by having an additional 1,800 hours of supervised professional experience with a KBEP-approved supervisor over and above the hours required for licensure.

Q. If my practica and other pre-doctoral hours are acceptable to the board and I meet the requirement for two full years of supervised experience, can my supervised hours under temporary licensure then be applied to earning the Health Service Provider designation?

A. Any hours of supervision under a KBEP-approved supervisor that are over and above the hours required for licensure may be applied to earning the HSP designation.

Q. Why would I want to earn the HSP designation?

A. Although you are fully licensed to practice autonomously without the HSP designation, there are two reasons for you to strongly consider earning the designation:

1. Right now, Kentucky is one of only a handful of states that has revised their licensing law to change the sequence of licensure by dropping the required year of post-doctoral supervision. The great majority of other states and provinces continue to require a year of supervised post-doctoral experience in order to become licensed. Having the additional year of supervision required for the HSP designation would make it much easier for you to become licensed in another state or province.

2. You cannot become a KBEP-approved supervisor of individuals regulated under KRS 319 unless you have the HSP designation and fulfill the required Continuing Education coursework in supervision. Many agency positions require that the Licensed Psychologist provide supervision for other professionals regulated by KBEP. In order to provide that supervision, you would need the HSP designation.

Q. With the requirement for an increased number of CE's (39 CE's/3-year renewal cycle) effective July 1, 2013 will there be changes in the definition of approved CE's?

A. KBEP is also in the process of revising the CE regulation, which will give the license-holder greater flexibility to earn approved CE hours to meet the new requirement. These changes will allow a greater number of CE hours to be earned through teaching courses or approved workshops, completing approved courses by home study or via internet and workshop participation through interactive videoconferencing.

Q. Where can I find out more information about the law and the regulations?

A. KPA members may access information on the KPA website: www.kpa.org, by calling the office at 502-894-0777 or by emailing info@kpa.org. KBEP will post information about the new law and the regulations as they are approved.

NOTE: This document was prepared by Sheila A. Schuster, Ph.D. at the request of the KY Psychological Association (KPA) with input and approval by the KY Board of Examiners of Psychology (KBEP).