



CHAPTER 90
ARTICLE 18G - PSYCHOLOGY PRACTICE ACT

N.C.G.S. § 90-270.139.

Application; examination; supervision;
provisional and temporary licenses.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	S.L. 2025-37, s. 3(a) — eighth act in the lineage	21 September 2026, 03:00 UTC	8ec1592f9632823d6483716f - 7dec5a08f83913ba363a0319 - c71143722ec5e305

- § 90-270.139(a)

Except as otherwise exempted by G.S. 90-270.138, persons who are qualified by education to practice psychology in this State must make application for licensure to the Board within 30 days of offering to practice or undertaking the practice of psychology in North Carolina. Applications must then be completed for review by the Board within the time period stipulated in the duly adopted rules of the Board. Persons who practice or offer to practice psychology for more than 30 days without making application for licensure, who fail to complete the application process within the time period specified by the Board, or who are denied licensure pursuant to G.S. 90-270.145 or G.S. 90-270.148, may not subsequently practice or offer to practice psychology without first becoming licensed.
- § 90-270.139(b)

After making application for licensure, applicants must take the first examination to which they are admitted by the Board. If applicants fail the examination, they may continue to practice psychology until they take the next examination to which they are admitted by the Board. If applicants fail the second examination, they shall cease the practice of psychology per G.S. 90-270.138(h), and may not subsequently practice or offer to practice psychology without first reapplying for and receiving a license from the Board. An applicant who does not take an examination on the date prescribed by the Board shall be deemed to have failed that examination.
- § 90-270.139(c)

All individuals who have yet to apply and who are practicing or offering to practice psychology in North Carolina, and all applicants who are practicing or offering to practice psychology in North Carolina, shall at all times comply with supervision

requirements established by the Board. The Board shall specify in its rules the format, setting, content, time frame, amounts of supervision, qualifications of supervisors, disclosure of supervisory relationships, the organization of the supervised experience, and the nature of the responsibility assumed by the supervisor. Individuals shall be supervised for all activities comprising the practice of psychology until they have met the following conditions:

- (1) For licensed psychologist applicants, until they have passed the examination to which they have been admitted by the Board, have been notified of the results, have completed supervision requirements specified in subsection (d) of this section, and have been informed by the Board of permanent licensure as a licensed psychologist; or
- (2) For licensed psychological associate applicants, until they have passed the examination to which they have been admitted by the Board, have been notified of the results, and have been informed by the Board of permanent licensure as a licensed psychological associate, after which time supervision is required only for those activities specified in subsection (e) of this section.

§ 90-270.139(d)

For permanent licensure as a licensed psychologist, an otherwise qualified psychologist must secure two years of acceptable and appropriate supervised experience germane to his or her training and intended area of practice as a psychologist. The Board shall permit such supervised experience to be acquired on a less than full-time basis, and shall additionally specify in its rules the format, setting, content, time frame, amounts of supervision, qualifications of supervisors, disclosure of supervisory relationships, the organization of the supervised experience, and the nature of the responsibility assumed by the supervisor. Supervision of health services must be received from qualified licensed psychologists holding health services provider certificates, or from other psychologists recognized by the Board in accordance with Board rules.

- (1) One of these years of experience shall be postdoctoral, and for this year, the Board may require, as specified in its rules, that the supervised experience be comparable to the knowledge and skills acquired during formal doctoral or postdoctoral education, in accordance with established professional standards.
- (2) One of these years may be predoctoral and the Board shall establish rules governing appropriate supervised predoctoral experience.

- (3) A psychologist who meets all other requirements of G.S. 90-270.145(a) as a licensed psychologist, except the two years of supervised experience, may be issued a provisional license as a psychologist or a license as a psychological associate, without having received a master's degree or specialist degree in psychology, by the Board for the practice of psychology.

§ 90-270.139(e)

Except as provided in subsection (e1) of this section:

- (1) A licensed psychological associate shall be supervised by a qualified licensed psychologist, or qualified licensed psychological associate in accordance with Board rules specifying the format, setting, content, time frame, amounts of supervision, qualifications of supervisors, disclosure of supervisory relationships, the organization of the supervised experience, and the nature of the responsibility assumed by the supervisor.
- (2) A licensed psychological associate who provides health services shall be supervised by a qualified licensed psychologist holding health services provider certification or by a qualified licensed psychological associate under the overall direction of a qualified licensed psychologist holding health services provider certification, in accordance with Board rules.
- (3) Supervision, including the supervision of health services, is required when a licensed psychological associate engages in the practice of psychology in accordance with Board rules.

§ 90-270.139(e1)

The Board shall approve any licensed psychological associate to engage in independent practice, without supervision by a qualified licensed psychologist or qualified licensed psychological associate, if the licensed psychological associate meets all of the following requirements:

- (1) Has 4,000 hours of post-licensure experience in the delivery of psychological services under the supervision of one or more qualified licensed psychologists or qualified licensed psychological associates within a time period of at least 24 consecutive months and less than 60 consecutive months.
- (2) Documents that all performance ratings for the 4,000 hours of post-licensure experience required by subdivision (1) of this subsection have been average or above average.
- (3) Submits an application for independent practice with proof of the 4,000 hours of post-licensure experience required by subdivision (1) of this subsection.

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 90-270.138	(a)	<i>"Except as otherwise exempted by"</i>
G.S. 90-270.145	(a)	<i>"who are denied licensure pursuant to"</i>
G.S. 90-270.148	(a)	<i>"licensure pursuant to G.S. 90-270.145 or"</i>
G.S. 90-270.138(h)	(b)	<i>"cease the practice of psychology per"</i>
G.S. 90-270.145(a)	(d)(3)	<i>"who meets all other requirements of"</i>
G.S. 90-270.148(f)	(g)	<i>"licensure, whose license was suspended under"</i>

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.139 (2025).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.139(a) (2025).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

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HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1967, c. 910, s. 5; 1977, c. 670, s. 4; 1979, c. 670, s. 3; 1985, c. 734, s. 4; 1993, c. 375, s. 1; 2012-72, s. 1; 2020-82, s. 1(a); 2025-37, s. 3(a).)

