California Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians Licensure Examination

CANDIDATE INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Please refer to our website to check for the most updated information at www.psiexams.com.

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Revised February 2020
You are eligible for the Psychiatric Technician Licensure Examination. This bulletin provides information regarding the Psychiatric Technician Licensure Examination procedures and content areas. Your address label contains important date information. In the upper left corner of the address label (above your name) is the date your application for examination was approved; following that is the date by which you must take your examination. You must take your examination by the date specified on the label, or you will need to reapply for the examination and submit another application fee. (See Abandonment of Application in this bulletin.)

You are responsible for calling the toll-free number listed under the Scheduling the Examination portion of this bulletin to schedule your examination date, time and location.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians at (916) 263-7830.
PURPOSE

This bulletin is designed to provide general information regarding the California Psychiatric Technician Licensure Examination process.

OBJECTIVE OF THE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL NURSING AND PSYCHIATRIC TECHNICIANS (BVNPT)

The mission of the California Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians is to protect the public. Public protection is paramount to the Board and its highest priority in exercising its licensing, regulatory and disciplinary functions. Toward this end, the Board ensures that only qualified persons are licensed vocational nurses and psychiatric technicians by enforcing education requirements, standards of practice and by educating consumers of their rights.

The BVNPT is mandated by law to protect the health, safety and welfare of consumers by ensuring that all licensees possess the knowledge, skills and abilities required to practice in a safe and competent manner. This includes development of a licensing examination that tests for minimum competency for those who wish to provide professional services to the consumer.

The psychiatric technician licensure examination tests candidates on their knowledge and professional skills, as well as their ability to make judgments about appropriate techniques and methods, as applicable to the Psychiatric Technician scope of practice. This scope of practice is defined in Business and Professions Code Section 4502, which states: “...psychiatric technician’ means any person who, for compensation or personal profit, implements procedures and techniques that involve understanding of cause and effect and that are used in the care, treatment, and rehabilitation of mentally ill or emotionally disturbed persons, or persons with intellectual disabilities and who has one or more of the following:

a. “Direct responsibility for administering or implementing specific therapeutic procedures, techniques, treatments, or medications with the aim of enabling recipients or patients to make optimal use of their therapeutic regime, their social and personal resources, and their residential care.

b. Direct responsibility for the application of interpersonal and technical skills in the observation and recognition of symptoms and reactions of recipients or patients, for the accurate recording of these symptoms and reactions, and for the carrying out of treatments and medications as prescribed by a licensed physician and surgeon or a psychiatrist.

The psychiatric technician in the performance of these procedures and techniques is responsible to the director of the service in which his or her duties are performed.

The director may be a licensed physician and surgeon, psychiatrist, psychologist, rehabilitation therapist, social worker, registered nurse, or other professional personnel.”

EXAMINATION DEVELOPMENT

The California Psychiatric Technician Licensure Examination is developed and maintained by the Board’s test vendor, Office of Professional Examination Services, a division of the California Department of Consumer Services, a division of the California Department of Consumer Affairs. Individual examination items are developed in Item Development Conferences in a multiple-choice question format. Each item is carefully researched and validated with published references to ensure accuracy and consistency with entry level psychiatric technician practice.

ESTABLISHING THE PASSING STANDARDS

The examination measures the knowledge and skills required in current practice and represents a standard of performance that Psychiatric Technician Subject Matter Experts agree is the minimum level of competence required to practice safely at entry level for the profession. To establish the pass/fail standard, a panel of Subject Matter Experts, who are newly licensed or have direct experience with newly licensed Psychiatric Technicians, reviews the content of the examination questions. A psychometrician conducts the standard setting process in accordance with the requirements of the psychometric model used.

EXAMINATIONS BY PSI LICENSURE:CERTIFICATION

The State has contracted with PSI licensure:certification (PSI) to conduct its examination program. PSI provides examinations through a network of computer examination centers in California.

All questions and requests for information about examinations should be directed to PSI:

PSI licensure:certification
3210 E Tropicana
Las Vegas, NV 89121
(877) 392-6422  •  Fax (702) 932-2666
www.psiexams.com

Eligibility for the examination is determined by the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians:

Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 263-7830
www.bvnpt.ca.gov
EXAMINATION SCHEDULING

PROCEDURES

Once you have been approved by the BVNPT, you are responsible for contacting PSI to schedule an appointment to take the examination. You may do so via the Internet at www.psiexams.com, or schedule over the telephone at (877) 392-6422, TTY (800) 735-2929.

Your examination eligibility expires if you fail to sit for the examination within one year after being deemed eligible.

As stated in the Notice of Eligibility, the address label on the back of this Candidate Information Bulletin (above your name) indicates the date your application was approved; following that is the date by which you must take your examination. You must take the examination by the date specified on the label, or you will forfeit your fee, and you will be required to reapply and submit a new application and fee.

In most California testing centers, testing does not take place on the following major holidays:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Holiday</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Independence Day</td>
<td>Closed July 4, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>Closed September 7, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving Day</td>
<td>Closed November 26-27, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
<td>Closed December 24-25, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Years Day</td>
<td>Closed January 1, 2021</td>
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<td>Martin Luther King Jr.</td>
<td>Closed January 18, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
<td>Closed May 31, 2021</td>
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</table>

INTERNET SCHEDULING

You may schedule for your test by completing the online Test Registration Form. The Test Registration Form is available at PSI’s website, www.psiexams.com. You may schedule for a test via the Internet 24 hours a day.

1. Complete the registration form online and submit your information to PSI via the Internet.
2. Upon completion of the online registration form, you will be given the available dates for scheduling your test.
3. You will need to choose a date to complete your registration.
4. Upon successful registration, you will receive a traceable confirmation number.

TELEPHONE SCHEDULING

You may call PSI at (877) 392-6422, Monday through Friday between 4:30 am and 7:00 pm, or Saturday-Sunday between 6:00 am and 2:30 pm, Pacific Time, to schedule your appointment for the test.

CANCELING AN EXAMINATION APPOINTMENT

You may cancel and reschedule an examination appointment without forfeiting your fee if your cancellation notice is received two (2) days prior to the scheduled examination date. For example, for a 9:00 a.m. Monday appointment, the cancellation notice would need to be received before 9:00 a.m. on the previous Saturday. You may call PSI at (877) 392-6422.

Note: A voicemail or email message is not an acceptable form of cancellation. Please use the PSI Website or call PSI and speak directly to a Customer Service Representative.

MISSED APPOINTMENT OR LATE CANCELLATION

If you miss your appointment, you will not be able to take the examination as scheduled, further you will forfeit your examination fee, if:

- You do not cancel your appointment 2 days before the scheduled examination date;
- You do not appear for your examination appointment;
- You arrive after examination start time;
- You do not present proper identification when you arrive for the examination.

RE-EXAMINATION

Candidates who fail the examination will be eligible to retake the examination once after a period of one month. At that time, if the candidate fails the examination a second time, the candidate will be eligible to retake the examination once every six months. There is no limit on the number of retakes. To be rescheduled, you must go to your online BreEZe account at www.breeze.ca.gov, fill out the Application for Re-Examination and pay the required, nonrefundable fee.

EXAMINATION SITE CLOSING FOR AN EMERGENCY

In the event that severe weather or another emergency forces the closure of an examination site on a scheduled examination date, your examination will be rescheduled. PSI personnel will attempt to contact you in this situation. However, you may check the status of your examination schedule by calling (877) 392-6422. Every effort will be made to reschedule your examination at a convenient time as soon as possible. You will not be penalized. You will be rescheduled at no additional charge.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS AVAILABLE

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

Examinees with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity may be eligible for accommodation in the testing process to assure you that the examination accurately reflects knowledge, skills and abilities. The BVNPT and PSI are fully compliant with ADA guidelines and will provide reasonable accommodations. Scheduling services are also available via our Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) by calling 800.735.2929.
ACCOMMODATION PROCEDURES
Candidates requiring reasonable accommodations due to a physical or mental impairment must submit a request to the BVNPT for such arrangements prior to scheduling their examination appointment.

Candidates must submit a letter describing the nature and extent of the disability, and the requested accommodations. In addition, a letter must be submitted from the appropriate medical authority that verifies the diagnosis, and describes the tests administered. The medical authority must state the appropriate type of accommodation recommended.

In addition, if the candidate received reasonable accommodations in school, a letter from the school must be submitted describing how the disability was accommodated in school. If the candidate was diagnosed after leaving school, this letter is not required.

EXAMINATION SITE LOCATIONS

The California examinations are administered at the PSI examination centers in California as listed below:

AGOURA HILLS
30851 AGOURA RD SUITE 302
AGOURA HILLS, CA 91301
(818) 692-0261

ATASCADERO
7305 MORRO RD, SUITE 201A
ATASCADERO, CA 93422
(805) 462-8983
FROM US-101 N, TAKE THE CA-41 EXIT- EXIT 219-TOWARD MORRO RD. TURN LEFT ONTO EL CAMINO REAL. TURN LEFT onto CA-41/MORRO RD.
FROM US-101 S, TAKE THE MORRO RD/CA-41 EXIT- EXIT 219, TURN RIGHT ONTO CA-41/MORRO RD.

BAKERSFIELD
5405 STOCKDALE HIGHWAY SUITE 103
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
(661) 735-5351
FROM INTERSTATE 5-SOUTH, TAKE THE STOCKDALE HIGHWAY EXIT, EXIT 253. TURN RIGHT ONTO STOCKDALE HIGHWAY. END AT 5405 STOCKDALE HIGHWAY.
FROM INTERSTATE 5-NORTH TOWARD BAKERSFIELD, KEEP LEFT TO TAKE CALIFORNIA 99 NORTH VIA EXIT 221 TOWARD BAKERSFIELD/FRESNO. TAKE THE CALIFORNIA 58 EAST EXIT TOWARD TEHACHAPI/MOJAVE. TAKE THE EXIT ON THE LEFT TOWARD CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY/STOCKDALE HIGHWAY/BRUNDAGE LANE. TURN LEFT ONTO WIBLE ROAD, TURN SLIGHT LEFT ONTO STOCKDALE HIGHWAY. END AT 5405 STOCKDALE HIGHWAY.

CARSON
17420 AVALON BLVD, SUITE 205
CARSON, CA 90746
(310) 400-7393
FROM CA-91 E/GARDENA FWY TAKE THE AVALON EXIT. OFF RAMP WILL LEAD YOU ONTO ALBERTONI ST. MAKE A RIGHT ONTO AVALON BLVD AND WE ARE LOCATED ON THE RIGHT HANDSIDE (SAME PARKING LOT AS CARL’S JR).

FRESNO
351 E. BARSTOW, SUITE 101
FRESNO, CA 93710
(559) 538-3975
FROM CA-41 S, TAKE THE BULLARD AVE EXIT. TURN LEFT ONTO E BULLARD AVE. TURN RIGHT ONTO N FRESNO ST. PASS THROUGH THE INTERSECTION OF FRESNO AND BASTOW AVE. TAKE THE FIRST DRIVeway ON THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE.
FROM CA-41 N, TAKE THE SHAW AVE EXIT TOWARD CLOVIS. TURN RIGHT ONTO E SHAW AVE. TURN LEFT ONTO N FRESNO ST. TURN LEFT INTO THE LAST DRIVEWAY BEFORE BARSTOW. TESTING CENTER IS IN THE OFFICE COMPLEX ON THE SW CORNER OF BARSTOW AND FRESNO ST.

IRvine
8 CORPORATE PARK, SUITE 200
IRVINE, CA 92606
(949) 418-9653
FROM I-405 S - USE THE 2ND LANE FROM RIGHT TO TAKE EXIT 7 FOR JAMBOREE RD, THEN USE THE LEFT 2 LANES TO TURN LEFT ONTO JAMBOREE RD. GO ABOUT 1.5 MILES THEN TURN RIGHT ONTO BECKMAN AVE. TAKE THE FIRST RIGHT INTO CORPORATE PARK. 8 CORPORATE PARK IS THE SECOND BUILDING ON THE RIGHT.
FROM I-5 S - TAKE EXIT 100 FOR JAMBOREE RD. USE THE 2ND FROM RIGHT LANE TO TURN RIGHT INTO JAMBOREE RD. TAKE THE RAMP TO JAMBOREE RD THEN KEEP LEFT AT THE FORK TO CONTINUE ONTO JAMBOREE Rd. GO ABOUT 2.2 MILES THEN TURN LEFT ONTO BECKMAN AVE. TAKE THE FIRST RIGHT INTO CORPORATE PARK. 8 CORPORATE PARK IS THE SECOND BUILDING ON THE RIGHT.
ONCE PARKED, PROCEED THROUGH THE FRONT ENTRANCE AND TAKE THE ELEVATOR TO THE SECOND FLOOR. THE TEST CENTER IS IN SUITE 200.

LAWNDALE
THE BAYTOWER CORPORATE CENTER SUITE 330
15901 HAWTHORNE BLVD
LAWNDALE, CA 90260
(310) 793-1200

REDWOOD
2861 CHURN CREEK, UNIT C
REDWOOD, CA 96002
(530) 221-0945
REPORTING TO THE EXAMINATION SITE

On the day of the examination, you must arrive at least 30 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment time. This allows time for check-in and identification verification and provides...
time to familiarize yourself with the examination process. If you arrive late, you may not be admitted to the examination site and you may forfeit your examination registration fee.

Candidates shall not communicate with anyone other than a PSI proctor once their examination has begun. Visitors are not allowed in the testing lobby.

Even though candidates will be thumb printed, you are still required to comply with any identification requirements established by the appropriate regulatory entity.

**REQUIRED IDENTIFICATION AT EXAMINATION SITE**

You must provide one of the following valid forms of government-issued identification before you may examine:

- An unexpired State issued Driver License
- An unexpired State Department of Motor Vehicles Identification Card
- A current U.S military - issued identification
- An unexpired passport
- A US Government-issued Passport Card

If you have had a name change, you must submit a name change to the BVNPT, in writing, accompanied by legal documentation to verify your new legal name. Acceptable documentation may include a marriage license, divorce decree or a copy of your new driver’s license.

If you cannot provide the required identification, you must call (877) 392-6422 at least 3 weeks prior to your scheduled appointment to arrange a way to meet this security requirement. Failure to provide all of the required identification at the time of the examination without notifying PSI is considered a missed appointment, and you will not be able to take the examination.

**CALIFORNIA LAW SECURITY PROCEDURES**

Section 123 of the California Business and Professions Code states: It is a misdemeanor for any person to engage in any conduct which subverts or attempts to subvert any licensing examination or the administration of an examination, including, but not limited to:

- Conduct which violates the security of the examination materials;
- Removing from the examination room any examination materials without authorization;
- The unauthorized reproduction by any means of any portion of the actual licensing examination;
- Aiding by any means the unauthorized reproduction of any portion of the licensing examination;
- Paying or using professional or paid examination-takers for the purpose of reconstructing any portion of the licensing examination;
- Obtaining examination questions or other examination material, except by specific authorization either before, during, or after an examination; or
- Selling, distributing, buying, receiving, or having unauthorized possession of any portion of a future, current, or previously administered licensing examination.
- Communicating with any other examinee during the administration of a licensing examination.
- Copying answers from another examinee or permitting one’s answers to be copied by another examinee.
- Having in one’s possession during the administration of the licensing examination any books, equipment, notes, written or printed materials, or data of any kind, other than the examination materials distributed, or otherwise authorized to be in one’s possession during the examination.
- Impersonating any examinee or having an impersonator take the licensing examination on one’s behalf.

Nothing in this section shall preclude prosecution under authority provided for in any other provision of law. In addition to any other penalties, a person found guilty of violating this section, shall be liable for the actual damages sustained by the agency administering the examination not to exceed ten thousand dollars ($10,000) and the costs of litigation.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TAKING AN EXAMINATION**

1. All candidates will have their thumbprint taken during examination check-in. The thumb print must be matched after candidates return from a restroom break and any time the candidate leaves and returns to the test site after check-in.

2. The temperature in the testing room is maintained at a moderate level. Candidates are advised to layer clothing. Acceptable layered clothing includes lightweight shirts, sweaters, and pullovers without pockets or hoods. These items must be worn upon check-in, while you wait to enter the testing room, and during your initial seating for the examination. If the layered item is removed during the examination, you will be required to store it in the lobby while time continues to count down on your examination. Outerwear (coats, heavy jackets, vests, shawls, scarves, etc.) is not allowed in the testing rooms.

3. There are timing mechanisms available in the testing room and on the computer console to help candidates keep track of time during the test administration. Candidates are not permitted to bring watches or other timekeeping devices into the testing rooms.

4. Only one candidate will be allowed to take a restroom break at a time. Candidates are required to sign out when leaving and returning to the testing room. If a candidate’s restroom break takes longer than 5 (five) minutes, a proctor will check on the candidate and will notify the applicable regulatory entity of the occurrence. The regulatory entity will investigate and take appropriate action.

5. The following is a non-exhaustive list of personal items that are not permitted in the testing rooms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purses</th>
<th>Briefcases/daypacks/luggage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cellular phones</td>
<td>Pagers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinks (including water)</td>
<td>Food/candy/snacks/gum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good luck items</td>
<td>Luggage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculators</td>
<td>Reading materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textbooks</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any recording device</td>
<td>Smart devices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic devices</td>
<td>Headphones or earphones/earbuds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal pens or pencils</td>
<td>Therapeutic items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameras</td>
<td>Over-the-counter medication</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WWW.PSIEXAMS.COM
**Headwear worn for religious purposes is subject to inspection.**

**Prescription and non-prescription eyeglasses may not be worn for the photo. Eyeglasses subject to inspection.**

**Jewelry that is allowed into the examination room is subject to inspection.**

**Drugs that are medically necessary during the pendency of the examination may be brought into the examination site, in a container bearing a proper prescription label with the name of the candidate and of the drug; any such medication is subject to examination by a proctor upon check-in.**

Examination proctors will have considerable discretion to refuse permission of clothing and/or items that compromise the integrity or security of the examination.

During the check-in process, all candidates will be asked if they possess any of the prohibited items and all candidates will be asked to empty their pockets. If prohibited items are found during check-in, candidates must return these items to their vehicle or other place of safekeeping. Neither PSI nor the Department of Consumer Affairs will be responsible for the items. Any candidate possessing prohibited items in the testing room will have his or her examination results invalidated, and PSI will notify the appropriate regulatory entity of the occurrence.

6. Shoes must be worn at all times and feet are not permitted on the chairs. Feet must remain on the floor during examinations.

7. Copying any portion of the examination content by any means, or communicating examination content for the purpose of aiding its unauthorized reproduction, whether before, during, or after the examination, is a violation of PSI security policy and existing law. Either one may result in the disqualification or invalidation of examination results, the denial of your license, and may result in criminal prosecution.

8. If a candidate is asked by a proctor to step into the lobby during your examination, the proctor will suspend the candidate’s examination, so all remaining test time will be retained.

Only candidates, and those individuals with prior regulatory entity approval, are allowed to be present in the testing sites. If candidates require that an exception be made to ANY of the abovementioned security procedures, candidates must contact their regulatory entity PRIOR to the date of their examination. The regulatory entity must provide the exception to PSI. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE ON THE DAY OF THE EXAMINATION.
2. A medication order is received for 0.5 gm of a drug. What amount should be administered if the dose on hand is 100 mg per ml?
   a. 0.05 ml
   b. 0.50 ml
   c. 5.00 ml*
   d. 50.00 ml

*=Correct Answer

EXAMINATION RESULTS

IF YOU PASS THE EXAMINATION

Candidates who pass the examination are eligible for licensure upon receipt of fingerprint clearance from the California Department of Justice and submission of the required initial license fee. Your license may be delayed if you have criminal background issues. Go to your online BreEZe account at www.breeze.ca.gov, apply for your license and pay the nonrefundable required fee. A license will not be issued unless the full license fee is paid.

FAILING SCORE REPORTS

The score report indicates the candidate’s overall score and grade, including the number of items answered correctly. The number correct in each content area is displayed. The primary purpose in providing a sub-score for each part of the examination is to guide candidates in areas requiring additional preparation for re-testing.

Candidates who fail the examination will be eligible to retake the examination once after a period of one month. At that time, if the candidate fails the examination a second time, the candidate will be eligible to retake the examination once every six months. There is no limit on the number of retakes. To reschedule an examination, go to your online BreEZe account at www.breeze.ca.gov, fill out the Application for Re-Examination and pay the required, nonrefundable fee.

ABANDONMENT OF APPLICATION/INELIGIBILITY

Title 16, California Code of Regulations Section 2571 states:

(a) An application shall be deemed to have been abandoned and the application fee forfeited when:
   1. The applicant fails to complete the application within two years after it is originally submitted;
   2. The applicant fails to complete the application within two years after the last notice of deficiency;
   or
   3. The applicant, without good cause, fails to take the examination within one year after being scheduled.

(b) An application submitted subsequent to the abandonment of a former application shall be treated as a new application.
The development of a licensure examination program begins with an analysis of the professional practice to ensure that the licensure examination is job-related. The BVNPT conducts psychiatric technician occupational analyses and adopts the new test plans.

Specifically, licensees are interviewed to identify the tasks that are commonly performed by entry-level psychiatric technicians and the knowledge required to perform those tasks safely. This information is verified by panels of Subject Matter Experts and compiled into an occupational survey. A random population of licensees is then surveyed, the response data analyzed, and a new test plan developed. This test plan includes the critical tasks and the knowledge required to perform these critical tasks safely and competently as identified in the analysis. The test plan includes questions in the following content areas:

### CONTENT AREA

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<td>1.B. Grooming and Dressing Skills</td>
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<td>1.D. Toileting and Toileting Hygiene</td>
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<td>2.F. Respiratory Function and Support</td>
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