



STATE OF CALIFORNIA



DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL
EXAMINATION SERVICES

Validation of State and National Examination Programs

HEIDI LINCER, PH.D., OPES CHIEF

TRACY MONTEZ, PH.D., PROGRAMS AND POLICY REVIEW
DIVISION CHIEF

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Presentation Topics

- ▶ Who is OPES
 - ▶ Regulations, Technical Standards, and Professional Guidelines
 - ▶ OPES Clients
 - ▶ Purpose of Licensure Examinations
- ▶ National Examination Review
 - ▶ Why we do them
- ▶ Next Steps
- ▶ Questions

What OPES Provides

- ▶ Professional consulting services in examination development and validation to DCA's boards, bureaus, and committees.
- ▶ Recommendations based on legal requirements, professional guidelines, and technical standards related to licensure examinations.

OPES clients

Boards



- Accountancy
- Acupuncture
- Architects
- Barbering and Cosmetology
- Behavioral Sciences
- Chiropractors
- Contractors
- Court Reporters
- Dental
- Dental Hygiene
- Optometry
- Pharmacy
- Psychology
- Registered Nursing
- Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers
- Structural Pest Control
- Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians

Bureaus



- Automotive Repair
- Cemetery and Funeral
- Household Goods and Services
- Professional Fiduciaries
- Security and Investigative Services

Committees



- Landscape Architects
- Naturopathic Medicine
- Registered Dental Assistants

External



- CA State Bar
- Nursing Home Administrators

Laws, Standards, and Guidelines

- ▶ **Business and Professions Code section 139**
- ▶ **Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing**
(American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, National Council on Measurement in Education)
- ▶ **Principles for the Validation and Use of Personnel Selection Procedures**
(Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology)

Requirements for Licensure Examinations

- ▶ Provide a reliable method for identifying practitioners who are able to practice safely and competently.
- ▶ Focus on **entry-level** tasks and knowledge important for **public protection**.
- ▶ Rely on subject matter experts (SMEs) in all phases of examination development to ensure that the examination reflects current practice.

Business and Professions Code Section 139 Requirements for National Examination Reviews

- ▶ Must meet psychometric and legal standards.
- ▶ California practitioners must be represented.
- ▶ Must be reviewed for California content.

Review of National Examinations



Psychometric evaluation



Comparison of national OA to California OA by SMEs



Identification of any critical entry-level content that is not assessed

Psychometric Evaluation



Evaluate
occupational
analysis



Review procedures
for developing
examination



Review procedures
for establishing
passing scores



Review examination
scoring and passing
rates



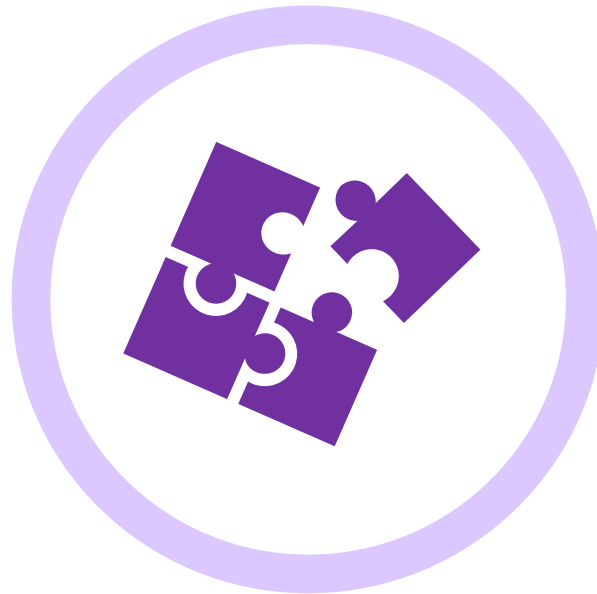
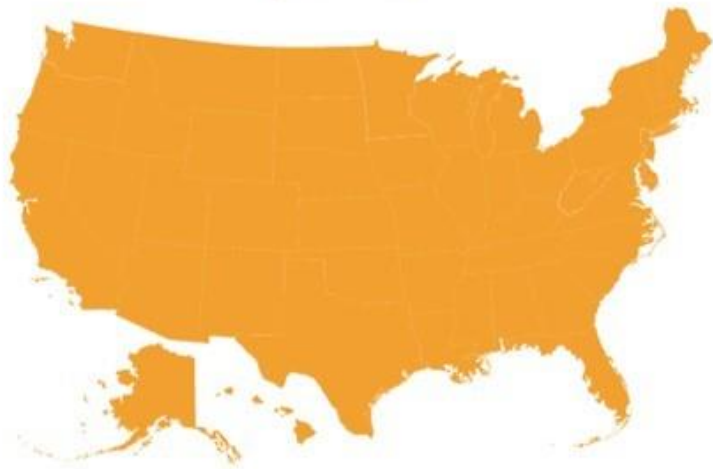
Review
administration and
security procedures



Review information
available to
candidates

SMEs Compare National OA to CA OA

National examinations test core, mainstream practice.



FULL PRACTICE

California examinations test what is unique about practice in the state.

- **Geology**
- **Weather**
- **California health and safety laws**
- **California-specific practice areas**



Recommendations Based on Results of OA and National Review



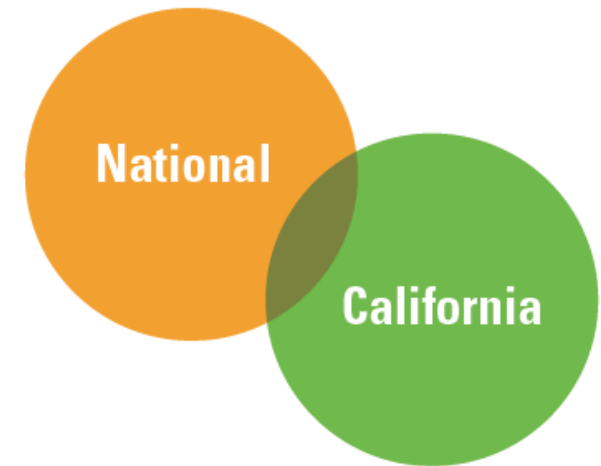
OPES recommendation:

- National examination
- California law examination



OPES recommendation:

- National examination
- California-specific law and practice examination



OPES recommendation:

- California examination



Thank you!

Questions?