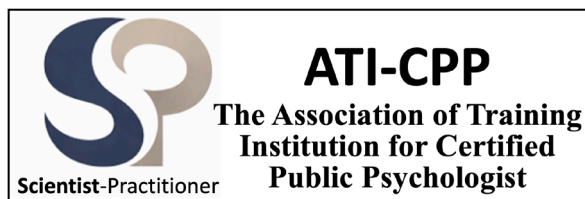


The Association of Training Institution for Certified Public Psychologist (ATI-CPP)

公認心理師養成大学教員連絡協議会（公大協）



The Association of Training Institution for Certified Public Psychologist (ATI-CPP) is a network for sharing information on the training of Certified Public Psychologists (CPP) among the universities and the graduate schools and for discussing future directions. It was founded in March 2018.

1. Founding Principles

The fundamental principle of ATI-CPP is the scientist-practitioner model. ATI-CPP aims to establish the training of CPP based on the scientist-practitioner model and to enhance the quality of their professional education, and thereby to contribute to the academic development of psychology, as well as to the promotion of people's mental and physical well-being in society. In addition, ATI-CPP aims to share the issues faced by each training university and graduate school, and to promote mutual collaboration among them.

2. Mission

(1) In order to improve the quality of education at training institutions providing training for CPP, ATI-CPP aims to share various issues faced by the members, and to seek to resolve these issues through cooperation among the members.

(2) In order to ensure and further improve the quality of CPPs, ATI-CPP aims to examine current problems and to explore directions for improvement, regarding undergraduate and graduate curricula, standard syllabi for each required subject, manuals for field practicum, and related matters. ATI-CPP also aims to make policy proposals on concrete measures for the national review of the CPP system every 5 years as well as for its subsequent implementation.

(3) ATI-CPP aims to clarify the definition of 'specialized knowledge and skills in psychology' as referred to in Article 2 of the Certified Public Psychologist Act, and to make policy proposals so that this definition is appropriately reflected in the national examination, including the weighting of questions across domains and examination methods.

(4) ATI-CPP aims to enhance the academic development of psychology, which forms the basis of the national CPP system, and to examine the role of universities as higher education institutions that contribute to the professional quality of CPP. ATI-CPP also aims to examine the appropriate form of doctoral programs for training the next generation of leaders, such as university faculty members and practicum supervisors.

(5) In order to correct regional disparities and inter-university disparities in the training of CPP, ATI-CPP promotes inter-university collaboration, including consortia and credit transfer systems, and build nationwide networks for the shared use of practicum sites and for supporting the career development of those who obtain the CPP qualification.

3. Membership

The membership of ATI-CPP consists of 3 categories; individual members, organizational members, and affiliated organizations. Membership in the Japanese Psychological Association is not required for any category.

(1) Individual Members

Individuals who are engaged in the education and training of CPP, including university faculty and practicum instructors, as well as individuals involved in education, research, or clinical practice in psychology-related fields.

(2) Organizational Members

Organizations that are engaged in the education and training of CPP. Membership registration is not limited to comprehensive training units; membership is allowed also at the level of university departments, programs, or academic disciplines or groups.

(3) Affiliated Organizations

Academic societies and other organizations that endorse and support the mission of ATI-CPP.

4. Membership Fees

At present, no membership fees or admission fees is charged.

5. Organizational Structure

ATI-CPP is administered in accordance with the bylaws of ATI-CPP established on May 19, 2019.

The Board Meeting is established to manage ATI-CPP, which is composed of the President, the Vice Presidents, the chairs of each committee, and the members of the 'Qualification System Coordination Committee' in the Japanese Psychological Association. The Board Meeting is the executive decision-making body to decide management policies of ATI-PPT and to implement them.

The President calls the General Assembly annually. The General Assembly serves as a forum for reporting activities to the members, hearing the opinions of members, promoting interaction among members, and discussing the issues and future directions.

The following Committees are established under the Board Meeting.

- the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee,
- the Graduate Curriculum Committee,
- the Field Practicum Committee,
- the National Examination Committee,
- the Editorial Committee,
- the Public Relations Committee.

The ATI-CPP hold the Coordination Meeting annually to collaborate with affiliated organizations and relevant subcommittees of the Science Council of Japan. The Coordination Meeting promotes information exchange, academic support, and personnel exchange to address various issues related to the national CPP system.

The management of ATI-CPP is conducted under the overall supervision of the Qualification System Coordination Committee placed in the Japanese Psychological Association.

6. Administrative Office

The Administrative Office of ATI-CPP is located within the offices of the Japanese Psychological Association.

January 2026

The Certified Public Psychologists: Japanese national qualifications of Professional Psychology

公認心理師：日本の心理専門職の国家資格

Pre-history of Legislation Process in Japan

- 1980's Organizational level certificates were being created
- 2005 Ideas of legalizing a license in professional psychology
- 2005 A bill (2 licensures) was created but not submitted to the Diet
- 2012 Parliamentary League for National Licensure of Psychologists
- 2013 Japan Center for Professional Psychologists Training was founded
- 2015 The Certified Public Psychologists Act was passed
- 2017 The Certified Public Psychologist Act went into effect

The Certified Public Psychologists Act

Summary of the Certified Public Psychologist Act

Source: the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare website

I. Purpose

The purpose of the law is to establish the qualifications of certified public psychologists to promote appropriate services by psychologists, thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of mental health in Japan.

II. Definition

A “certified public psychologist” is a person who has obtained registration in the certified public psychologist register and engages in the following services in health care, welfare, education, or other fields, based on specialized knowledge and skills about psychology, under the title of certified public psychologist.

- (1) Observation of the psychological states of persons needing support about psychology, and analysis of the results of such observation
- (2) Consultation, advice, guidance, and other psychology-related assistance for people needing support with psychology
- (3) Consultation, advice, guidance, and other assistance to persons related to psychology
- (4) Providing education and information to promote knowledge concerning mental health

III. Testing

The competent ministers will conduct certified public psychologist testing about the knowledge and skills needed by a certified public psychologist. The people eligible to undergo such testing are as follows.

- (1) Persons who have completed a course of study of subjects related to psychology, etc. specified by the competent ministers at both university and graduate school, etc.
- (2) Persons who have completed subjects related to psychology, etc. specified by the competent ministers at university and have obtained practical experience after graduation for a certain period.
- (3) Persons recognized by the competent ministers as having knowledge and skills that are at least equivalent to those of persons under (1) and (2) above

IV. Duties

1. Prohibition of disreputable acts
2. Duty of confidentiality (with penalties for offenders)
3. Certified public psychologists must cooperate with physicians, instructors, and other related people in conducting their services, and must obtain the instructions of the attending physician concerned with psychological support of a person needing support with regard to psychology, if the person has such a physician.

V. Restriction on use of title

Persons who are not certified public psychologists may not use the title of certified public psychologist or any title that includes the word 心理師 (psychologist) (with penalties for offenders).

VI. Competent ministers

The Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare

VII. Effective date

The law will take effect on a date specified by Cabinet order, not more than two years from the date of its promulgation, except for certain provisions.

VIII. Transitional measures

For people who have existing qualifications, etc. as practitioners in the field of psychology, the necessary transitional measures will be established about eligibility for testing, etc.

Five Major Practice Fields for Certified Public Psychologists

- 1) Medical/ Health
- 2) Welfare
- 3) Educational
- 4) Forensic/Criminal
- 5) Industrial/ Organizational

Educational Requirements

• Bachelor's + master's degree (both in psychology)

- Course work in psychology
- Practicum (80 hours + 450 hours)
- Post-graduate internship is not required

[Alternative route]

Bachelor's degree (psychology) + 2-year Internship

- Course work
- Practicum (80 hours)
- 2 years of work at one of the 9 accredited organizations

Required subjects

Source: Japanese Union of Psychological Association

<Undergraduate>

- 1 Professionalism of Licensed Psychologists
- 2 Introduction to Psychology
- 3 Introduction to Clinical Psychology
- 4 Psychological Research Methods
- 5 Psychological Statistics
- 6 Psychological Experiments
- 7 Psychology of Perception and Cognition
- 8 Psychology of Learning and Language
- 9 Psychology of Emotion and Personality
- 10 Neuro- and Physiological Psychology
- 11 Social, Group and Family Psychology
- 12 Developmental Psychology
- 13 Psychology for Adults & Children with Disabilities
- 14 Psychological Assessment
- 15 Methods of Psychological Support
- 16 Health and Medical Psychology
- 17 Psychology for Social Welfare
- 18 Educational and School Psychology
- 19 Forensic and Criminal Psychology
- 20 Industrial and Organizational Psychology
- 21 Human Body Structure, Function and Diseases
- 22 Psychiatric Disorders and Treatments
- 23 Legal and Administrative Systems
- 24 Seminar in Psychology
- 25 Practical Training in Psychology (> 80 hours)

<Graduate>

- 1 Support Theory and Applications in Medical and Health Area
- 2 Support Theory and Applications in Social Welfare Area
- 3 Support Theory and Applications in Educational Area
- 4 Support Theory and Applications in Forensics and Criminology Area
- 5 Support Theory and Applications in Industry and Work Area
- 6 Theory and Practice of Psychological Assessment
- 7 Theory and Practice of Psychological Support
- 8 Support Theory and Practice for Family, Group, and Community
- 9 Theory and Practice for Mental Health Education
- 10 Advanced Practical Training in Psychology (> 450 hours)

National Examination

- Defined by the law
- Governed by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare and the Ministry of Education
- Administered by the Center for Certified Public Psychologists
- once a year
- 4 hours
- 154 questions (theories, assessments, cases, experimental, stats etc.)

Benefits to the Public in Japan

- Services by the CPPs are defined in the Medical Fee systems and covered by the health care insurance system
- The CPPs became the central role of the school counselors
- Psychological factors related to child maltreatment, poverty, social isolation, NEET, and young career issues are being recognized
- Psychological services to crime victims, trauma, and gambling issues are delivered

Benefits to the Psychologists

- The validity and quality of psychological services is being recognized because of legislation, which elevated the professional status of psychologists
- CPPs can work in a team with other national level licensed professionals
- CPPs are getting similar wages to other licensed professionals
- The places for CPPs to work and provide psychological services are expanding
- CPPs are being invited to legislation processes of health-related issues and health promotion
- CPPs themselves are becoming more aware of and responsible to psychological knowledge and skills, ethical issues, and related laws
- Programs are attracting more motivated and qualified students
- Improving the quality of psychological services

Issues and Future Directions

- Still low rate of full-time positions (58% of CPPs)
- Low salary for CPPs in part-time positions
- Need more full-time positions
- More recognitions in the Medical Fee systems
- Early interventions and preventions
- Coordination with other professionals
- Promotion and improvement of mental wellness, work engagement
- Better overall services
- Importance of continuing education opportunities
- Importance of evidence-based clinical practices

The Association of Training Institution for Certified Public Psychologist
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