

2006 General Comprehensive Exam

Question 4

Legal and Ethical Issues

Start a new blue book. On the cover of the blue book or on the top of the computer page, write: the digits of your student number as listed on the brown envelope; Question 4, General Exam; and the date. If using a computer, use no more than six pages (10-point) double-spaced. If writing, use no more than twenty single-sided pages.

Question 4. Assume that you graduated from GSAPP **five** years ago and are engaged in a job as part of your desired career path (based upon your present thinking in August, 2006) Also assume that you are working in New Jersey. Then answer the three-part question below:

- A) Describe (a) the geographical location of where you would be working, and (b) the relevant job/career path, including the role, title, organizational setting, population and type of problems dealt with, and professional activities involved.
- B) Create two scenarios within your job/career path. Each scenario should generate a number of distinctively different ethical and/or legal issues. One scenario should be (a) an actual situation with which you are familiar, or (b) a creative reworking of a situation with which you are familiar. The other scenario can be (a) or (b), or (c) a hypothetical situation

Note: In the case scenarios, situations, and ethical/legal issues you identify, your discussion may focus on your own behavior, challenges and choices as an individual/professional, your clients/the public good, and/or the optimal development of the field.

For each scenario, do the following:

- 1) Describe the situation in some detail;
- 2) Analyze the ethical and legal issues both separately and in terms of how they relate to one another; and
- 3) Suggest guidelines for resolving the issues.

Back up your analyses with references to specifics in the following documents:

- a) APA's (2002) Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct,
- b) APA's 1987 General Guidelines for Providers of Psychological Services, and
- c) The New Jersey Licensing Law (or describe the parallel authority if you are working outside of New Jersey).
- d) Also, you are encouraged to include other writings related to the ethics and challenges of your career path.

(For brevity and consistency, please refer to a-c, respectively, as the “Ethical Principles,” the “Provider Guidelines,” and the “Licensing Law.”)

- C) Based on the scenario analyses in item B, generalize to how the principles and practices in the three documents:
 - (1) provide positive guidance in dealing with the ethical/legal issues,
 - (2) raise problems in dealing with the ethical/legal issues, and
 - (3) leave gaps and silence in dealing with the ethical/legal issues.