

Boundaries of Competence

Description and Importance

Boundaries of competence are a foundational ethical standard in clinical psychology. This chapter clarifies how clinical psychologists—without requiring advanced specialization in neuropsychology or developmental psychology—can ethically and effectively expand into adult ADHD evaluations. By aligning with APA ethical principles and completing structured training like this course, clinicians can gain the confidence and competence necessary to provide high-quality care. Emphasizing lifelong learning, appropriate supervision, and evidence-based practice, this chapter reinforces that expanding scope of practice is not only permissible but encouraged—when approached responsibly and with clear standards.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this chapter, clinicians will be able to:

1. Define the ethical and professional meaning of “boundaries of competence” in clinical practice.
2. Recognize how foundational clinical training supports entry into adult ADHD evaluation services.
3. Identify appropriate steps to ethically expand their scope of competence through continuing education and mentorship.
4. Understand the APA’s requirements for competency in psychological services and specialization.
5. Develop a personal plan to maintain and expand competence in adult ADHD assessment through ongoing training and peer consultation.
