



Staff Mental Health Specialist

Exam Code: 3MHBB

Administering Department: Department of State Hospitals

Exam Type: Servicewide, Open

Final Filing Date: Continuous

Class Code: 8325

CLASSIFICATION DETAILS

Staff Mental Health Specialist – \$6,061 to \$7,817 per month.

Salary updated as of: February 8, 2023

View the [Staff Mental Health Specialist classification specification](#)

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Final Filing Date: Continuous

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis. The cut-off-date is the first Friday (11:59 PM) of each month. All completed applications and Training and Experience examinations submitted by the cut-off-date will be processed for that administration.

Note: Applications and examinations may be processed on a flow basis prior to the cut-off-date to meet the hiring needs of the department.

Dates printed on envelopes by mobile barcodes or equivalent mobile print technology are not acceptable proof of the date the application and any other required documents or materials were filed.

Who Should Apply:

Applicants who meet the Minimum Qualifications as stated on this bulletin may apply for and take this examination. Once you have taken this examination, you may not retake it for twelve (12) months.

Unless otherwise stated on this bulletin, you must meet the Minimum Qualifications by the Final Filing Date or cut-off-date stated above.

How to Apply:

Step 1. Applicants are required to submit an [Examination Application \(STD 678\)](#), found at www.calcareers.ca.gov, either by mail, in person, or via email to the address listed below.

Step 2. Once your application has been submitted, you must complete the **Training and Experience (T&E)** following the instructions below under, **Taking the Examination**.

Applicants must complete Steps 1 and 2 by each cut-off date. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the examination process.

The preferred method to apply is by emailing your STD 678 to:

StaffMentalHealthSpecialist@dsh.ca.gov

Electronic signatures are acceptable.

Indicate the Classification on your Examination Application (STD 678).

You may apply in person at:
Department of State Hospitals – Sacramento
Selection Services Unit, MS-14
1215 O Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm (excluding State holidays)

Special Testing Arrangements:

If you require assistance or alternative testing arrangements due to a disability, please contact the testing department listed in the Contact Information section of this bulletin.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

All applicants must meet the education and/or experience requirements as stated on this exam bulletin to be accepted into the examination. Part-time or full-time jobs, regardless of whether paid or volunteer positions, and inside or outside California state service will count toward experience.

The following education requirement applies only to the non-California state service experience patterns of all four levels.

Education Requirements: Equivalent to graduation from college. (Supervisory, administrative, or clinical experience in the field of mental health may be substituted for the required education on a year-for-year basis.)

Either I: One year of experience in the California state service performing analytical skills comparable to those duties performed by an Associate Mental Health Specialist in a program for the mentally disabled. **Or**

Three years of experience providing professional clinical treatment in a State hospital in the Department of Mental Health (now Department of State Hospitals) at the level of responsibility equivalent to that of a Unit Supervisor.

Or II

Four years of experience either: (1) performing analytical staff work in planning, costing, and monitoring of a program for the mentally disabled (experience applied toward this pattern must include at least one year of performing duties comparable to those performed by an Associate Mental Health Specialist); or (2) providing professional clinical treatment for the mentally disabled, including three years at a level of responsibility equivalent to that of a Unit Supervisor in a State hospital for the mentally disabled.

(Possession of a Master's Degree in Psychology, rehabilitation, Nursing, Social Work, Public Administration, or closely related field may be substituted for two years of the required experience. Candidates who possess two years of the required experience and are in their final quarter or semester of completing the required course work will be admitted to the examination, but they must produce evidence of successful completion before they may be considered eligible for appointment)

SPECIAL PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

An objective and sympathetic understanding of the mentally and emotionally disturbed; tolerance and tact.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

A limited number of positions may be allocated as high-level, nonsupervisory specialists. Incumbents perform duties having significant impact on the Department's operations. Positions at this level are those where the function performed is critical to the Department's basic mission. Incumbents develop, implement, and evaluate innovative mental health programs, policies, pilot projects, or prototypes. Incumbents may act as a project leader or as a leadperson over a small group of lower-level analytical or clinical staff.

EXAMINATION SCOPE

This examination consists of the following components:

Training and Experience Evaluation – Weighted 100% of the final score.

The examination will consist solely of a **Training and Experience Evaluation**. To obtain a position on the eligible list, a minimum score of 70% must be received.

In addition to evaluating applicants' relative knowledge, skills, and ability, as demonstrated by quality and breadth of education and/or experience, emphasis in each exam component will be measuring competitively, relative job demands, each applicant's:

Knowledge of:

1. Principles and practices of public administration, and budgetary preparation and control.
2. Methods of clinical treatment of mentally disabled clients.
3. Mental health planning and procedures.
4. Social aspects of mental and emotional disturbances and mental deficiency.
5. Current trends in mental health, public health, public welfare, and governmental budgeting.
6. Techniques, trends, and problems in the operation of public and private mental health institutions.
7. Programs and trends in community or forensic mental health services in California.
8. Laws and regulations governing community or forensic mental health programs partially or totally funded by the State or Federal Government.
9. Principles and practices of organization and fiscal management.
10. Treatment programs.

11. Laws and regulations relating to Federal and State funding programs and State hospital and community treatment program organization.
12. Aspects of clinical services.
13. Principles of public personnel administration and supervision.

Ability to:

1. Work with community or forensic mental health administrators to improve mental health services.
2. Analyze situations accurately and take effective action.
3. Develop cooperative working relationships with community or forensic mental health administrators and health professionals.
4. Interpret mental health-related laws and their application to program situations.
5. Work effectively with clients.
6. Communicate effectively.
7. Work independently in identifying mental health program deficits and needs.
8. Developing recommendations for improvement of service delivery systems.

ELIGIBLE LIST INFORMATION

A Servicewide, Open eligible list for the **Staff Mental Health Specialist** classification will be established for use by all state agencies.

The names of **successful** competitors will be merged onto the eligible list in order of final score regardless of exam date. Eligibility expires **12 months** after it is established. Applicants must then retake the examination to reestablish eligibility.

Veterans' Preference will be granted for this examination. In accordance with Government Codes 18973.1 and 18973.5, whenever any veteran, or widow or widower of a veteran achieves a passing score on an open examination, he or she shall be ranked in the top rank of the resulting eligible list.

Veterans status is verified by the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR). Information on this program and the Veterans' Preference Application (Std. form 1093) is available online at the following website:

<https://www.jobs.ca.gov/CalHRPublic/Landing/Jobs/VeteransInformation.aspx>

Additional information on veteran benefits is available at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Career credits are not granted for examinations administered on an Open or Promotional basis.

Bulletin Date: 3/3/2023

PREPARING FOR THE EXAMINATION

Here is a list of suggested resources to have available prior to taking the exam.

1. **Employment History:** Employment dates, job titles, organization names and addresses, names of supervisors or persons who can verify your job responsibilities, and phone numbers of persons listed above.
2. **Education:** School names and addresses, degrees earned, dates attended, courses taken (verifiable on a transcript), persons or office who can verify education, and phone numbers of persons or offices listed above.
3. **Training:** Class titles, certifications received, names of persons who can verify your training, and phone numbers of persons listed above.

TAKING THE EXAMINATION

Step 1. Submit your STD 678 to StaffMentalHealthSpecialist@dsh.ca.gov, then IMMEDIATELY go to Step 2.

Step 2. [Click on this link to take the Staff Mental Health Specialist examination.](#)

Applicants must complete Steps 1 and 2 by each cut-off date. Failure to do so will result in the examination process.

TESTING DEPARTMENT

Department of State Hospitals

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions relating to this exam should be directed to:

Department of State Hospitals
Selection Services Unit
Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm (excluding State Holidays)
Phone: 916-651-8832
Email: StaffMentalHealthSpecialist@dsh.ca.gov

California Relay Service: 1-800-735-2929 (TTY), 1-800-735-2922 (Voice). TTY is a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf, and is reachable only from phones equipped with a TTY Device.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The State of California is an equal opportunity employer to all, regardless of age, ancestry, color, disability (mental and physical), exercising the right of family care and medical leave, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, medical condition, military or veteran status, national origin, political affiliation, race, religious creed, sex (includes pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and related medical conditions), and sexual orientation.

DRUG-FREE STATEMENT

It is an objective of the State of California to achieve a drug-free State work place. Any applicant for State employment will be expected to behave in accordance with this objective, because the use of illegal drugs is inconsistent with the law of the State, the rules governing civil service, and the special trust placed in public servants.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Examination and/or Employment Application (STD 678) forms are available at the California Department of Human Resources, local offices of the Employment Development Department, and through your CalCareer Account at the following website:

<http://www.CalCareers.ca.gov/>

If you meet the requirements stated on this examination bulletin, you may take this examination, which is competitive. Possession of the entrance requirements does not assure a place on the eligible list. Your performance in the examination described in this bulletin will be rated against a predetermined job-related rating, and all applicants who pass will be ranked according to their score.

The Department of State Hospitals reserves the right to revise the examination plan to better meet the needs of the service, if the circumstances under which this examination was planned change. This examination may be canceled by the Department of State Hospitals at any time prior to the establishment of the employment list. Such revision or cancelation will be in accordance with civil service laws and rules and all applicants will be notified.

General Qualifications: Applicants must possess essential personal qualifications including integrity, initiative, dependability, good judgement, the ability to work cooperatively with others, and a state of health consistent with the ability to perform the assigned duties of the class. A medical examination may be required. In open examinations, investigation may be made of employment records and personal history and fingerprinting may be required.

Eligible Lists: Eligible lists established by competitive examination, regardless of date, must be used in the following order: 1) sub-divisional promotional, 2) departmental promotional, 3) multi-departmental promotional, 4) servicewide promotional, 5) departmental open, 6) open. When there are two lists of the same kind, the older must be used first. Eligible lists will expire in one to four years unless otherwise stated on the bulletin.

High School Equivalence: Equivalence to completion of the 12th grade may be demonstrated in any one of the following ways: 1) passing the General Education Development (GED) Test; 2) completion of 12 semester units of college-level work; 3) certification from the State Department of Education, a local school board, or high school authorities that the competitor is considered to have education equivalent to graduation from high school; or 4) for clerical and accounting classes, substitution of business college work in place of high school on a year-for-year basis.