



The American Board and Academy of Psychoanalysis (ABAPsa) is a member board of the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP), which oversees the standards and operations of its 15 specialty member boards. ABPP is the only multi-board organization recognized by the American Psychological Association's Commission for the Recognition of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology (CRSPPP). It is the highest level of certification within the field of psychology.

ABAPsa is responsible for establishing criteria related to the definition, education, training, competencies, and the examination leading to certification as a specialist in psychoanalytic psychology. It also requires board certified specialists to provide continuing evidence of expertise in their specialty in order to maintain ABPP certification. ABAPsa is governed by members who are board certified in Psychoanalysis and representative of the specialty on a national basis.

Psychoanalysis

Psychoanalysis is a means of understanding human motivation and behavior based upon an understanding of factors outside of a person's awareness. It informs both scholarly study and practice. This deep perspective toward psychological intervention emphasizes the relationship between analysand and analyst. It necessarily continues over some extended time, in that understanding of the relationship reflects reinstatement of the life history of the analysand. This reveals the dynamics of the treatment process, leading to reduction of personal distress.

Certification in Psychoanalysis

Board certification assures the public and the profession that the psycho-analytic psychologist specialist has successfully completed the educational, training, and experience requirements of the specialty including an examination designed to assess the competencies required to provide quality services in psychoanalysis. Specialties, by definition, are advanced levels of practice including doctoral and postdoctoral preparation.

ABPP Central Office

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Requirements for Board Certification Board

Board certification assures the public and the profession that the specialist in psychoanalysis has met the educational, training and experience requirements, as well as demonstrating the advanced competencies required by the specialty through an individualized, peer reviewed examination. The examination encompasses the following interrelated domains of professional competence in psychoanalysis: Assessment and Intervention: The assessment and intervention competencies related to the practice of psychoanalysis are fundamental aspects of the specialty.

Application of Research and Theory

Knowledge of the theoretical bases of psychoanalysis and its appropriate application to the contemporary practice of psychoanalysis is assessed. An understanding of theory and research pertaining to issues of diversity e.g. ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, family cultural issues, and family populations are also assessed.

Application of Ethics and Legal Standards

Awareness and appropriate exercise of ethical and legal standard are expected. This includes the APA Ethical Principles and current statutory provisions and case law precedents applicable for the protection of the interests of individuals, groups, organizations, the profession, and society.

Professional Identification

Meaningful involvement with the profession of psychology in general and psychoanalysis in particular.

Consultation and Supervision

These competency areas have emerged as significant areas of practice for many specialists and are often applicable when the specialist's pattern of practice includes consultation or supervision in an important way.

Individual and Cultural Diversity

Awareness and sensitivity in working professionally with diverse individuals, groups, and communities who represent various cultural and personal background and characteristics.

Interpersonal Interactions

The ability to relate effectively and meaningfully with individuals, groups, and/or communities. Effectiveness in interdisciplinary systems.

Specialty-Specific Eligibility Requirements

The applicant for specialty board certification in psychoanalysis must be in the practice of the specialty following completion of postdoctoral education and training in psychoanalysis.

Postdoctoral education and training in psychoanalysis is defined as completion of a program from a recognized postdoctoral psychoanalytic training institute or organized postdoctoral program in psychoanalysis, OR, education and training secured through a planned, individualized Sequence of education, supervision, and practice acceptable to ABAPsa.

Fees

\$125 fee for application and credential review to establish candidacy.
\$250 fee for the practice sample review and establishment of the oral examination team.
\$450 for the oral examination.

These fees are due sequentially over the time span necessary to complete all of the candidacy and examination steps. Upon granting Board certification a yearly fee of \$185 is assessed to support the many services of the ABPP and the representation of the organization to the public and the profession.