

Curriculum Overview

Psychoanalytic Education Program / Psychoanalysis for Scholars*

Year 1: Fundamentals Year

Key Concepts:

- Introduction to Core Concepts/Theories
- Psychoanalytic Development
- Case Conference
- Ethics
- Integrative Psychoanalysis
- Social Theory

Year One focuses on the fundamental building blocks of psychoanalytic thought and the direct observation of human growth. Candidates explore core models of the mind and study development across the entire life cycle to establish a baseline for clinical understanding. A central component of this inaugural year is infant observation, which requires candidates to witness the earliest stages of psychological development in a home setting. This observational work is paired with introductory case conferences and seminars on critical clinical issues such as ethics, race, and gender.

Year 2

Key Concepts:

- In-depth Study of Core Concepts/Theories
- 2nd Year Case Conference
- Psychoanalytic Technique
- Developmental Psychopathology
- Child & Adolescent Case Studies
- Psychoanalytic Writing

Year Two shifts toward the historical and structural evolution of the field, beginning with an intensive study of the Freudian sequence. Candidates trace the development of psychoanalytic theory from its origins into the era of ego psychology, examining how the functions of the mind and various defense mechanisms are conceptualized. This year also introduces a detailed study of psychopathology, allowing candidates to bridge theoretical concepts with the clinical reality of various mental health conditions. Technical training begins in earnest here, focusing on the mechanics of the psychoanalytic frame and the establishment of the therapeutic relationship.

Year 3

Key Concepts:

- Intermediate Concepts/Theories
- 3rd Year Case Conference
- Advanced Psychoanalytic Technique
- Advanced Social Theory

Year Three introduces a diversity of modern psychoanalytic perspectives, moving beyond classical models to explore self psychology, object relations, and relational theory. This phase of the curriculum challenges candidates to understand how internal representations of others and the interpersonal field between the analyst and patient influence the treatment process. Clinical seminars become more advanced, specifically addressing difficult cases and the complex impasses that can occur during long-term analysis.

Year 4

Key Concepts:

- Termination Seminar
- Advanced Concepts/Theories
- Integrative Psychoanalysis
- Colloquium
- Capstone

Year Four serves as the period of synthesis and integration, where candidates begin to reconcile different theoretical models to find their own clinical voice. The curriculum emphasizes comparative theory, allowing for a high-level evaluation of the various schools of thought studied in previous years. A significant portion of the final year is dedicated to the termination seminar, which examines the psychological and technical nuances of ending an analysis. The program concludes with advanced seminars and elective topics that allow candidates to explore specialized areas like neuropsychanalysis or trauma before completing their didactic requirements.

Year 5 / Electives

Year 5:

- Advanced Case Conference

Electives:

- Complexity
- Race, Class, and Authoritarianism
- Advanced Infant Observation
- And more..

The **Fifth Year** serves as the final integration phase, focusing on advanced clinical refinement and specialized theory. Candidates use this time to complete their remaining Case Conference requirements, transitioning from learning the basic "frame" to mastering the nuance of long-term treatment.

Child & Adolescent (CAPEP) Courses

Key Concepts:

- Infant Observation
- CA Case Conferences
- CA Case Studies
- CA Beginning Analysis
- CA Play & Dreams
- CA Transference & Countertransference

The **Child and Adolescent Psychoanalytic Education Program (CAPEP)** curriculum is designed as an integrated clinical journey that moves from pure observation to intensive therapeutic intervention. Rather than treating subjects as isolated silos, the program weaves together developmental theory, technical skill, and real-world clinical application to form a comprehensive framework for understanding the young mind.

*** Psychoanalysis for Scholars non-clinical track students do not participate in courses containing clinical material (case conference, technique, etc.).**