



Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What is the ACPEinc?* The ACPEinc, a Delaware not for profit corporation, is an autonomous accrediting body that was established in 2001 to implement the Standards of Psychoanalytic Education that the Psychoanalytic Consortium had delineated. While it began as a project of the Consortium and continues to receive some – but not all – of its funding from its component members, it functions with complete freedom. It has a good chance of becoming the first independent psychoanalytic accrediting agency to achieve US DOE recognition.

2. *What is the mission of the ACPEinc?* The ACPEinc has a twofold mission: to protect the public by evaluating and accrediting psychoanalytic training programs in the United States and to promote excellence in psychoanalytic education. By its accrediting function the ACPEinc aims to assure that training institutions educated practitioners of psychoanalysis to appropriate standards.

3.a. *Why should an institute seek ACPEinc accreditation?* It seems reasonable to believe that an institute that adheres to the core Standards of Psychoanalytic Education will welcome the opportunity to have the high quality of its program endorsed by an independent agency. The ACPEinc is that agency.

The self-study exercise that is the essential element of our application allows an institute to review for itself the extent to which it meets its own stated objectives. The site visit and reporting process afford an institute opportunities to view itself in the eyes of colleagues from other parts of the country. This provides affirmation and the basis for continuing self improvement.

ACPEinc accreditation immediately provides university-affiliated programs status equal to that of other advanced programs in graduate schools, which customarily require each such program to gain accreditation by its relevant independent review agency.

Eventually, successful participation in the ACPEinc accreditation process will allow both freestanding and university-affiliated institutes to present their psychoanalytic training programs as subspecialty Fellowships – or as education for a new health care specialty. This will consolidate the position of psychoanalysis in the world of academic professional training, in which accreditation by independent agencies such as the ACPEinc is the norm.

3.b. *What are the advantages to candidates?* ACPEinc accreditation assures prospective candidates that an institute that they may be considering provides appropriate training in the core elements of psychoanalytic theory and practice, and an introduction to research in these areas. US DOE recognition will enhance the value of training in an ACPEinc-accredited institute when that institute offers a subspecialty Fellowship for mental health professionals.

A candidate who is not a member of a core mental health profession or who chooses separate licensing as a psychoanalyst will be more likely autonomously to practice clinical psychoanalysis after graduation, even in restrictive regulatory environments. That is because US DOE recognition will significantly increase the probability that ACPEinc standards will inform future state licensing laws for psychoanalysts – and the regulations that implement both current and future laws.

Eventually, we anticipate, graduation from an ACPEinc-accredited institute will confer eligibility to sit for national certification examinations (e.g., the Diplomate in Psychoanalysis in Psychology).

4. *Does the ACPEinc require adherence to a specific school of psychoanalysis or a particular approach to psychoanalytic education?* The ACPEinc is aware that psychoanalysis in the United States is a rich and diverse profession, and that its Standards may be implemented in various ways. We expect only that each institute will adhere to the core Standards and that it will implement its own standards and values in a coherent and consistent fashion.

5. *How may an institute apply for ACPEinc accreditation?* Our web site, ACPEinc.org, contains an outline for Self Study and full information about the process leading from application through accreditation. Institutes may request a mentor – usually a Trustee of the ACPEinc – who will provide further information, support and guidance.

6. *What about new psychoanalytic training programs?* The ACPEinc accredits only established institutes; but we will offer support and guidance to the founders of a new program from the earliest phase of their work, to help assure that their institute will in due course meet ACPEinc standards.

7. *How may one contact the ACPEinc?* Our web site, ACPEinc.org, has a link for communicating with us; or you may reach our President, Sheila Hafter Gray, at shgray@post.harvard.edu . . .