

MIP's Program for Advanced Candidates: Information for Prospective Applicants

1. INTRODUCTION

The MIP Advanced Candidate Training Program was established for senior clinicians who, although they have not previously completed a formal program in psychoanalysis, have managed to attain in both formal and informal ways, the equivalent of a significant portion of psychoanalytic training. These are individuals whose previous clinical experience, personal analyses, and psychoanalytic teaching, writing, and research have accorded them a high level of recognition for their clinical and theoretical sophistication and accomplishment. MIP provides a process whereby these individuals may be carefully evaluated, and if warranted, may be given credit towards advanced standing in our psychoanalytic institute on the basis of what they have already achieved. For instance, once accepted into the program, advanced candidates who have been engaged in intensive psychoanalytic clinical work under the supervision of an analyst may be granted some credit towards the required supervision on one case.

MIP's program for advanced candidate training has been designed for maximal flexibility and responsiveness to individual needs at a high level of accomplishment. However, nothing in the plan for advanced candidates calls for a reduction in overall requirements for completion of psychoanalytic training as compared to the program for regular candidates. Rather the plan calls for crediting candidates, in a careful and appropriate way, with what they have already accomplished toward the graduation requirements. The three major components and requirements of psychoanalytic training for all candidates, whether advanced or regular, are theoretical knowledge, control supervision, and a personal analysis. Because of the substantial overlap of requirements between the two training programs, it is essential that, in addition to reading this document, you familiarize yourself with the regular training program and also with the regular MIP Curriculum.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- a) The Advanced Candidacy Program shall be open only to **independently licensed** clinical practitioners from the field of psychology, clinical social work, psychiatry, nursing, and mental health counseling.
- b) Applicants for advanced candidacy should generally be **10 years beyond completion of their** respective terminal professional degrees and should have spent most of their professional time, during those ten years, in the practice of intensive, long-term, psychoanalytically-oriented psychotherapy.
- c) Applicants' clinical work should present clear evidence of sustained interest in, and substantial commitment to, the **application of psychoanalytic thinking in the clinical setting.**
- d) Applicants should have either already terminated a **substantial personal analysis** or, if they are still in analysis, should be beyond the third year of their personal analysis with a qualified psychoanalyst. **Note:** Although some applicants may not have had a formal analysis, they may still be considered for advanced candidacy if they meet all other criteria and have had substantial periods of personal psychoanalytic psychotherapy and in other respects qualify for advanced candidacy. **Such individuals would commence a personal analysis upon enrollment in the program for advanced candidates.**
- e) Applicants for advanced candidacy should have achieved **psychoanalytic theoretical knowledge at least** at the intermediate level. Ideally, they have command of the literature commensurate with MIP candidates in the regular program who are entering their fourth year of

classes. Advanced Candidates should also be self-directed persons who are capable of thriving in less structured learning environments.

f) Applicants for advanced candidacy should be able to present to the Admissions Committee documentation of their theoretical knowledge in the form of Syllabi for the psychoanalytic courses they have taught, as well as a representative sampling of their psychoanalytic publications.

Please note, however, that applicants for advanced candidacy are still to be considered as candidates and students. Thus, they will not be expected to demonstrate, at the time of application, mastery of psychoanalytic knowledge beyond what would be expected of advanced candidates at comparable psychoanalytic institutes.

g) Because the Advanced Candidate Program offers only two years of formal course work, it is essential that candidates enter the program ready to begin at least one analytic control case under supervision. It is preferable that applicants already have several patients in their practices who are being seen on a two or three times a week basis, and that one or two of these patients might be appropriate for conversion from psychotherapy to psychoanalysis.

3. FEES

The fee structure for advanced candidate applications shall be as follows:

a. At the time of submitting the written application and documentation, advanced candidates shall enclose a check for \$130 made out to **MIP**.

b. If the written application is found to be satisfactory, the Admissions Committee shall notify advanced candidates to set up evaluation interviews at which point advanced candidates shall pay a second fee of \$120 to partially cover interviewing costs.

c. Advanced candidate tuition is \$800. Per semester

4. APPLICATION PROCESS

A. Deadline for applications is April 1st. The program of study begins annually in early September. If you believe that you might qualify for Advanced study at MIP and would like to apply for the training program, your application must be received by April 1st of the year in which you would like to begin taking September classes.

B. Interviews:

The applicant shall have three interviews, each lasting approximately one and one-half to two hours, with three separate interviewers. At least two of the interviewers shall be members of the Admissions Committee. The third interviewer shall be either a member of the Admissions Committee or an outside interviewer designated by the Committee. **In the course of their interviews, applicants should expect to discuss in detail and forthrightly the full range of issues that might arise regarding their pursuit of further psychoanalytic training, including: the details of their personal analysis and their experience and learning from it; the nature of their clinical work including specific cases and supervision; their professional development; and whatever** other issues the interviewers may deem necessary to evaluate the applicant's suitability for admission and particular needs for further training in various areas.

D. Admissions Decisions:

Following the interviews, the Admissions Committee will make a recommendation as to

admission of the applicant. For admitted applicants, the Committee will also make decisions concerning any recommendations or conditions beyond the basic requirements. The candidate will receive a phone call from a member of the Admissions Committee who will communicate the Committee's decisions concerning admission and course of study. This phone call will be followed up with a formal letter of acceptance or non-acceptance. In the case of acceptance, the letter will also outline the conditions of acceptance and any additional requirements for graduation that are specific to the individual candidate. The candidate will sign a copy of this letter and return it to the Institute Administrator.

In assessing applicants for advanced candidacy, the Admissions Committee shall be guided and informed by the general criteria for admission and assessment as these have been developed for candidates in MIP's regular program and at other analytic institutes.

Denial of Admission

The Admissions Committee may deny admission to advanced candidate applicants on the grounds that the applicant does not sufficiently meet minimum requirements for advanced placement, or that the applicant does not meet more general standards for psychoanalytic candidacy. If the applicant does not meet minimum requirements for advanced standing, the applicant may re-apply, without prejudice, for admission as a regular candidate. The evaluation of the Admissions Committee shall remain strictly confidential except in the event of an appeal (see below). The initial \$130 application fee shall be applied to whatever further application fees may be incurred. No other fees shall be refunded.

Applicants who are denied admission may request an interview with a member of the Admissions Committee to discuss the Committee's evaluation. There shall be no appeal of the Committee's decision except on procedural grounds which shall go to MIP's Board or to the Board's designated committee. If such an appeal is made, the Admissions Committee may communicate its procedures, evaluation, and grounds for rejection to the Board or its designated committee.

5. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION FROM THE ADVANCED CANDIDATE PROGRAM

A. Supervised Analyses:

All MIP candidates must treat 3 analytic cases, each one supervised by a (different) qualified psychoanalyst. Two cases of the three cases should be completed at a frequency of four times per week. A third psychoanalytic case is required and may be "modified." It may be modified by frequency, type of contact (phone), or type of case. The total number of required supervisory hours, for the three cases, is 200 hours. The first 2 cases require 75 supervisory hours each, and the third or modified case requires 50 hours of supervision.

Accepted advanced candidates may qualify for supervisory credit for analytic work supervised by a qualified analyst prior to applying to MIP on one analytic case. Candidates should speak to their Training Committee Liaison to inquire about the process. (See p. 5).

B. Academic Work:

Advanced Candidates are required to participate, at a minimum, in a two-part, once-a-week seminar for two academic years. The seminar consists of two six-week segments each semester — a Clinical Seminar and a Theoretical Seminar. Semesters are 12 weeks long. The first semester runs from early or mid-September to mid- or late December. The second semester runs from late February or early March to the end of May. In addition, MIP offers a Mini-Semester Program during the months of January and February. Advanced Candidates are required to take an Elective seminar in the Mini-Semester Program during the first year of their training, and an Ethics course

during their second year.

Newly admitted candidates will join an ongoing cohort with a previously determined curriculum. These candidates will participate in determining the curriculum for the following year.

The Course Work:

1. The Clinical Seminar is led by a senior psychoanalyst. Advanced Candidates take turns presenting their supervised analyses for discussion among their peers. All Advanced Candidates are expected to attend the Clinical Seminar during the first two years of doing control work, and to present their analytic supervised analyses to their peers before graduating. Advanced Candidates who get a late start in their control work will present their cases in a clinical seminar, even if this involves attending classes beyond the minimum two-year coursework requirement. Candidates who have completed their course work in MIP's Regular Training Program are welcome to join the Advanced Candidates Clinical Seminar, and many partake of this opportunity.

2. The Theoretical Seminar has the goal of bringing together and consolidating the theoretical viewpoints and knowledge that the Advanced Candidates have acquired through their own prior training and other course work, as well as to fill in the theoretical gaps of individual candidates. The colloquium serves the further purpose of introducing Advanced Candidates to MIP's unique perspective, consistent with the comparative focus of the MIP curriculum.

In addition to the Clinical and Theoretical Seminars, the Admissions Committee may require individual Advanced Candidates to take other courses and tutorials, or to undertake other ways of acquiring background and further education in areas in which the Committee deems candidates to be deficient or in need of more fully developed perspective. Advanced Candidates may also be asked to participate in other facets of the general curriculum, such as participating in workshops open to the community, or presenting their Control work to Clinical Seminars in the regular program.

C. Personal Analysis:

Applicants for advanced candidacy who have completed prior, substantial personal analyses may have these qualify for the personal analysis component of training. However, the Admissions Committee may recommend or **require** further treatment.

After acceptance into the program, the pursuit of further psychoanalysis or psychotherapy may be recommended or required. Any formal recommendation concerning further treatment would be discussed between the candidate and his or her Liaison. Supervisors are expected to collaborate with the Liaison and candidates.

D. Final Project:

The final project is broadly viewed as an opportunity for candidates at the conclusion of their psychoanalytic training to study an issue in depth and present their work to colleagues. It has also proven to be an opportunity to enhance one's professional development and identity as a psychoanalyst.

POST-ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

STRUCTURES OF SUPPORT & GUIDANCE FOR THE ADVANCED CANDIDATE:

Liaison: Immediately following a new candidate's acceptance into the program, MIP's Training

Committee will assign one of its members to function as a Liaison for the candidate throughout his or her training at MIP. The Liaison facilitates the candidate's orientation to the training program and meets with the newly accepted candidate to discuss special training needs and interests, including any recommendations and requirements that were made as a condition of acceptance by the Admissions Committee. The candidate works with the Liaison to determine how these recommendations and requirements can best be met. The Liaison is also an ongoing source of information and advisement to the candidate throughout his or her training, and is the person who can bring any special training needs or concerns of the candidate back to the Training Committee for problem-solving and resolution.

Advanced Candidate's Advisory Committee: Every MIP Candidate has an Advisory Committee that consists of the Liaison assigned from the Training Committee plus the Clinical Supervisors selected over time by the Candidate to supervise the three required analytic supervised analyses. Additionally, a candidate may opt to invite another psychoanalyst to serve as an Advisor. The Liaison is available to discuss with the candidate potential cases for psychoanalysis and discuss potential supervisors from among MIP psychoanalysts or from among psychoanalysts at other institutes providing they are willing to become members of MIP. The Liaison serves as the official administrative link between the Candidate and the Training Committee. The Liaison is responsible for facilitating essential communication between the candidate and the Training Committee and, in general, for supporting the candidate's training at MIP.

The Candidate's Advisory Committee meets at least once a year to discuss the candidate's progress through the program and to give the candidate an opportunity to provide feedback to the Curriculum and Training Committees about the quality of the candidate's MIP experience.

The Advanced Candidate Deans: There are 2 Deans for the Advanced Candidates Program — one from the Curriculum Committee and one from the Training Committee. The Deans' role is to help the group clarify learning needs and objectives, develop and plan curriculum, and identify faculty relevant to training needs and interests. Candidates may express their preferences and make recommendations regarding faculty but final decisions are made in consultation with the Deans. Deans meet with the candidates at the end of each semester to solicit feedback from the candidates, to plan curricula and faculty for future semesters, and to discuss any training issues that arise.

CREDIT FOR PRIOR PSYCHOANALYTIC SUPERVISION:

MIP provides an evaluation process through which credit may be granted to admitted candidates for supervision they have received on one analytic case prior to enrollment at MIP. The Candidate first provides documentation that the patient was seen 3 or more times a week and the case supervisor certifies that the process was psychoanalytic in nature. Additionally, the candidate will write up the case and discuss it with MIP's evaluating committee, which will make the final determination concerning whether or not credit will be granted. If credit is granted for prior supervision of analytic work, it is applied to the required supervisory hours on the "modified" or "third" analytic control case, up to 50 hours.

There is a standing committee to evaluate whether supervisory credit can appropriately be granted for analytic work conducted prior to formal training at MIP. This committee shall have sole discretion to determine the applicability and quality of prior supervision for control purposes, and the amount of control work to be credited (up to 50 hours on one of the 3 required supervised analyses). Should a maximum credit of the full 50 hours be granted on one case, then the candidate will be required to treat only 2 supervised analyses under supervision while in training at MIP (instead of the usual 3). A total of 150 hours of supervision hours will still be required on the 2 remaining cases: 75 hours on each.

This process is separate from the Admissions process and occurs only after an applicant is accepted into the Advanced Candidate Training Program. If a newly accepted candidate believes that he or she might qualify for supervisory credit up to 50 hours, he or she should contact his or her Training Committee Liaison. The Candidate will provide the name, address and telephone number of the analytic supervisor, and the dates of all prior supervisory sessions. In addition, the committee will need to know the number of times per week that the analytic patient was seen, and over what period of time. If all of this information meets the requirement for supervisory credit, then the candidate will be asked to write up a summary description of the analytic treatment that was supervised. The committee will review the written material and, if the written material is found to be acceptable, invite the candidate to a meeting for the purpose of discussing the case. On the basis of this process, the committee will make a decision to grant supervisory credit or not.

The procedure (as just described) is intended to assure fairness in the process of evaluating and granting credit for previously supervised analytic work.