

BOSTON GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PSYCHOANALYSIS

The Master's and Doctoral Programs in Psychoanalysis & Culture

Program Overview

The Master's and Doctor of Psychoanalysis (Psy.D.) programs in Psychoanalysis & Culture offers students a cutting edge curriculum and prepares them through interdisciplinary study for scholarly research, teaching and professional practice. While social scientists and scholars in humanities and cultural studies are becoming increasingly interested in the psychoanalysis *of* culture and in the cultural analysis *of* psychoanalysis, very few institutions of higher education provide an arena for such interdisciplinary undertaking. This program, the first of its kind in the United States, has emerged to fill the gap in the academy for such critical pursuits. Its distinct mission is to promote systematic dialogue between psychoanalysis, critical social theory, and cultural analysis.

Core and elective courses provide a solid foundation in theory and methods needed for systematic integration of psychoanalysis, critical social theory, and culture. The distinctive character of the program is its emphasis on crafting new theoretical and methodological links between psychoanalysis, social sciences, humanities, and cultural studies. Students in the program are exposed to new conceptions of psychoanalysis and culture and to new methods for their interdisciplinary study.

Students may choose to concentrate on the study of psychoanalysis in relation to culture, on cultural analysis of psychoanalytic thinking, on psychoanalytic readings or interpretations of cultural representations such as media, literature or arts. Students may also choose to focus on interdisciplinary work responsive to the contemporary issues of national and international violence, conflicts, terrorism and culture wars. Candidates in the doctoral program may seek positions in academia as researchers or teachers, or as senior administrators in mental health or social service agencies.

Concentration in Psychoanalytic Social Theory

This concentration is relevant to a wide range of students in the social sciences, humanities, media, communication and fine arts, as well as those with professional interests in psychotherapy who wish to develop and apply their skills to areas on which this degree focuses. All the core interdisciplinary courses and electives are taught by faculty from within and outside the Graduate School so students will benefit from the shared knowledge and experience of experts in different fields.

Concentration in the Study of Violence

This concentration is relevant to those students and professionals who are seeking to understand the causes, effects, and forms of violence in our culture. It fosters interdisciplinary inquiry about violence and its competing explanations through psychoanalysis, social science, and behavioral research. Through the analysis of historical texts and artifacts, through the interpretation of cultural representations of violence, a forum is created to address relevant critical social and cultural issues at a much deeper level. Through pragmatic and ethical reflection on the meaning of violence and the use of violence to combat violence, students learn to apply their knowledge of policy formulation to adopt and implement effective and humane preventive strategies.

Admissions Requirements

Application and general graduate admission information are available in the Graduate School's Bulletin and on the School's web site. www.bgsp.edu. Additional inquiries concerning the program and application procedures may be directed to the Program Director at psychculture@bgsp.edu.

Students who already have an M.A. in psychoanalysis or a relevant field are eligible to apply to the doctoral program. Students with only a bachelor's degree should apply to a Master's program in Psychoanalysis and Culture, Psychoanalysis, or Psychoanalytic Counseling.

Students who are pursuing a doctoral degree in clinical psychoanalysis may also choose to concentrate on psychoanalysis and culture and conduct research on cultural aspects of psychopathology. Students may also get their Doctorate in Psychoanalysis and Culture while getting their clinical training which culminates in the Certificate in Psychoanalysis. The latter option requires the fulfillment of the additional requirements of clinical training.

Admission to doctoral study is restricted to applicants whose backgrounds show promise of scholarship in the field of study. Before admission to a doctoral program, an applicant to the Graduate School must submit

- Evidence of an earned B.A or Master's degree from an accredited college or university
- Official transcripts of all previous college work
- Three letters of recommendation, at least one from a professional colleague or academic advisor
- Three interviews with the appropriate program faculty or members of the Admissions Committee
- Submission of writing samples
- A 1200 word statement of academic and career interests in psychoanalysis and culture including the applicants desired area of specialization and research interests.

Once a student has been accepted into the doctoral program, continuous enrollment (Fall and Spring) is required through completion of the dissertation. Students who (a) do not begin in the designated semester of their acceptance (b) withdraw from all classes, or (c) drop out for one or more semesters must submit in writing a request for Leave of Absence to the Program Director. Failure to do so requires re-application for admission following the above guidelines.

Time to Degree: Normal time to degree for completion of the Psya.D. for students entering with a BA degree is approximately 6 years. This may be different for those

coming in with a M.A. in Psychoanalysis or in another Social Behavioral discipline and for those who are given credit for courses taken elsewhere.

Degree Requirements

To qualify for the Psya.D. degree in Psychoanalysis and Culture, a candidate must

- Complete a minimum of 72 credit hours toward the degree in addition to a minimum of 4 hours for dissertation writing
- Complete a minimum two- year residency requirement
- Successfully complete the course of study as specified in the degree plan, including the dissertation, within a ten-year period
- Pass a Qualifying Examination as designed and administered by the student's Qualifying Committee and be successfully advanced to candidacy
- Successfully defend the doctoral dissertation as directed and approved by the Dissertation Committee

A specific program concentration may require additional completion requirements.

The Doctoral Program Requirements:

1. **Completion of 18 required and 6 elective courses**, exclusive of dissertation, taken during the first five years of the program. (Note: All courses must be completed with a grade of P or better.) The required courses are designed to expose students to the specific emphases within the program on psychoanalysis/ culture/violence, and the role of culture in mental health. They also provide students with training and basic skills in qualitative and quantitative research. The curriculum includes core courses, elective courses, practicum, and research. Students must also pass written comprehensive and oral qualifying examinations before they undertake research at the doctoral level to test the student's command and knowledge of their specific areas of concentration and a defense of the student's dissertation proposal.

2. **The qualifying examination** (usually taken in the third year) has several goals and purposes. It is intended to challenge students to prepare a critical, synthetic review of a limited body of literature in the area in which they plan to do their doctoral dissertation. Students are expected to consider psychoanalytic and sociocultural areas in selecting the literature to be reviewed and/or in crafting the organizational framework that shapes their review. The review is intended to serve as evidence of the student's readiness to begin doctoral work and, at the same time, to expose students to literature that stimulates their thinking in ways that will move their doctoral work forward. The literature review for the qualifying examination may be thought of as the first iteration of the more comprehensive

literature review that will ultimately be required for the dissertation. At the same time, it may be somewhat broader in scope than the review for the dissertation, given the specific challenge to integrate psychoanalytic and sociocultural perspectives in the qualifying paper. Students completing the qualifying examination successfully are admitted to doctoral candidacy.

3. **A doctoral dissertation**, which is usually completed by the end of the fourth or fifth year. Completion of a dissertation is one of the most important requirements of the doctoral program. The dissertation is an original empirical project that makes a substantive contribution to the knowledge base in psychoanalysis in relation to culture and/or violence. The dissertation is supervised by a primary advisor and a doctoral committee consisting of at least two additional faculty members, one of whom may come from outside of the school. The committee is responsible for approving the dissertation proposal, overseeing the data collection and analysis, and reviewing the dissertation. The dissertation must be approved by the doctoral committee, and an oral defense must be successfully completed.

Students complete a core curriculum in psychoanalysis, cultural analysis, violence studies and research methods in addition to special seminars in areas of their specialization.

Academic advisors are assigned to all doctoral candidates for program planning and guidance.

Course Requirements

1. **Psychoanalysis** Students must complete 9 core courses or their equivalents in psychoanalysis
2. **Cultural Analysis** Students must complete 4 core courses in cultural analysis and at least 5 elective courses or their equivalents in the field.
3. **Violence Studies** Students must complete 4 core courses in cultural analysis and at least 5 elective courses or their equivalents in the field.
4. **Research Methods** Students must complete the 3 core research courses or their equivalents.
5. **Capstone Courses** Students must complete a Capstone course. Capstone courses provide an integrative learning experience and synthesis of knowledge which combine theory and research in the discipline. The courses build upon previous coursework and include application of theory to practical issues in the field.
6. **Directed Research** All students in the doctoral program are recommended to register for Directed Dissertation Study aimed at preparing the prospectus for the dissertation. This course, which is taken with the prospective dissertation chair, should occur after all other course work is complete or during a student's last semester of coursework. Students may take

- up to six credits of Directed Dissertation Study consisting of research and writing supervised by the dissertation chair.
7. **Practicum in Psychoanalysis and Culture.** All students in the M.A. program are required to take two semesters of practicum. Practicum is designed to expose students to real-world situations to integrate theoretical and topical knowledge of violence, psychoanalysis and culture with hands-on experience in agencies, institutions, cultural settings or the community. In practicum, students receive credit for work outside the Graduate School in a practical hands-on capacity. These activities may be based in a hospital, prison, court, school, or in a cultural setting such as radio or television station, film institute, fashion design studio, magazine or newspaper office, research institute or any other relevant sites.
 8. **Thesis and Dissertation.** Students who are working for the M.A. degree must register for the 3 credit Master's Seminar. Doctoral Students must register for at least 4 credit dissertation writing.

The M.A. Degree Requirements

The M. A. degree is available to students admitted to study for the Psya.D. who desire the additional research or practical experience that preparation of a Master's thesis or Master's paper would provide. Students do not need to have completed a Master's degree prior to applying to the Psya.D. program nor do they need to complete a Master's degree as part of their study for the Psya.D. A Master's degree is granted, however, usually sometime after the second year, and after the student has completed 48 credit hours, 15 core and elective courses in psychoanalysis, culture, and research sequence including two semesters of practicum, and has written a Master's thesis or Master's paper.

The Requirement of Training Analysis

Students who are accepted in the master or doctoral program in psychoanalysis and culture are expected to arrange no later than their second semester in the program for their training analysis by contacting one of the training analysts who is accepted by the Graduate School. The training analysis requirement consists of a minimum of 50 analytic hours for M.A. students and a minimum of 120 analytic hours for the doctoral students

Graduate Program Curriculum Outline

Required (Core) Courses in the Major (Total # courses required = 20)

| Course Number | Course Title | Credit Hours |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| PC 641 | Psychoanalytic Theory of Human Development I | 3 |
| PC 651a | Basic Psychoanalytic Concepts I | 3 |
| PC 690 | Cultural Analysis I | 3 |
| PC 684 | Psychoanalytic Psychopathology I | 3 |
| PC 606 | The Freudian Unconscious and Cultural Sources of Repression, Memory, and Recall | 3 |
| PC 691 | Cultural Analysis II | 3 |
| PC 671 | Systematic Investigations in the Human Sciences | 3 |
| PC 661 | Foundations in Freudian Theory I | 3 |
| PC 685 | Fieldwork Seminar (two semesters required) | 1 + 1 |
| PC 673 | Qualitative Research | 3 |
| PC 655 | Dream, Fantasy, and Symbolic Communication | 3 |
| PC 687 | Cultural Psychopathology and Social Psychiatry | 3 |
| PC 654 | Comparative Psychoanalysis | 3 |
| PC 686 | Psychoanalytic Psychopathology II | 3 |
| PC 1787 | Master's Paper | 3 |
| PC 651b | Basic Psychoanalytic Concepts II | 3 |
| PC 657 | Transference, Countertransference, and Resistance | 3 |
| PC 621 | Narrative Analysis | 3 |
| PC 632 | Integration of Research and Practical Application | 3 |
| <i>Sub Total # Required Credits</i> | | <i>56</i> |

Elective Course Choices (Total courses required = 4)

Concentration in Violence

| | | |
|---------------|---|----------|
| PC 601 | Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Violence | 3 |
| PC 602 | Dynamics of Cultural, Ethnic and Racial Hatred | 3 |

| | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|---|
| PC 603 | The Culture of Violence | 3 |
| PC 604 | The Criminal Mind | 3 |
| PC 605 | Dynamics and Patterns of Homicide | 3 |
| PC 608 | Biology, Ethology and Aggression | 3 |
| PC 610 | Contemporary Theories of Violence | 3 |
| PC 612 | State Sanctioned Violence | 3 |
| PC 623 | Quantitative Analysis | 3 |
| PC 634 | The Media and Violence | 3 |
| PC 660 | Narcissism and Aggression | 3 |

Concentration in Psychoanalytic Social Theory

| | | |
|--------|--|---|
| PC 641 | Trauma and Narrative Representation | |
| PC 658 | Psychoanalysis and Interpretation | |
| PC 659 | Psychoanalytic Mind: Freudian & Lacanian Subjects | |
| PC 673 | Psychoanalysis, Culture & Postmodernism | |
| PC 675 | Self, Society, And The Post-Modern Discourse Of Mind | 3 |
| PC 676 | Psychoanalysis, Gender, And Culture | 3 |
| PC 678 | Psychoanalysis & Cultural Criticism | |
| PC 677 | Psychoanalysis, Culture, And The Human Body | 3 |
| PC 688 | Psychoanalysis, Culture, And Language | 3 |

SubTotal # Elective Credits Required **12**

| | | |
|--------|-----------------------|---|
| PC 693 | Dissertation Research | 4 |
| PC 640 | Field Placement | 4 |

Curriculum Summary

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Total number of courses required for the degree | 24 |
| Total credit hours required for degree | 76 |