



Vocations Directors

Build a Relationship with your Psychologist



As a vocations director you have extensive personal knowledge and experience with the candidates that you are sending for evaluation. You demonstrate great empathy and good judgment in your measure of others. **Trust yourself and your insight about your candidates.**

When it comes to the evaluation take some time to talk to your psychologist and share any concerns about the candidate or identify areas that you would like the psychologist to assess specifically. Psychologists are very open to hearing what you are looking for in an evaluation. For example, you may have noticed something in the candidate's family life or in his friendships that you would like clarified. Perhaps other priests, teachers or parishioners have mentioned something about the candidate. Ask your psychologist to investigate any particular issue of concern in the course of the evaluation.

Where to find a good psychologist?

Evaluations for the seminary are specialized evaluations that require psychologists with particular training, experience and qualities.

Members of the Catholic Psychotherapy Association who provide psychological assessments for candidates applying to seminary or religious life understand the unique calling within our vocation as psychologists. Though the CPA is not a referral source as an association, the "Seminary Assessment & Formation" group of psychologists within the CPA can provide vocation directors and formators names of members throughout the country who have experience in the completion of these types of seminary assessment evaluation.

Some psychologists also have the ability to travel and gain a temporary state license or permission to practice and conduct evaluations on a short-term basis in various states throughout the country.

For more information and to find a qualified psychologist near you, call CPA:

(402) 885-9272 or email:

infocatholicpsychotherapy@verizon.net

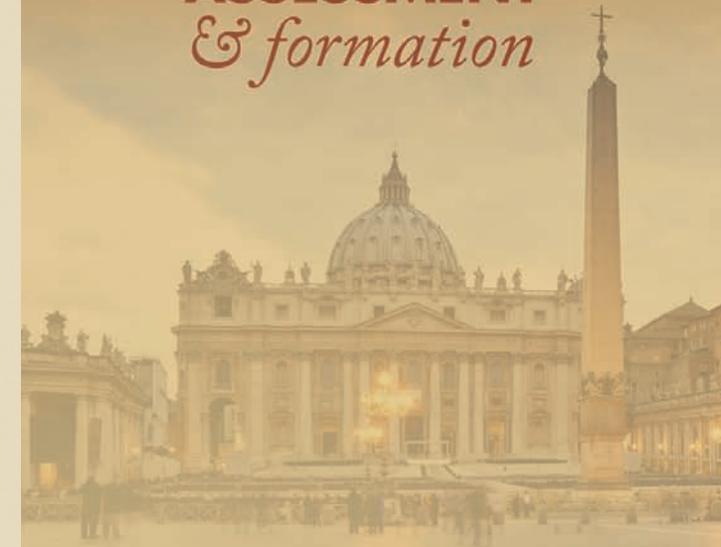


www.catholicpsychotherapy.org

PSYCHOLOGY



**SEMINARY
ASSESSMENT
& formation**



Psychological practice which encompasses a full understanding of the human person and society in communion with the Magisterium of the Catholic Church.



What are the qualities of a good psychologist for these evaluations?

A well qualified psychologist should demonstrate the following:

- Be licensed with appropriate clinical/professional experience in evaluations
- Have knowledge of Catholic tradition & Church structure
- Be familiar with Catholic anthropology and the character of the human person created in the image of God
- Be familiar with the inclusion/exclusion criteria for seminary formation
- Have cultural sensitivity
- Have a respect for Catholic priesthood and an understanding of the importance of chastity & celibacy

Seminary Assessment: What makes a good psychological evaluation?

A good psychological evaluation is one that is comprehensive enough to assess the developmental, psychological and personality factors present in a candidate's life.

The produced report from the evaluation should include the following:

- Clinical interview
- Psychosocial & psychosexual history
- Intelligence assessment (cognitive functioning)
- Psychological testing (e.g., MMPI-II, Rorschach, Incomplete sentences, etc.)
- Discussion Section (emotional/relational life, strengths, areas of growth, overall summary)
- Recommendations for growth

The report should be written in understandable language with a sensitivity to Catholic anthropology, an appreciation of cultural/ethnic issues and an

understanding of the demands of priestly formation. Once completed, the psychologist should provide an oral feedback session to the candidate.

The report should offer helpful, practical suggestions in its recommendations highlighting areas for growth and development. For example, a possible recommendation might highlight the need for the candidate to improve his organizational skills with the mention of suitable resources. If therapy is recommended, the evaluator should specifically note if long-term or intensive therapy would interfere with the candidate's ability to engage fully in seminary or if shorter, less intensive therapy may be completed while in seminary. Also, the goals for therapy should be clear and understandable (e.g., individual and/or group therapy for addressing anxiety, addictions, etc., or participation in an online program such as Reclaim Sexual Health for habitual/compulsive difficulties with pornography).