

# The Lacanian School of Psychoanalysis

## LACANIAN CLINICAL ANALYTICAL TRAINING

### *Becoming an Analyst*

The Lacanian School of Psychoanalysis offers theoretical, clinical and didactic training to those persons who desire becoming Lacanian analysts and who meet the admissions standards. The School suggests that persons applying for admission have an advanced degree and can demonstrate an interest in Lacanian psychoanalysis. The School admits applicants who:

- hold an advanced degree in psychology, psychiatry, counseling, or social work, and
- are licensed, working toward licensure, or training in a mental health profession.

### **Overview of the Steps from Application to Analyst**

Student-analysts receive theoretical, clinical, and didactic training. In order to become a psychoanalyst of the School, students must complete the following steps, not in chronological order:

1. Be a licensed or license eligible mental health professional
2. Make a Palimpsest presentation before the members of the School and therefore become a Candidate Analyst
3. Document their course work consisting of a combination of lectures, seminars, case conferences and cartels related to theory and clinical studies in Lacanian psychoanalysis through their 4-year commitment
4. Complete a personal analysis with an analyst recognized by the School
5. Complete two control analyses with two analysts affiliated with the School, and bring one of these control analyses to termination
6. Become analyst of the school when approved by a committee of the School's analysts through a specific "Passage" procedure

### **1 - Application Procedures**

#### **a) Submission of the Application Package including the following material:**

1. A letter of intent detailing the applicant's interest and goals in the study of Freudian and Lacanian psychoanalysis
2. A current curriculum vitae
3. Letters of reference: 3 from clinicians or academics who are familiar with the applicant's clinical and/or academic work, and 2 additional letters from clinicians commenting on the applicant's clinical work
4. A copy of an official document regarding the applicant's status as a mental health professional, licensed or license eligible
5. A completed Application Form

6. Application fee of \$50 (check payable to Lacanian School of Psychoanalysis)

The Application Form may be obtained from and the Application Package submitted to the following address:

The Lacanian School of Psychoanalysis  
Re Application  
1563 Solano Ave, PMB 237  
Berkeley, CA 94707

Note that the Application Form may also be downloaded from the School's website.

**b) Interviews**

After review of the application package, the applicant will be contacted to schedule two interviews with two members of the Admissions Committee. The fee is \$50 per interview, payable at time of interview.

**c) Dates of Application**

Applications and admissions are made on an ongoing basis.

**d) Result of Application**

All applications are subject to a case-by-case assessment prior to admission or rejection. The Admission Committee will notify the applicant of its decision via phone or email. An applicant who is admitted to the School becomes a Student of the School.

**2 - Candidacy**

To become a Candidate Analyst, Students need to present a Palimpsest before members and analysts of the School. Only then can a Candidate begin control analyses.

Palimpsest, from the Greek palimpsestos, "scraped again," is defined as a written document, usually on vellum or parchment that has been rewritten several times, often with remnants of erased writing still visible. The Palimpsest exercise is a modification of a practice used by the Dutch School of Psychoanalysis.

At the Lacanian School of Psychoanalysis, the Palimpsest is a written statement submitted by anyone who wishes to become a Candidate. This statement is written based on the prospective Candidate's personal response to two founding texts. The prospective Candidate is to read the texts and to articulate his or her desire to become a Lacanian Psychoanalyst as well as his or her stance

concerning psychoanalysis. During this process the prospective Candidate is invited to engage in creative thought, and is free to alter or recreate the original texts in any conceivable way.

Once or twice a year a Palimpsest meeting is held during which prospective Candidates present their Palimpsest to the attendees.

### **3 - Course Work / Training**

#### **a) School Seminars**

The seminar serves as the foundation of the transmission of the theoretical material. The seminars are non-evaluative, but require Students and Candidates' attendance and active participation.

#### **b) School Case Conference/Clinical Seminar**

The case conference applies Lacanian concepts and techniques to case material provided by the Students and Candidates. Guidelines for the direction of treatment and the interpretation of unconscious material will be provided. Visiting psychoanalysts may participate in the case conference sessions. Students and Candidates are expected to attend case conferences/clinical seminars for at least 2 to 3 years during his or her training program.

#### **c) Cartels: Lacan Study Groups**

The cartel is a group of three to five students who meet on a regular basis to work on a single topic of psychoanalytic interest. The group is periodically joined by an additional person or plus one (*plus un*) who serves to disperse the group effects and leadership structure. Cartels may be formed at any point in the academic year and usually disband after one year of work.

#### **d) Independent or Personal Studies**

Students and Candidates are expected to be familiar with Freud's work. They will engage in personal studies independently as well as write and present their original papers to the members of the school within the various forums offered.

#### **e) Study Groups**

Candidates and Students can form study groups around certain Lacanian or Freudian theoretical or clinical topics, papers, articles or books in order to widen their own field of interest.

#### **f) Teaching**

Candidates and Students are expected to teach certain Lacanian concepts within or outside of the School, for instance an Introduction to Lacan course.

#### **g) Tutoring**

Candidates and Students can benefit from in depth tutoring with certain analysts of the School, one on one or in groups. Tutoring opportunities arise with encounters in the School and upon demand.

#### **h) Special Events & Guest Speakers**

Candidates and Students are expected to attend special events organized by the School, usually around the theme developed in that year. These are opportunities for all to broaden their exposure to Lacanian practice and theory, as well to confront their own perspective outside of the School.

#### **i) External Seminars or Conferences**

For the same reasons as above, Candidates and Students are encouraged to attend conferences or presentations offered by other psychoanalytical organizations in the US or abroad, preferably but not necessarily Lacanian.

#### **j) Advisor**

Each Student/Candidate is assigned an advisor analyst of the School whose role is to help review the progresses made by the student, advise on specific areas of training, provide support and answer any questions the student may have regarding his or her training.

Students and Candidates will be asked to document their training annually.

### **4 - Personal Analysis**

Candidates and Students are expected to begin or be in a personal analysis concurrent with their studies at the Lacanian School of Psychoanalysis. The School recommends at least 500 hours of personal Lacanian analysis. Because confidentiality is essential to a successful analysis, the analyst is required to document only the completion of the Candidate's analysis and will not be asked to provide any further information.

Candidates/Students whose prior analysis meets the criteria elaborated above may request that his or her prior analysis satisfy the School's requirement. This type of waiver will be granted only after careful evaluation by the Admissions Committee. For those who have already done at least 300 hours of personal analytical work with an analyst not approved by the School, they will be required to do an additional amount of analysis with a Lacanian analyst approved by the School.

Candidates and Students entering a personal analysis with an analyst of the School may have access to reduced fees.

Candidates need to have completed their personal analysis with an analyst recognized by the School before their Passage.

### **5 - Didactic Analysis**

A didactic analysis is a personal analysis with an analyst recognized by the School for someone who is in training as an analyst.

### **6 - Control Analysis**

To complete their training, Candidates must conduct two control analyses, supervised by two Lacanian analysts affiliated with, or recognized by, the School, and bring one of these control analyses to termination. Candidates must have one supervising analyst for each control case.

Candidates are expected to spend one 1-hour-session weekly with each supervising analyst. One of the control cases can be interrupted granted that the Candidate received no less than 100 hours of supervision, and the other control case needs to be brought to termination.

Control analyses may be initiated at any time during the Candidate's training. Furthermore, Candidates may be asked to present one or more of their control analyses before a Committee of Analysts of the School prior to the completion of their training.

### **7 - "Passage" Procedure**

A Candidate becomes an analyst of the school when approved by a committee of the School's analysts through a specific "Passage" procedure.

In order to complete their training and to become an analyst of the School, all Candidates must present a substantial paper to the members of the School. The passage testifies to the capacity of the analyst to articulate his/her own experience of psychoanalytic treatment, and thereby to contribute to psychoanalytic knowledge.

### **8- Tuition**

The tuition covers attendance and access to any and all seminars, workshops, tutoring, advisor, cartel, case conference, and events offered by the School during the year.

The Board of Directors determines a yearly tuition. Currently, the tuition is \$2,000 per year with a 4-year commitment. The tuition is payable in full at the start of school year, or payable per quarter (Fall, Winter, Spring).

All financial matters should be discussed and may be decided upon with the Secretary of the School.

After 4 years of tuition paid for, Candidates will be paying for each seminar or event they choose to attend, as published in the yearly program.

Please note that most of our seminars and events are **CE accredited**.

### **9 - Statement of Nondiscriminatory Policy**

The Lacanian School of Psychoanalysis does not discriminate on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, age, race, or national and ethnic origin in its admission, administration and training practices.

### **10 – Statement on the Lacanian Clinical Orientation**

The Lacanian School acknowledges that many analytical Candidates may come with extensive prior training in psychoanalysis. This is particularly true for a psychologist and/or a marriage and family counselor who has been trained in a psychodynamic/ psychoanalytic emphasis area. We recognize a Student's prior training and view this as preparation for Lacanian analytic training.

For those who enter the analytical field via Lacanian academic studies, then extensive clinical experience and the study of Freud and clinical psychoanalysis in general will be required. The frame for training, like the frame for analysis itself, needs to be tailored to the singular characteristics of each Student.

Given that most Candidates/Students are already busy licensed or license eligible professionals, we encourage the use of study groups and cartels, and the pursuit of independent studies under the guidance of tutors/advisors so that each Candidate or Student may take responsibility for fulfilling the requirements of their own training.

The school also recognizes prior personal work in psychoanalytic psychotherapy or psychoanalysis even though it was not done within the Lacanian orientation. The Lacanian field articulates the relationship between psychoanalysis and psychotherapy in a qualitative rather than quantitative way. Some analyses, despite being on the couch, and four times a week, may be more like psychotherapy than psychoanalysis. Conversely, some psychotherapy despite not using the couch, and having less frequency of sessions, may produce and

work through material commensurate to a standard analysis. It all depends on the work with the unconscious, the emergence of primal phantasies, their relation to traumatic experiences, and the traversing of the phantasm, as Lacan called it. Lacan invented the variable length session, and the non-standard frame for analyses, precisely to facilitate and maximize the focus on the emergence of unconscious phantasy rather than on the orthodox and conventional formalities of the treatment. A Lacanian school is the place where Lacanian clinical practices may be conducted, investigated, and transmitted to future generations of analysts. Other psychoanalytic institutes may introduce Lacanian theory but not Lacanian clinical practices.

In all cases, a future Candidate has to present an initial personal analytical symptom. In the case of those who have already done significant personal work, some understanding of the relations among the symptom, unconscious fantasy, and trauma will be expected from them.