



Boston Graduate School
of Psychoanalysis

Boston | New York | New Jersey

PROGRAM CATALOG
Accelerated Track of the
Doctor of Psychoanalysis Degree

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DOCTOR OF PSYCHOANALYSIS

The accelerated track provides an opportunity for certified psychoanalysts to earn the Doctor of Psychoanalysis degree by transferring in their psychoanalytic training and completing additional coursework and a dissertation. Students conduct research in psychoanalysis at the doctoral level, examine psychoanalytic theory and clinical intervention from a comparative perspective, and study contemporary issues in psychoanalysis. For instance, students study the interaction of somatic and emotional factors in the psyche, as well as ethics for psychoanalysis.

With guidance from the faculty, the student is expected to initiate and conduct a scholarly piece of research that applies psychoanalytic concepts to an area of the student's interest. Each student is assigned a faculty advisor when they begin the program. Once the research chair is selected, the chair serves as the academic advisor.

The accelerated track requires a two-year commitment to two or three courses per semester, for a total of 37 credits. Coursework includes 10 credits of coursework in research and research methods, 6 credits of an advanced comparative clinical seminar, 11 credits of additional coursework in contemporary issues in psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic ethics, and 10 credits of directed research supervision as the student works on the dissertation.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

BGSP offers both 2-credit and 3-credit courses. In the accelerated doctoral program, students will participate using a blended in-person/online format. Students will attend 8 online video-conference class meetings for each course, and 2 intensive weekends in Boston. All online video-conference classes will meet on an every other week schedule. Two credit classes meet for a 2 hour block, and most 3 credit classes meet for a 3 hour block (some will meet for two hours with additional independent study work).

Not all states allow BGSP to offer distance learning to their residents. (Please call to inquire about your state.) Students who are unable to participate online may request a fully in-person program. For more information, please contact the Admissions Department.

DEGREE GOALS

In conjunction with their prior psychoanalytic training, students are expected to achieve the learning goals of the full Psya.D. program. Through their participation in the accelerated program in particular, students are expected to achieve the following learning outcomes:

- 1) Graduates demonstrate understanding and mastery of comparative psychoanalytic theory and ability to apply this understanding to clinical cases.
- 2) Graduates demonstrate the ability to integrate theory, empirical research, and clinical observation in executing and presenting a satisfactory and original dissertation research project.
- 3) Graduates demonstrate a thorough consideration of at least two contemporary issues in psychoanalysis.

RESEARCH AND DISSERTATION

Students develop an original dissertation question when ready, usually over the course of the first semester. The student presents a brief prospectus or concept paper to the Research Committee for initial discussion and approval of the research question, rationale, and method. The Research Committee assists the student in selecting readers to advise the student in the development of the dissertation proposal. Over the course of the dissertation research, the student works with a BGSP Chair and two readers, one of whom might be an outside reader. Outside readers are approved by the Research Committee. When the proposal is fully developed, it is approved by the student's research committee, and the student undertakes the data collection, analysis, and writing of the findings and discussion. Doctoral dissertation projects may be single case studies, multiple case studies, theoretical studies, or studies applying psychoanalytic theory or technique to other kinds of observations and data, e.g., in the educational setting, literary works, group functioning, psychoanalytic training.

When the dissertation is complete and meets the readers' approval, the student schedules the dissertation defense with her/his dissertation committee in conjunction with the Research Committee. The doctoral candidate orally presents the dissertation research to the readers, the Research Committee, and the doctoral program faculty. All doctoral program faculty members are given the opportunity to read the dissertation prior to the defense and vote on whether the research meets doctoral standards.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Students in the accelerated Psya.D. program fulfill the following requirements to graduate:

1. Successful transfer of the equivalent of at least 36 credits of psychoanalytic coursework, plus 37 credits of additional required and elective course work.
2. 300 hours of training analysis and 200 hours of psychoanalytic supervision. Usually this will be transferred from the certificate training program. Students lacking the complete number of hours upon admission may accumulate hours during the doctoral program.
3. Successful completion of the dissertation and oral defense to the faculty.

REQUIRED COURSES:

PT 172 Research Methods in Psychoanalysis	2 credits
PT 175 Contemporary Issues in Psychoanalytic Research	2 credits
PT 181 Biology of Mind and Behavior	3 credits
PT 187 Psychoanalytic Ethics	2 credits
PT 263/264 Contemporary Issues in Psychoanalysis (<i>two semesters required</i>)	2 credits
PT 283 Proposal Writing for Psychoanalytic Research	3 credits
PT 285 Inference Making in Psychoanalytic Research	3 credits
PT 2630 Comparative Case Seminar (<i>two semesters required</i>)	3 credits
PT 2631 Advanced Clinical Seminar on Early Mental States	2 credits

DISSERTATION:

PT 527/528/529/530 Directed Research (0.5 - 3 credits)	10 credits
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Total **37 credits**

SAMPLE PROGRAM OF STUDY IN PSYCHOANALYSIS

FALL, FIRST YEAR

PT 172 Research Methods in Psychoanalysis	2 credits
PT 283 Proposal Writing for Psychoanalytic Research	3 credits
PT 263 Contemporary Issues in Psychoanalysis	2 credits
	7 credits

SPRING, FIRST YEAR

PT 2630 Comparative Case Seminar	3 credits
PT 264 Contemporary Issues in Psychoanalysis	2 credits
PT181 Biology of Mind and Behavior	3 credits
PT 529 Directed Research	3 credits
	11 credits

FALL, SECOND YEAR

PT 175 Contemporary Issues in Psychoanalytic Research	2 credits
PT 2630 Comparative Case Seminar	3 credits
PT 2631 Advanced Clinical Seminar on Early Mental States	2 credits
PT 529 Directed Research	3 credits
	10 credits

SPRING, SECOND YEAR

PT 187 Psychoanalytic Ethics	2 credits
PT 285 Inference Making in Psychoanalytic Research	3 credits
PT 529 Directed Research	3 credits
PT 527 Directed Research	1 credit
	9 credits

Total Credits

37 credits

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

▶ PSYCHOANALYTIC THEORY

PT 263/264 Contemporary Issues in Psychoanalysis (2 credits)

Two semesters required

In this course, a topic of contemporary interest is chosen as the focus of, e.g., the nature of therapeutic action, gender and sexuality, race and psychoanalysis, and particular treatment issues. A different topic may be the focus each time the course is offered.

▶ RESEARCH

The Research curriculum prepares the student to understand methodological issues in psychoanalytic research. It guides the formulation of questions for study and prepares the student to write the dissertation.

PT 172 Research Methods in Psychoanalysis (2 credits)

This course introduces students to selected psychoanalytic research methods that have gained general acceptance in the field. It explores advantages, disadvantages, limitations, sources of error, and bias associated with various research methods. The course examines what is basic to psychoanalytic inquiry in the areas of study design, data collection and processing, distinguishing among inferences, assumptions, and observed events. Students become familiar with designing methodology for the single case study and problems collecting and processing psychoanalytic data.

PT 175 Contemporary Issues in Psychoanalytic Research (2 credits)

This advanced course considers contemporary methods and issues in psychoanalytic research including outcome research design, single case versus multiple case studies, ethical issues in data collection, inference making and the nature of evidence, uses of subjective states as data and other issues of concern.

PT 283 Proposal Writing for Psychoanalytic Research (3 credits)

This project-focused course is designed to cover the elements of the proposal and relevant readings on methodology, as well as sample projects. Students develop research questions relevant to their area of interest, pursue their review of the literature, and develop a methodology.

PT 285 Inference Making in Psychoanalytic Research (3 credits)

One of the biggest challenges in psychoanalytic research is the process of making valid inferences from data and observations collected during psychoanalytic work and interviews. Students consider how to articulate assumptions about the unconscious, back up inferences with data, and draw valid conclusions. The class discusses sample and ongoing projects.

PT 527/528/529/530 Directed Research (0.5-3 credits)

Students work individually with a research supervisor who assists them in developing and completing a research proposal, developing methodology, and collecting and interpreting data. During the course of the single case study or dissertation research, the student signs up for directed research with two additional readers approved by the research committee.

CLINICAL STUDIES

PT 181 Biology of Mind and Behavior (3 credits)

Students learn the significance of chemical, organic, and physiological factors and their interaction in psychic functioning. The course reviews brain anatomy and development, genetics and evolution of behavior, developments in neuroscience, the mind/body connection, and the effects of chemical intervention in various populations. Students also explore the implications of somatic factors for mental health and addiction.

PT 187 Psychoanalytic Ethics (2 credits)

This course focuses on the clinical ethical issues that have arisen within psychoanalysis since its inception. Such issues as "wild" analysis, extra-analytic contact, neutrality, countertransference, the use of induced feelings, parameters, working with enactment, and third-party payment will be discussed in terms of case examples. The special circumstances that occur when analysts work in non-analytic settings will be considered from an ethical perspective. The course considers the goals of analysis and the best interest of the patient as guiding principles in studying ethics.

PT 2630 Comparative Case Seminar (3 credits)

Two semesters required

Students take turns presenting cases to BGSP and guest faculty representing different theoretical perspectives or "schools" of psychoanalysis. The same case(s) are considered in light of at least three different theoretical approaches. Similarities and differences in theoretical perspectives are discussed and their implications for treatment and clinical research are considered.

PT 2631 Advanced Clinical Seminar on Early Mental States (2 credits)

This course examines psychopathology of severely regressed states from the perspective of the modern school of psychoanalytic theory and case study. Psychiatric understanding of etiology and function is contrasted with and augmented by the psychodynamic understanding of symptoms, core conflicts, and characteristic defenses in psychotic, affective, and somatic disorders. Implications for diagnosis and treatment are discussed.

The Boston Graduate School of Psychoanalysis may withdraw, add or modify courses as necessary.

ADMISSION

For the accelerated track of the Doctor of Psychoanalysis program, BGSP welcomes applicants who have earned an eligible post-master's certificate in psychoanalysis. Qualified applicants will have already earned the equivalent of at least 36 credits of post-master's psychoanalytic coursework, including psychopathology, psychoanalytic theory, developmental theory, dreams and symbolic processes, clinical intervention, transference, countertransference, and resistance, as well as case seminars.

Suitable applicants will also have significant psychoanalytic clinical experience, will have received extensive psychoanalytic clinical supervision, and will have undergone a training analysis.

In order to apply, prospective students submit to the Director of Admissions the completed application form, fee, and supporting materials which include:

- official copies of certificate, undergraduate, and graduate transcripts,
- three current letters of reference,
- a statement about interest in this program,
- documentation of completed hours of training analysis and supervision,
- a qualifying paper to provide evidence of the critical thinking, writing skills, and psychoanalytic understanding required to conduct doctoral research in psychoanalysis.

The application is complete once the above materials are submitted. The file is then reviewed by the Admissions team. Those applicants selected for further consideration are scheduled for three interviews, in person, with doctoral faculty members. The interview is an opportunity for the applicant to express their personal interest in further psychoanalytic study, and to learn more about the Graduate School and its programs. The Admissions Committee then reviews all components of the applicant's file to make an admission decision.

Applicants will be evaluated individually to determine their level of acceleration within the doctoral program based on their previously earned post-master's psychoanalytic coursework. It is likely that applicants who have graduated from institutes that are accredited by the American Board for Accreditation in Psychoanalysis (ABAP) or the Accreditation Council for Psychoanalytic Education (ACPE), or are affiliated with the American Psychoanalytic Association (APsaA) or the International Psychoanalytic Association (IPA), will have completed the required post-master's coursework. This coursework should include: psychoanalytic theories of human development, studies of Freud and later psychoanalytic theorists, clinical theories of transference and countertransference, psychoanalytic psychopathology, courses in dreams and unconscious fantasy, clinical case seminars, and basic research methods in the human sciences. Graduates of institutes who cannot document studies in these areas will be required to take the appropriate coursework at BGSP.

BGSP admits students of any race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the School. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, creed, or employment status in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other School-administered programs.