

The Value of Accreditation by the ACPEinc

In a national culture that mistrusts self-proclamation of adequacy of training programs, accreditation by an autonomous agency such as the ACPEinc will confer greater prestige and legitimacy than will stand alone status. ACPEinc accreditation is of value to a psychoanalytic education program for several reasons:

- ACPEinc accreditation provides programs that adhere to the core (essential) Standards of Psychoanalytic Education the opportunity to have the high quality of their programs endorsed (recognized) by an independent agency.
- The Self-Study process allows a training program systematically to assess its policies and activities in a comprehensive fashion in order to feel confident in what it does well and to remedy any oversights or deficiencies.
- By comparing its functioning to the standards of the ACPEinc a program can feel confident that its functioning compares well with that of other quality training programs.
- The Self Study that precedes an ACPEinc site visit allows a program the opportunity to review its policies and education programs, which will help it resolve internal contradictions and disagreements about those policies and programs.
- Graduates and faculty of accredited training programs will have greater legitimacy in the eyes of the public. This value will increase over time and may eventually convey an advantage in the health care marketplace.
- ACPEinc accreditation assures prospective candidates that a program provides appropriate training in the core elements of psychoanalytic theory and practice. Recognition by the US Secretary of Education will

enhance the value of training when that program offers a sub-specialty Fellowship for mental health professionals.

- By becoming accredited and joining the family of accredited training programs the program participates in a community of accredited programs that can unite for greater influence in the national decision making about psychoanalysis as a profession. This could become increasingly important now as more states deliberate various licensing standards for the practice of psychoanalysis and their standards for approving education programs.
- ACPEinc accreditation will have value to programs and candidates applying for training and research grants. This will become increasingly important after recognition by the US Secretary of Education.
- Because the ACPEinc is an independent and external accrediting body, it is likely to be more impressive to outside bodies than will accreditation by a body which is part of a membership organization or reflects a single school of thought.
- Accredited training programs are the members of the ACPEinc and can therefore vote for its trustees; and they have a strong advisory voice on its policies.

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