

## Conception Seminary College Guidelines for Psychological Evaluation

All applicants to Conception Seminary College (CSC) are required to complete a full battery of psychological tests and receive an interpretive psychological report by a ***licensed clinical psychologist*** as a condition for admission.

These *Guidelines* are designed to inform the applicant, his sponsoring diocese or religious community, and the psychologist as to specific requirements regarding this evaluation.

### I. Evaluation Procedures

1. An applicant to Conception Seminary College, in conjunction with his sponsoring diocese or religious community, is responsible for submitting a completed psychological evaluation.
2. The applicant is to sign a release of information form in order to permit the examining psychologist to send the psychological evaluation report to the Rector of the Seminary and the Director of Counseling Services for the purpose of admission and to aid in any growth counseling he may undertake during his studies at CSC. The psychological report will be used to help determine the applicant's general acceptability. The Admissions Committee consists of the Director of Admissions, the Rector, the Deans, and the Director of Counseling Services.
3. In addition to the clinical interview, CSC requires the use of at least one personality test normed to screen for psychopathological tendencies. It is recommended that the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI-3) be used. (See additional testing recommendations below in Section II.)
4. The psychological evaluation should take place within one year prior to making application. The evaluation is a necessary element in the application process and therefore should be received by Conception Seminary College as early as possible, but no later than one month prior to anticipated matriculation at Conception.
5. The written interpretive report should be sent to:  
Rector / Director of Counseling Services  
Conception Seminary College  
P.O. Box 502  
Conception, MO 64433-0502
6. The report is kept in a locked file in the Department of Counseling Services during the time the individual is enrolled at Conception Seminary College.

## II. Evaluation Process & Testing for Evaluating Psychologist

- A. Behavioral observations/Clinical interview
  - 1. Mental status evaluation
  - 2. Clinical interview, including family of origin, psychosocial development, self-perceived strengths and weaknesses, psychosexual development.
- B. Objective measures
  - 1. Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI-3) preferred.
  - 2. Other instruments, such as NEO-PI-R, may be added at discretion of evaluating psychologist.
- C. Projective testing
  - 1. Rorschach Ink Blot Test preferred
  - 2. Other techniques such as the TAT, Sentence Completion, may be added
- D. Intelligence testing (WAIS-IV) is necessary if any of these three apply to applicant:
  - 1. Applicant's GPA is below 3.0.
  - 2. There is indication of possible learning or attention difficulties
  - 3. If the applicant scores less than 18 in any single area of the ACT. (Please note that the applicant's ACT scores should be submitted before an admissions decision is made. Scores should be revealed to examining psychologist.)
- E. Attention should also be given to any cultural factors in the applicant's background.
  - E.g., if the applicant is not from the U.S., the question of his potential to acculturate should be addressed.

## III. Focus of Psychological Report

- A. Overall assessment of level of psychological functioning
  - 1. Any mental or behavioral disorders
  - 2. Presence and degree of symptoms of depression, anxiety, personality disorders
  - 3. Personality traits, predominate needs or drives, personality strengths and weaknesses, areas of conflict, addictive tendencies.
- B. Assessment of psychosocial maturity
  - 1. Assessment of residual conflicts from family of origin and social history
  - 2. Significant aspects of social history that may affect current functioning: family history, early experiences, trauma history, school and work history, medical and mental health history in family and self, legal issues, substance use or abuse.
- C. Assessment of psychosexual maturity
  - 1. Assessment of psychosexual development and sense of sexual identity
  - 2. Assessment of affectivity and capacity for empathy and intimacy
  - 3. Assessment of readiness to live the "charism of celibacy" (i.e. evidence of abstaining from sexual activity for a sustained period)
- D. Assessment of personal autonomy and attitude toward authority figures
- E. Assessment of flexibility and emotional resilience
  - 1. Consideration of such issues as impulsivity, tolerance for frustration, coping patterns, coping skills
  - 2. Capacity for personal insight and growth, level of motivation for growth
- F. Psychologist's opinion concerning applicant's honesty and thoroughness in significant assessment areas.
- G. Recommendations concerning areas relevant to human formation, pastoral formation, or intellectual formation.

## CONSENT TO RELEASE OF PRIVELEGED INFORMATION

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby authorize

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

to release an interpretive psychological report concerning me to:

Rector & Director of Counseling Services  
Conception Seminary College  
P.O. Box 502  
Conception, MO 64433-0502

I understand that the report will be kept confidential and on file during time I am a student at the Seminary, and that the Rector and the seminary's admissions committee will use the information in the report to help assess my suitability to enter priesthood formation at Conception Seminary College.

I give permission for the Rector or the Director of Counseling Services to consult with the examining psychologist as is necessary to fully understand the report and its recommendations.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_