



Guidelines for Psychological Evaluation

All applicants to Conception Seminary College (CSC) are required to complete a battery of psychological tests, resulting in an interpretive psychological report by a licensed psychologist. This psychological evaluation is a required component of the application, and the report will be used by the admissions committee in determining an applicant's suitability to enter studies at Conception Seminary College. The admissions committee consists of the Director of Admissions, the Rector, the Dean of Students, the Academic Dean, the Director of Counseling Services, and additional member(s) of the formation staff.

The following guidelines are designed to inform the evaluating psychologist, the applicant, and his sponsoring diocese or religious community about specific requirements of this evaluation.

I. Evaluation Procedures

1. The applicant to Conception Seminary College, in conjunction with his sponsoring diocese or religious community, is responsible for ensuring that the psychological evaluation is completed and that a summary report is submitted to Conception Seminary College.

2. The applicant is to sign a release of information authorization form, which permits the examining psychologist to send the psychological evaluation report to the Rector of Conception Seminary College. A version of a release form is included with this document. The report will be one component used by the admissions committee of Conception Seminary College in determining whether to admit that applicant. It may also be used to inform and direct the CSC formation staff in developing the admitted seminarian's formation plan at CSC, including (but not limited to) serving as an aid should the seminarian engage in mental health counseling while at CSC.

3. The psychological evaluation must take place within one calendar year prior to making application. The evaluation and its report are an important and necessary element in the application process and should be received by Conception Seminary College as early as possible, at least one month prior to the applicant's anticipated matriculation at CSC.

4. The written interpretive report should be sent to:

Rector
Conception Seminary College
P.O. Box 502
Conception, MO 64433-0502

5. The report will be securely kept under double-locked storage in the Department of Counseling Services during the time the seminarian is a student at Conception Seminary College.

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II. Components of the Psychological Evaluation

1. Clinical interview, including mental status examination and behavioral observations

In the clinical interview, attention should be given to the following:

- family of origin
- psychosocial development
- psychosexual development, including dating and sexual behavior
- substance use
- academic performance
- work history
- history of trauma
- misuse of the internet and social media
- significant medical events
- legal involvement
- history of mental health concerns, including mental health treatment and known history of mental health concerns within family
- the applicant's perceived strengths and areas for growth.

2. At least one personality test normed to screen for psychopathological syndromes and tendencies. It is recommended that the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI-3) be used. Additional objective instruments, such as the PAI or the NEO-PI-3, may be added at the discretion of the evaluating psychologist.

3. Projective testing: The Rorschach Inkblot Test is preferred (scoring system chosen by the evaluating psychologist). Additional projective tests (e.g., the TAT and Rotter Incomplete Sentences) may be added at the discretion of the evaluating psychologist.

4. Recommended: screening measures to evaluate applicant risk for substance abuse (e.g., Michigan Alcohol Screening Test) and problematic internet usage (e.g., Internet Sex Screening Test) are recommended.

5. Intelligence testing (e.g., WAIS-IV) is necessary if any of the following three are true about the applicant:

1. Applicant's GPA is below 3.0.
2. There is indication of a possible learning, attention-deficit/hyperactivity, or intellectual developmental disorder.
3. The applicant scored less than 18 in any single area of the ACT or less than 490 in any single area of the SAT. The applicant is responsible for accurately disclosing his ACT and/or SAT scores to the examining psychologist.

6. Consideration of Cultural Factors

Attention should also be given to factors in the applicant's cultural identity. As 2 examples: if the applicant is not from the U.S., the question of his potential to acculturate needs to be addressed; if the applicant is of non-traditional college student age, how might his age and time away from education impact his formation in a college seminary?

7. History of mental health concerns and treatment

If the applicant has had psychological therapy (including psychopharmacological treatment), the evaluating psychologist may wish to request a treatment summary from the applicant's provider(s).

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III. Content of the Psychological Report

The psychological report should summarize the components of the psychological evaluation. Please include the following in the report:

1. Summary of the clinical interview (II.1), test results, and areas II.6 and II.7, above.
2. Evaluator's overall assessment of the applicant's psychological and psychosocial functioning. Please consider the following:
 - a. psychological syndromes, tendencies, and impairment to functioning caused by mood, personality, and/or other disorders
 - b. significant personality traits, needs or drives; areas of internal and interpersonal conflict
 - c. addictive tendencies
 - d. cognitive and emotional flexibility and emotional resilience
 - e. emotional regulation and capacity for empathy, intimacy, and healthy boundaries
 - f. personal autonomy
 - g. attitude toward authority figures
 - h. impulsiveness, tolerance for frustration, and coping skills
 - i. capacity for personal insight and growth; motivation for growth
3. Evaluator's assessment of applicant's psychosexual maturity, including:
 - a. Psychosexual development and sense of sexual identity and gender identity
 - b. Readiness to live the "charism of celibacy"
(i.e., evidence of abstaining from sexual activity for a sustained period)
4. Psychologist's opinion concerning the applicant's honesty and thoroughness in assessment areas
5. Recommendations relevant to human, intellectual, pastoral, and spiritual formation in a college seminary. Please include any recommendations for mental health treatment.

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CONSENT TO RELEASE OF PRIVILEGED INFORMATION

I, _____, hereby authorize _____

to release an interpretive psychological report concerning me to:

Rector
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 and/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_____