

## Final Project

The Final Project is the capstone of the candidate's training. It represents the candidate's contribution to the psychoanalytic community of ideas and is an important step in consolidating one's own professional identity as a psychoanalyst. The purpose of the project is two fold. At an Institute teaching comparative theory, we look for the candidate to demonstrate the ability to think from a complex psychoanalytic perspective and we look for the candidate to write or speak from his or her own view as it is currently evolving. This will be articulated in either a paper or a demonstration project (i.e. a play, designing a mini-course, etc.) The project should demonstrate the candidate's ability to explore psychoanalytic ideas or clinical issues that arise from theoretical questions or clinical experiences the candidate wants to understand or explore.

The project will vary in that it may be an exploration of a personal aspect of the psychoanalytic experience or the process of wrestling to understand a theoretical concept. The form of the project is left open to the candidate and the candidate's CAC to determine. Along with the ability to articulate an understanding of the topic, the project challenges the candidate to develop his or her own psychoanalytic voice, that is, the candidate's ability to speak confidently with his or her own views, opinions, or understanding. This aspect of the project further demonstrates the candidate's ability to integrate complex and comparative ideas as well as their entry as a participant in the ongoing conversation of ideas within the larger psychoanalytic community. The project should be intellectually rigorous, demonstrate a facility with one or more theoretical perspectives, and represent the active, working engagement of the candidate with the ideas of psychoanalysis.

The candidate's written proposal for their Final Project must be presented for discussion and approval by the candidate to their CAC and also given final approval prior to graduation. There must be at least one CAC meeting at which the project is discussed in depth. Typically this will occur at the time the candidate is ready to submit his/her written proposal for the final project to the committee. This written proposal lays out in a preliminary way the candidate's topic, thesis, and important questions or themes to be explored and developed. Such a written proposal can be a few paragraphs or a few pages. We suggest that if a candidate plans to graduate in the spring, a written proposal be presented to the candidate's CAC, including any additional supervisors/consultants the candidate may wish to add, no later than early November. The purpose of this meeting is to involve all CAC members in the creative planning and thinking about a candidate's proposed

project and to give their approval of the project. We encourage candidates to discuss the Project with members of their CAC as the project evolves and seek help or collaboration as needed.

A finished version of the Final Project needs to be made available to members of the candidate's CAC in mid-February and at least 10 weeks prior to graduation usually scheduled for the first Saturday night in June. MIP has found that the ten week period ensures adequate time for members to read the project, discuss it with the candidate and allow the candidate adequate time to make revisions. Members of the CAC are expected to offer any feedback, suggestions, or request revisions within two weeks of receiving the Final Project draft.

Final approval of the Project must be given by the CAC and communicated to the candidate by the liaison. A meeting is not required although the Training Committee strongly recommends meeting as a committee to discuss and celebrate the candidate's achievement. All other requirements for graduation (in addition to the Final Project) should be reviewed and discussed by the candidate, the liaison, and the members of the CAC.

#### ***FINAL PROJECT TIMELINE***

- \* Early November a written proposal submitted to CAC members.***
- \* 10 weeks prior to graduation: submission of final paper with abstract.***
- \* Within two weeks of submitting project, committee members, individually and formally through the liaison, will give feedback and/or approval of the final project.***
- \* Final CAC meeting (optional but recommended!).***