

Guidelines for the Use of Psychology in Seminary Admissions:

<http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/cclv-guidelines-psychology-admissions/index.html#6>

Contraindications

According to new Guidelines:

Number 51 of the PPF encourages admission personnel to articulate for psychologists those human traits and qualities that contradict an authentic vocation to the priesthood. Without attempting an exhaustive list, the following contraindications are provided as a guide to psychologists as they write their report the applicant's suitability:

1. Inability to be formed (blocks to growth and conversion), rigidity or inflexibility that precludes openness to guidance and influence
2. Psychopathology that cannot be managed easily with medication and that would disrupt or preclude healthy ministry
3. Areas of serious emotional vulnerability, given the demands of the priest's responsibilities, celibacy and life as a public figure and man of communion.
4. Personality traits and disorders inconsistent with or compromising healthy ministry
5. Pervasive developmental disorders that may lead to behaviors incompatible with the human formation traits and characteristics of healthy priestly relationships and ministry
6. Relations with self or others that are so damaged or shame-based that the person cannot relate or assume healthy leadership
7. Significant troubles with addictive disorders or habits
8. Activity or inclination towards sexual activity with a minor or other traits that might indicate the person could be a harm to minors
9. Psychosexual disorders
10. History of psychopathic deviance, criminality and unethical illegal and unconscionable behavior
11. Multiple physical and medical concerns that significantly impair the ability of the candidate to function responsibly
12. Intellectual limitations that would hinder either higher academic studies or the navigation of the complexities of leadership in parish life
13. Severe learning disorders and intellectual disability compounded with lack of intellectual curiosity

It may be discerned that an applicant is in need of some therapeutic services to address matters that are not entirely disqualifying for admission to the seminary. The timely discernment of and attention to such problems that would hinder the vocational journey can only be of great benefit to the applicant as well as to the Church. The report of the psychological assessment may recommend the

postponement of admittance to the seminary so that adequate therapy or counseling may take place. This is especially true when the applicant would require a significant duration (e.g., a year or more), frequency (e.g., multiple times per week) or intensity of therapy which would limit the applicant's ability to engage fully in the seminary program.

On the other hand the report may recommend, for unresolved issues that do not require extensive therapy, the admission of the applicant while such therapy continues.