

Guidelines for Psychological Assessment of Candidates

The typical psychological assessment used by many religious institutes and dioceses today includes:

- a. Clinical Interview and Behavioral Assessment conducted by licensed psychologist or licensed mental health professional familiar with admission of candidates to religious life/priesthood:
 - Family History
 - Educational/Academic History
 - Relevant Personal Medical Health History
 - Mental Health History (including treatment/medications and/or addictive behaviors)
 - Psychosocial History
 - Psychosexual History (including sexual knowledge, experiences, dating relationships, orientation, compulsive behaviors and the ability to live chaste celibate life) ¹
- b. Battery of Psychological Tests by licensed psychologist familiar with admission of candidates to religious life/priesthood;
 - Intelligence Testing Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-IV (WAIS-IV)²
 - Objective Personality Testing such as Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2 (MMPI-2 or MMPI-RF) or Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI) or NEO-PI-III
 - Projective Personality Testing Rorschach (or Thematic Apperception Test [TAT], Sentence Completion)
- c. Based on the candidates family/personal history, Substance Abuse Assessment by licensed psychologist or licensed mental health professional familiar with admission of candidates to religious life/priesthood may be necessary such as one or more of the following:
 - Alcohol/Drug Use/Abuse History
 - Addiction Severity Index (ASI)
 - Michigan Alcoholism Screening Test (MAST)
 - Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST)
 - Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI-3)
- d. Similarly, based on the clinical interview noted above, the therapist may recommend additional testing such as one or more of the following:
 - Beck Depression Inventory - Second Edition (BDI-II)
 - Beck Hopelessness Scale (BHS)
 - Beck Suicide Assessment Scale (BSS)
 - Beck Anxiety Inventory (BAI)
 - Diana Screen Risk Assessment
 - Problem Behavior Inventory (PBI)-Adult Version
- d. Recommendations from psychologist / licensed mental health care professional. In light of the applicant's life history data and psychological test results, specific recommendations should be made regarding his suitability for monastic way of life. In addition, if therapeutic support is recommended, this evaluation should be given to the new therapist.

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¹ Here sexual abuse or misconduct and pornography must be explored and indicated in final recommendations

² The IQ test may be waved when the candidate is a recent graduate from certain university or graduate schools with official transcripts