Center for Advanced
CAPS
Psychoanalytic Studies

2026 Membership Application & Guidelines

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About CAPS

The Center for Advanced Psychoanalytic Studies (CAPS) is a community of experienced psychoanalysts dedicated to the ongoing exploration of psychoanalysis as a clinical practice, theoretical discipline, and research method. We gather in small, collegial groups to share detailed clinical work, exchange diverse ideas, and deepen our understanding of the human mind.

Our mission is to foster a respectful, intellectually vibrant environment—one that values open inquiry, draws inspiration from the arts, humanities, and sciences, and remains free from administrative or political distractions.

We welcome new members who share our curiosity, commitment to analytic depth, and dedication to the growth of psychoanalysis. As a CAPS member, you will join peers who bring a wide range of perspectives, yet are united by a desire for thoughtful dialogue, creative engagement, and mutual support in the work we love.

CAPS Membership Application Checklist

- ☐ Personal Details
- ☐ CV (updated)
- ☐ Letter of Interest
- ☐ Three Letters of Recommendation
    - ☐ Two from supervisors (or colleagues with in-depth knowledge if supervisors are unavailable)
    - ☐ One from a CAPS member
- ☐ Immersion Form (listing analytic patients over the past 5 years)
- ☐ No ethics complaints or lawsuits
- ☐ Proof of advanced degree (DMH, PhD, MD, MSW, DO, PsyD, LCSW)
- ☐ ABPsa certification or request for waiver
- ☐ All materials compiled into PDF format and emailed to admin@caps-analysis.org

Applicant Personal Details

First Name	
Last Name	
Credentials	
Phone	
Date of Birth	
Email	
Address	
Institute Affiliation	

CAPS Membership Application Requirements

In order to be considered for membership in CAPS, applicants must meet the following criteria. These requirements help ensure that all members have the clinical experience, scholarly engagement, and professional integrity necessary to contribute meaningfully to our community:

- Must be at least 5 years post-graduation from an institute recognized by APsA and/or IPA
- Hold an advanced degree in the mental health field: DMH, PhD, MD, MSW, DO, PsyD, LCSW, or be an academic analytic scholar
- Have no active ethics complaints or lawsuits related to professional duties
- Demonstrated active involvement in clinical work, writing, or committee work
- Submission of an updated CV, letter of interest, three letters of recommendation, and Immersion Form
- Hold ABPsa certification (or request a waiver by demonstrating sufficient immersion and willingness to present work to unfamiliar peers)
- Submission by PDF via email to admin@caps-analysis.org

CAPS Immersion Requirements

Immersion is a core expectation for all CAPS applicants, reflecting sustained clinical engagement and commitment to psychoanalysis.

Important: Completion and submission of the Immersion Form is required for your application to be considered. This form documents your analytic work over the past five years and allows CAPS to assess your depth of clinical experience.

Applicants must demonstrate the following requirements:

- Patient Load Over Time – At least 3 analytic patients, each seen 3–5 times per week, in 3 of the past 5 years, with no fewer than 2 patients in any given year.
- Depth of Clinical Engagement – Consistent, in-depth work with each analytic patient, showing reflective practice and analytic thinking.
- Inclusivity of Experience – Applies to all applicants, including those already ABPsa-certified, to provide a complete picture of analytic experience.

Click **HERE** to download and complete the required Immersion Form.

Please ensure the Immersion Form is fully completed and attached with your application submission. Incomplete or missing forms may delay or prevent review of your application.

CAPS Letter of Interest Requirements

In your letter of interest, we expect that you will address the following details to give us a clear sense of your background, experience, and alignment with CAPS's mission:

- Your analytic practice and clinical focus.
- Involvement in local or national psychoanalytic institutes or professional organizations.
- Contributions to the field of psychoanalysis, such as teaching, writing, research, or mentorship.
- How your experiences and perspectives align with CAPS's values of collegiality, analytic depth, intellectual curiosity, and scholarly engagement.

Your letter should provide insight into both your professional accomplishments and your motivation for joining CAPS, helping the Board and Director understand your potential fit within our community.

CAPS Letters of Recommendation Requirements and Guidance

To be considered for membership in CAPS, you must submit three letters of recommendation. These letters provide insight into your clinical skills, professional contributions, and alignment with CAPS's mission. We ask that you request letters from:

- Two supervisors or colleagues who have direct knowledge of your clinical work.
- One CAPS member who can speak to your engagement with the psychoanalytic community.

Please share the included guidance with your recommenders so they understand the qualities and experiences we value in potential members. Well-prepared letters help the Board and Director evaluate your readiness for CAPS membership and your potential to contribute meaningfully to our community.

We ask that your letter writer address:

- Analytic Depth and Clinical Skill – How you engage deeply with clinical material, convey nuanced case work, and demonstrate reflective, analytical thinking.
- Breadth of Thought and Intellectual Curiosity – How you draw from diverse theoretical perspectives, including ideas from related disciplines such as the arts, humanities, or social sciences.
- Collegiality and Respectful Engagement – How you contribute to group or scholarly dialogue in a way that is respectful, collaborative, and open to differing viewpoints.
- Contribution to the Field of Psychoanalysis – How you have furthered the growth of psychoanalysis—through teaching, writing, research, mentorship, or service to professional organizations.
- Alignment with the CAPS Mission – How you exemplify CAPS's dedication to deep clinical inquiry, intellectual exploration, and a collegial, non-political environment.

Tip: When reaching out to your recommenders, let them know why you are applying to CAPS and what aspects of your work you most hope they will highlight.

Submission Instructions

Once you have compiled all required materials, please follow these instructions to submit your application for CAPS membership. Careful adherence ensures that your application is complete and can be reviewed efficiently by the Board and Director.

- Compile everything into PDF format
- Send as one complete package to: admin@caps-analysis.org
- Applicants will receive confirmation of receipt and later be notified of their application's review meeting date

Note: Incomplete applications withdrawn after one year; reapplication required. If declined, notification is issued within 15 days of the Board's decision.

Review & Placement Procedure

- Applications are accepted year-round and reviewed periodically by the Board of Trustees
- If submissions exceed capacity for a meeting, extra sessions are scheduled—affected applicants will be informed
- Placement in one of 14 CAPS groups is determined by the Director or via distribution of materials to groups looking for new members
- If more than one group requests an applicant, the Director decides placement considering factors such as diversity and group dynamics
- If no invitation is extended, the application cycles through again; if still unplaced, the applicant may reapply in 3 years

Thank You

Thank you for your interest in joining the Center for Advanced Psychoanalytic Studies (CAPS). We appreciate the time, thought, and effort you put into preparing your application.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us:

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We look forward to reviewing your application and learning more about your contributions to the field of psychoanalysis.