



American Board of Examiners in Psychodrama, Sociometry and Group Psychotherapy

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NON-USA CERTIFICATION OPTIONS

This document provides information about alternative certification processes for persons who receive psychodrama training and supervision other than in the United States and America.

The traditional certification process is described in the documents “CP and TEP Certification Standards”, and “Journey To Certification” on our website. Over time the Board also created three additional paths to certification for those individuals who receive psychodrama training in countries other than the USA. Those pathways are listed below: Reciprocity, Countries Without Certification Boards, and Immigrants.

Historical Background

The Moreno Institute, established by J.L. Moreno in 1942 in New York, and further developed by Zerka T. Moreno, was initially the only institute that trained and certified psychodramatists. From the 1960's to 1970's new training institutes sprung up around the United States, Australia/New Zealand, Canada, South America and Europe.

In April 1974, with the impending death of J.L. Moreno, the American Society of Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama called for the establishment of national certification standards for the field of psychodrama. This led, in 1975, to the creation of a separate organization, the American Board of Examiners in Psychodrama, Sociometry and Group Psychotherapy, the first national organization for the certification of psychodramatists. The first listing of grandparented TEPs, published in 1979, contained 79 persons.

By 1980 ninety-two individuals were certified as Trainer, Educator and Practitioners (TEPs). Of these thirteen lived and trained in countries other than the USA. From the establishment of the ABE there were concerns about the extent to which the psychodrama movement in other countries was helped or hindered by the ABE. Beginning with the first examinations (written and on-site) in 1981 the ABE limited access to the written and on-site examinations by requiring they be conducted in the USA.

By 1983 TEPs who lived and practiced in other countries were concerned that the ABE would become a worldwide provider of certification rather than encouraging other countries to create their own certification bodies. At the April 1983 Annual Meeting of Certified Psychodramatists the ABE made a commitment to discourage Non-USA citizens from seeking certification through the ABE unless they had a USA work permit (*Minutes of April 1983 Board Meeting).

Reciprocity

In the late 1980's the first agreement for reciprocity was established with the Nordic Board of Examiners. In 1994 the ABE established reciprocity with the Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand Psychodrama Association Board of Examiners. In 2018 a reciprocity agreement was adopted between the ABE and the Taiwan Association for Psychodrama (TAP). The American Board of Examiners and Israeli Psychodrama Association finalized a reciprocity agreement in 2019. Traditionally reciprocity has been explored when another Board has approached the ABE about creating reciprocity.

Reciprocity means that an individual certified by either certification board (ABE and other country) is automatically eligible to sit for the examinations (written and on-site) for the equivalent certification category from the other country. The person would pay all examination fees and successfully pass both the written and on-site examinations in order to receive certification from the other board. Please contact the ABE office (abe@psychodramacertification.org) for specific information and procedures.

Countries Without Certification Boards

From its founding the ABE has certified individuals who lived and worked in Canada, initially requiring that all Canadian applicants take written and on-site examinations in the USA. By the early 1990's it was evident that Canada would not be creating their own certification Board and consequently in 1998 a coalition of Canadian psychodramatists approached the Board about allowing Canadians to take both the written and on-site examinations in Canada. In 2000, these accommodations were approved by the ABE membership.

In 2013 the Taiwan Association For Psychodrama requested that on-sites be conducted in Taiwan and that was quickly followed up by a request from the psychodrama community in China. The ABE granted this accommodation for persons living and training in Taiwan and China.

Prior to this time all on-sites for persons in Taiwan and China had to be conducted in the USA (In 2013 the ABE began offering the written examination via the internet prior to that time all persons had to travel to the USA to take the written examination.)

Since that time the Taiwan Association for Psychodrama has established their own certification Board, and at their request the ABE continues to offer on-sites in Taiwan.

No other formal arrangements have been made with psychodrama communities from other countries.

Persons living in Canada, China and Taiwan may take the ABE written exam in their home country, via email. (See CP and TEP Application Guidelines for date and time of email receipt of questions and submission deadlines.)

Persons living in Canada, China and Taiwan may take the on-site exam in their home country. All travel costs for ABE-approved on-site examiners must be borne by the exam candidate. All application requirements for CP and TEP candidates (e.g., number of training hours by ABE-certified TEPs) must be met and a conventional application and exam fees must be submitted.

Persons living in other countries must meet the ABE certification standards. They may take their written exams in their home country via email; they must take their on-site examination in the USA.

Immigrants

Prior to the 1990's any person who received training in another country and immigrated to the USA was required to obtaining training and supervision from ABE-approved TEPs in order to be admitted to CP and TEP certification examinations.

However by the turn of the century several people who had been trained in another country and had immigrated to the USA inquired about obtaining certification from the ABE. The Board of Directors believed it was both disrespectful of the training they had received, and unfair to make these individuals repeat all their training hours with an ABE-approved TEP. Therefore, the Board created a process wherein immigrants, in consultation with their primary (ABE TEP) trainer, could petition the Board to credit some of their training hours provided by psychodrama trainers in the country where they obtained the training.

The Board of Directors agreed to develop accommodations for those immigrants who were seeking certification as a practitioner (CP). The Board of Directors declined to accommodate immigrants seeking to become certified as TEPs: hence all immigrants who wish to become TEPs are required to receive certification as a practitioner, and then enroll in the PAT process.

When immigrants have had psychodrama training in their home country wish to receive certification as a practitioner, they should select an ABE-approved TEP to become their mentor, supervisor, and trainer in the USA.

The ABE TEP is responsible for conducting an assessment and evaluation of the training received by the immigrant and in conjunction with the psychodrama trainee to submit a proposal for acceptance of training hours from the home country that may be applied to the requirement for the 780 hours of training. The TEP must submit the Immigrant's Request and Assessment on behalf of the CP candidate by the January or September meeting prior to the year in which the immigrant hopes to take the exam. The Board of Directors will then make the final decision on how many, if any, training hours will be credited from the immigrant's home country: the Board may not accept all the hours requested by the candidate and recommended by the TEP. Documentation of the ABE determination is then included with the trainee's application to sit for the CP examination process.

All of the supervised practicum experience for the CP and TEP immigrant applications must be completed with clients in the USA with supervision from an ABE TEP – no credit will be given for a supervised practicum experience from their home country. Regardless of the number of training hours credited the primary trainer is still required to have witnessed the immigrant directing psychodrama sessions in accordance with the published standard.

For further information on this process contact our office (abepsychodrama@yahoo.com).