

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### *about becoming an*

### *APPA-Certified Philosophical Practitioner*

**Q. What is a Philosophical Practitioner?**

A. A Philosophical Practitioner is a professional philosopher who applies principles and methods of philosophy to client counseling, group facilitation, and/or organizational consulting. For more information about these services, please see <http://www.appa.edu/services.htm>.

**Q. What is the APPA?**

A. The American Philosophical Practitioners Association (APPA) is a non-profit educational corporation that encourages philosophical awareness and advocates leading the examined life. APPA members apply philosophical systems, insights and methods to the management of human problems and the amelioration of human estates.

**Q. How do I become an APPA-Certified Philosophical Practitioner?**

A. The steps you must follow are 1) earn an M.A., Licensura (in Hispanic countries) or Ph.D. in Philosophy; 2) join APPA, securely online at <https://www.appa.edu/join.htm>, as an Adjunct Member; 3) enroll in and successfully complete APPA's three-day Certification Training Program.

**Q. I have, or am planning to obtain, a degree and licensure/certification in one of the helping professions. Can I still be Certified by the APPA?**

A. Recognized counseling and consulting professionals in fields other than philosophy (e.g. medicine, psychiatry, psychology, social work, law) are invited to join APPA as Affiliate Members. Affiliate Members may enroll in APPA's Certification Training Program, upon completion of which they will be Certified as Affiliates. APPA-Certified Affiliates are not APPA-Certified Practitioners; rather, they are co-professionals with abiding interests both in the philosophical aspects of their respective fields and in philosophical applications within those fields.

**Q. Does APPA offer a graduate degree program in Philosophy?**

A. As of the publication date of these FAQ, APPA does not offer a graduate degree program; however, we are working toward this goal. Holders of an earned M.A., Licensura or Ph.D. in Philosophy from any accredited educational institution may join APPA as Adjunct Members and become Certified.

**Q. What graduate degree programs do you recommend for aspiring Philosophical Practitioners?**

A. The APPA does not recommend particular degree programs or institutions. However, in choosing a graduate program, you may keep in mind the required areas of competency specified in our Certification Standards, which are found on our website at <http://www.appa.edu/standards.htm>, under Documents.

**Q. Is a joint degree – e.g., in Religion and Philosophy, or Psychology and Philosophy – sufficient for APPA Certification?**

A. A dual degree is generally *not* sufficient to meet APPA's requirements for Adjunct Membership and Certification, because the level of philosophical preparation is usually not equivalent to an M.A. in Philosophy. An equivalency review may be requested (for a fee) if the applicant can demonstrate substantial professional expertise in the field of Philosophy.

**Q. Can I make living practicing Philosophy full-time?**

A. Philosophical practice is a pioneering field, with the opportunities and challenges entailed thereby. It is not yet possible, for example, to buy an established practice ó as one might in the medical field; nor does there yet exist legislative support akin to that for psychology (health insurance, for instance, will not reimburse for philosophical counseling). A few practitioners in the United States, and several more in the Netherlands, engage in practice full-time; however, most practitioners currently choose to combine practice with traditional activities, such as teaching, in developing their overall careers as philosophers.

**Q. What if I only want to work with clients?**

A. If you do not plan on pursuing a traditional, academic career, then one of two alternatives obtains: 1) plan for another source of income, in addition to your practice, or 2) employ marketing techniques to increase your practice to the necessary size. APPA provides its practitioners with tools, such as an online directory listing; but it is up to our practitioners to build their practices. Some of our practitioners are also cross-trained/certified in other counseling modalities (e.g. psychoanalysis, hypnotherapy), which allows them to draw upon larger client bases and referral networks.

**Q. When will the next three-day APPA Certification Program be held?**

A. APPA Certification Training Programs are scheduled periodically according to demand and opportunity. The best way to keep apprised of upcoming programs is to join APPA, securely online at <https://www.appa.edu/join.htm>, since eligible Adjunct and Affiliate Members receive direct notification via e-mail as soon as dates are fixed, in advance of the general public.

**Q. Are the Certification Training Programs held only in New York City?**

A. No, APPA Certification Training Programs are held in various cities across the United States and abroad. If there are at least 6 to 8 qualified and interested candidates in your area, let us know ó we will be glad to consider holding a training program in your area. (Please note: at this time, the language of the Programs and of the required readings is English, fluency in which is necessary in order to participate. Infrequent exceptions are made when large groups of candidates abroad wish to sponsor a Program with translators.) APPA Certification Training Programs are *not* offered via distance learning, due to their dynamic and interactive nature.

**Q. How can I network with other Philosophical Practitioners?**

A. We invite you to join APPA, securely online at <https://www.appa.edu/join.htm>, as an Adjunct (M.A.s, Lic.s or Ph.D.s in Philosophy), Affiliate (counseling or consulting professionals), or Auxiliary (students and all others). You will be able to network with hundreds of other APPA members worldwide by means of our e-mail Forum, meetings, workshops, and other venues. Complete listings of APPA-Certified Practitioners and Affiliates can be found at <http://www.appa.edu/practitioners.htm>.

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For questions regarding the above FAQ, please contact: Andrea Messineo,  
APPA Communications Manager, [andrea.messineo@appa.edu](mailto:andrea.messineo@appa.edu)

**Further Reading:** Lou Marinoff, *Philosophical Practice*. San Diego: Academic Press, 2002.  
Available in libraries and wherever books are sold.

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