

This Message Was Posted to the APsaA electiondiscussion List by "Dr. Carmela Perez"
< >

As someone who was just very recently certified, I want to try to answer Joe Cronin's question as to what certification offers our membership. Of course, I am aware that my perspective is completely subjective, but personally, I found the process of reviewing, thinking, and writing about my cases post-graduation one of the most, if not the most, educational experience of my analytic career so far. At my institute (IPE in New York) we do not have to write up whole analyses for the purpose of graduation; we only write up yearly summaries, so the experience was new in that regard. However, I thought that there was also something important about going through the process post-graduation, for me, that amount of time was almost 5 yrs.--I was no longer in training, and I had some experience practicing analysis independently. Having said that, I do think of a certification process that begins during candidacy could be educationally valuable, specifically in getting candidates thinking more broadly and comprehensively about their cases, and about themselves as developing analysts.

In my preparation, I found that I analyzed and critiqued years of analytic work in a careful and systematic way that I had not previously, and quite honestly, I don't think I would have if I had not gone through this process. Overall, I learned a great deal about how I function as an analyst, about my own process of learning and development, and I feel the certification process as a whole helped me further consolidate my analytic identity.

M. Carmela P*rez, PhD