

CPE Goals and Objectives

The Goals of the Cleveland Clinic CPE Program reflect the outcomes of The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education and lead to spiritual care skills that enhance healing. The goal of the CPE programs is to educate excellent spiritual care providers to serve in hospitals, communities, religious congregations and other institutional settings. Students reflect with a peer group of 4-6 colleagues who apply the action-reflection-action model to learning. Each student provides approximately 300 hours of spiritual care to patients and at least 100 hours of experiential learning in a peer group. The program requires students to navigate long distances each day, use a computer, reflect spiritually on their relationship with care receivers, and to function at a graduate level. The program prepares students to provide excellent spiritual care to a diverse community.

- 1. *Spiritual Formation*** empowers students to develop greater awareness of themselves as spiritual care providers and of the ways their spiritual care affects persons. Students develop awareness of how their attitudes, values, assumptions, strengths, and weaknesses affect their spiritual care. Students develop skills and abilities to engage and apply the support, confrontation and clarification of the peer group for the integration of personal attributes and pastoral functioning.
- 2. *Spiritual Care Competence*** helps increase students' awareness and understanding of how persons, social conditions, systems, and structures affect their lives and the lives of others and how to address effectively these issues through their ministry. Students develop skills in providing intensive and extensive spiritual care and counseling to persons. Students grow in their ability to make effective use of their spiritual orienting system, theological/spiritual understanding, and knowledge of the behavioral sciences in their spiritual care of persons and groups. Students learn the spiritual care provider role in professional relationships and how to work effectively as a spiritual care member of a multidisciplinary team. Students enhance their capacity to use their pastoral empathy and prophetic perspectives in preaching, teaching, leadership, management, and spiritual care.
- 3. *Spiritual Care Reflection*** helps increase each student's understanding, skill and ability to apply the clinical method of learning to the care of persons by reflecting on their practice of spiritual care. Students develop skills and abilities to use both individual and group education for personal and professional growth, including the capacity to evaluate one's practice of spiritual care.

Clinical Pastoral Education Information

What is Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)?

CPE is graduate-level training in spiritual caregiving. This training is conducted in a clinical setting by an educator certified by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc. (www.acpe.edu). This organization is the premier training source for spiritual caregivers whether they serve in congregations or in secular institutions (hospital, hospice, penal system, military, nursing facility, etc.). The Cleveland Clinic CPE program is accredited by ACPE to offer all levels of training: from a 400-hour “basic level” internship to a year-long full-time residency to advanced training for becoming an ACPE Certified Educator.

Borrowing from the medical training model, CPE takes persons who typically have completed, or are in the process of completing, a master’s degree in divinity (M.Div.) or an equivalent field, and places them in a clinical context to practice, under supervision, multicultural spiritual caregiving work to people of various spiritual orienting systems. Cleveland Clinic’s program gives priority to persons with theological/spiritual/values-based training from a graduate school accredited by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (www.chea.org) or an international equivalent (www.professionalchaplains.org). Ordination or endorsement is not required for CPE training, but it is required to become a board-certified chaplain. Students learn (by observation, practice, and clinical case presentations) to serve as a spiritual caregiver on the healthcare team. According to the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHO), all patients have the right to have their spiritual needs addressed as part of their overall treatment plan.

What is the curriculum?

The CPE curriculum is based primarily in your direct clinical work with patients and caregivers and on the related activities of reflection, discussion, and evaluation with other students and the educators. In CPE you will utilize case studies and other written reflections to present your work for supervision in what are called verbatim seminars. The focus in these seminars will be on what is happening to you, the caregiver, as much as on what is happening to the people receiving your spiritual care. There will be discussions which assist you in understanding spiritual issues arising from experience. There will be opportunities to learn from the behavioral sciences and to reflect spiritually/theologically so that you can draw from both in understanding the human condition. You will be challenged to think about groups, social structures, and individuals in defining your spiritual care. You will be part of a dynamic peer group with other students and your certified educator which will provide opportunities for supervision, care giving, challenge, and appreciation.

Where will I be providing spiritual care?

You will serve as a spiritual caregiver on the in-patient units. When you are the on-call chaplain, you will provide care for all emergencies and deaths throughout the hospital’s main campus. You

will be called upon to provide care to patients, families, and staff according to need and opportunity. Patients at Cleveland Clinic come from every state and dozens of foreign countries, even though more than 75% are less than a half-day from home. The clinic includes a wide diversity in age, acuity, disease, race, spiritual orienting system, and income level.

What is a typical day like in CPE?

CPE units may be either full time or part time. One unit will include at least 400 hours of combined clinical time and education. About three quarters of your time is spent directly with patients and caregivers, while the other quarter is spent in educational sessions (individual consultation, peer group, didactic seminars, verbatim seminars, and team meetings). Extended (part-time) units typically meet one day per week for all educational sessions, and clinical hours are performed at other times, mostly through the on-call rotation. Full-time basic units (summer only) are Monday-Friday plus evening and weekend on-call shifts. The residency year includes three units and runs from August to August. Residents are provided with a stipend and work full-time. **At least one unit of ACPE accredited CPE is a prerequisite for residency.**

Who may apply?

An applicant is usually one who has successfully completed at least one year of theological school or some training in their spiritual orienting system. Often, but certainly not always, applicants are clergy, persons with standing or certification in non-theist traditions, theological students, members of religious orders, and lay persons with theological training or training in their spiritual/philosophical tradition. Other admission criteria relate to personal and educational readiness for this experience as evaluated by an ACPE Certified Educator. Your completed application should be 8-10 pages in length. The application includes a non-refundable fee of \$25.

Who conducts the admission interview?

The education staff will contact you after receiving your completed application. The interview allows you and the educator to discuss your application materials and goals to help determine your readiness for CPE. The interview will be conducted by a team of people from the department including the Director of CPE or another member of the education team.

CPE Admission Criteria, Admission Procedures, and Fees

CPE Admission Criteria

I. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Cleveland Clinic does not discriminate in admission, employment, or administration of its programs or activities, on the basis of age, gender, race, national origin, religion, creed, color, marital status, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, ethnicity, ancestry, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by the federal, state, or local law. In addition, Cleveland Clinic administers all programs and services without regard to disability and provides reasonable accommodations for otherwise qualified disabled individuals.

II. ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR CPE

Clinical Pastoral Education at the Cleveland Clinic is professional education for spiritual caregivers. Applicants will usually be ordained, have taken vows in a religious order, or have completed at least one year of graduate level theological studies. In the admission process, applicants should be able to demonstrate maturity, development, or potential in each of the criteria. Deficiency in any of the criteria would be grounds for not admitting the applicant.

A. Formal Criteria

1. Educational requirements: completion of at least a college baccalaureate degree.
2. Completed application: ACPE application face sheet and written materials on subjects described in application questions.
3. Admission Interview: to be conducted after application is received.
4. References available for immediate contact.
5. Fee payments

B. Subjective Criteria

1. Strong personal spiritual/religious/values-based identity but with openness to others.
2. Accepts responsibility for meeting program objectives and requirements.
3. Motivated to learn about spiritual care.
4. Emotionally stable.
5. Self-aware of person and professional strengths and weaknesses; aware of some of one's own strong feelings, even if not openly displayed.
6. Open attitudes, able to cooperate with authority, willing to learn from and understand others, willing to share thoughts and feelings, strong interpersonal skills.
7. Realistic expectations and understanding of CPE.
8. Cultural humility.

III. ADDITIONAL FORMAL CRITERIA FOR ADMSSION TO THE RESIDENCY

- A. Applicants must have completed the Master of Divinity degree or an equivalent graduate degree in spirituality/theology.
- B. Applicants must have successfully completed at least one unit of CPE.
- C. Applicants must demonstrate faith group endorsement or be in the process of obtaining endorsement.
- D. All applications to the residency will be processed according to the admission procedures.

IV. ADDITIONAL FORMAL CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO CERTIFIED EDUCATOR CPE

- A. A completed [Application for Certified Educator Programs](#)
- B. College graduation
- C. Graduate theological degree or its equivalent
- D. Ordination or commissioning to function as a spiritual care provider by an appropriate spiritual/values-based orienting system as determined by ACPE. Individuals whose spiritual/values-based orienting system does not have ordination should email certification@acpe.edu for more information.
- E. Endorsement/statement of accountability from an appropriate spiritual/values-based orienting system as determined by ACPE. Individuals whose spiritual/values-based orienting system does not have endorsement should email certification@acpe.edu for more information.
- F. Successful completion of a minimum of four units of Level I/Level II ACPE CPE
- G. Demonstration of spiritual care and conceptual competence as evidenced by the attainment/completion of [Level I/Level II Outcomes](#)
- H. Applicants must have completed the Master of Divinity degree or an equivalent.
- I. Evaluation of the [competencies for admission](#) to a Certified Educator Program
- J. All applications to Certified Educator CPE will be processed according to the admission procedures.

CPE Admission Procedures

- A. When an inquiry about any of the CPE programs is received, the inquirer will be given a letter, email or phone call acknowledging the inquiry with guidance to finding the following on our web site:
 - 1. A brief description of Cleveland Clinic and the particular program of interest
 - 2. Admissions procedures
 - 3. Admission criteria
 - 4. ACPE application form
 - 5. Review fees
 - 6. Objectives for that program
 - 7. Stipend and benefits information
- B. When an application is received, the applicant will be sent a letter or email which:

1. Acknowledges the receipt of the application.
 2. Initiates arrangements for an interview.
 3. Notifies the applicant of the date admissions decisions will be made.
- C. An incomplete application may or may not receive a reply.
- D. An admissions interview will be conducted by the Director of CPE or another member of the education team.
- E. Decisions will be made by the Director of CPE in consultation with the other interviewers.
- F. Notification of admissions decisions will be made promptly.

Those accepted to any of the CPE programs will have 21 days to indicate their intentions to enroll by paying the unit fee, paying a deposit toward the fee, or giving written notification of the third party who will be paying the fee (such as a seminary, which will include agreement to pay if the student fails or withdraws)

CPE Fee Policy

Students in Clinical Pastoral Education will pay tuition for the initial unit. Stipends for residency assume a lower pay scale to compensate for tuition costs which are waived for year-long participants.

I. Fees

- A. Application: non-refundable fee of \$25
- B. Deposit of \$50 due within two weeks of acceptance. The full payment is due by the unit's end. If a third party is paying the unit fee, a letter from the applicant to that effect and a written guarantee from the third party that payment is due regardless of student evaluation.
- C. Summer or Extended Internship: unit fee of \$550 for new students and \$400 for returning students. [No fee for Residency]
- D. Admission Interview Report: Fee of \$50 for a student who is applying to a different CPE program.

II. Reimbursement

- A. Tuition (except application fee) is reimbursable in full only in documented medical emergency cases before the unit begins.
- B. Half of the program fee is reimbursable if the student withdraws from the unit up to the beginning of the second week.

If you have further questions, please contact:

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