

Our Lady of the Lake (LOL) Health Clinical Pastoral Education

Program accredited by:



We Work, Floor 4, 120 West Trinity Place, Decatur, GA 30030 www.acpe.edu Ph: 404-320-1472

WHAT IS CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is interfaith professional education for ministry. It brings theological students and ministers of all faiths (pastors, rabbis, Imams, and others) into supervised encounter(s) with persons in crisis. Out of an intense involvement with persons in need and the feedback from peers and teachers, students develop new awareness of themselves as person and of the needs of those to whom they minister. From theological reflection on specific human situations, participants gain a new understanding of ministry. Within the interdisciplinary team process of helping persons, they develop skills in interpersonal and inter-professional relationships. (Click [here](#) for more information)

Clinical Pastoral Education includes the goals of Pastoral Reflection, Pastoral Formation, and Pastoral Competence. Pastoral Specialization may be offered as an option by some centers.

The objectives of CPE are:

- To become aware of oneself as a minister and the ways one's ministry affects persons.
- To develop the skills to provide intensive and extensive pastoral care and counselling to person(s) in their crises, celebrations, and other life situations.
- To understand and utilize the clinical method of learning (Action-Reflection-Action).
- To utilize the support, confrontation and clarification of the peer group for the integration of personal attributes and pastoral functions.
- To utilize individual and group supervision for personal and professional growth and for developing the capacity to evaluate one's ministry.
- To develop the ability to make effective use of one's religious/spiritual heritage, theological understanding, and knowledge of the behavioral sciences in pastoral ministry to persons and groups.
- To become aware of how one's attitudes, values, and assumptions, strengths and weaknesses affect one's pastoral care ministry.
- To become aware of the pastoral role in interdisciplinary relationships and work effectively as a pastoral member of an interdisciplinary team.
- To become aware of how social conditions and structures affect the lives of self and others and to effectively address these issues in ministry.
- To develop the capacity to utilize one's pastoral and prophetic perspectives in a variety of functions such as: preaching, teaching, leadership, management, pastoral care, and as appropriate counseling.
- Objectives of a pastoral specialty, if selected are to develop:
 1. Familiarity with the theories and methods for the ministry specialty.
 2. One's own philosophy and methodology for the ministry specialty.
 3. Pastoral competence in the practice of the specialty.

THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS IN CPE INCLUDE:

- The actual practice of ministry to persons.
- Detailed reporting and evaluation of that practice.
- Pastoral Supervision.
- A process conception of learning.
- A theoretical perspective on all elements of the program.
- A small group of peers in a common learning experience.
- A specific period of learning.
- An individual contract for learning consistent with the objectives of CPE.
- The CPE Program must be conducted under the auspices of an ACPE Certified Educator.

WHAT KINDS OF THINGS MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN THE INDIVIDUAL LEARNING CONTRACTS?

The CPE participant's contract is developed around the learning goals of:

- **Pastoral Reflection** – reflection on one's self as person and pastor in a relationship to persons in crisis, the supervisor, and peer group members, as well as the curriculum and institutional setting.
- **Pastoral Formation** – focus on personal and pastoral identity issues in learning and ministry.
- **Pastoral Competence** – deepening and unfolding of competence in pastoral functions, pastoral skills and knowledge of theology and the behavioral sciences.

Some accredited CPE programs offer **Pastoral Specialization**, focusing on the student's desire to become competent and knowledgeable in a particular area of ministry, e.g., palliative care, oncology, urban ministry, parish ministry, hospice ministry, pediatric ministry, behavioral health ministry, etc.

WHAT DOES CPE PREPARE A PERSON TO DO?

CPE serves as a part of one's preparation for parish ministry, chaplaincy, lay ministry, teaching, and counseling. Students prepare learning contracts, identifying areas of focus, and learning goals correlating with the Level I, Level II or Certified Educator learning objectives and outcomes.

ACPE accredited Centers offer Level I and Level II CPE, as well as Educator CPE, in sequence. The outcomes for each level must be completed before moving to the next level. ACPE certified CPE is usually offered in single units (10-12 weeks) or in a year-long program (3-4 consecutive units). Some ACPE accredited Centers have other part-time options.

After completing several units of CPE, some students choose to enroll in ACPE Certified Educator Program. ACPE Certified Educator Candidates (CEC) learn the theory and practice of teaching/supervision. Once they complete the first phase of certification as a Certified Educator Candidate, they begin educating/supervising CPE students under the guidance and consultation of an ACPE Certified Educator and ACPE National Faculty.

- CPE develops the capacity for the pastoral and spiritual care of individuals, families and systems.
- Many theological schools require one unit of CPE as part of a theological degree program.
- Other schools accept a year of CPE as the required intern year of ministry for a theological degree program.
- A number of theological schools, which are members of the ACPE, have graduate degree programs that incorporate the ACPE Certified Educator Program as part of the course of study.

Where will the student be ministering?

ACPE accredited CPE Programs exist in different settings. These include general hospitals, mental health facilities, correctional institutions, children's hospitals and nursing homes. In all of these settings, participants minister to individuals, families, and small groups of people as a chaplain. There are also a growing number of CPE Programs that specialize in congregation or community-based models of CPE. The student's long-term ministry goals may influence their decisions to apply to a particular CPE Center and Program for their training.

A Typical Day in CPE

CPE units may be full time or part time. A unit of CPE includes 300 hours of clinical ministry and 100 hours of educational time (didactics, classes, reading seminars, case conferences, individual, and group supervision). Extended (part-time) CPE units are typically 18 to 32 weeks in duration and the time commitments will be half time or less per week, depending upon the way the program is structured. Full time CPE units are 10 to 12 weeks in duration and allow for intensive engagement and immersion into the ministry setting.

CPE is an action/reflection model where participants engage in ministry to patients or parishioners and reflect upon their care with "the living human document." Educational seminars include didactic seminars presentations by subject matter experts, reading reflection seminars, theological reflection seminars, and peer group meetings or interpersonal relations group sessions. These educational experiences allow for mutual sharing, caring, support and relationship building with their training peers. Ministry opportunities may include providing worship and memorial services, and devotionals for peers, staff, and patients or parishioners. Field trips, workshops, and clinical observations may be periodically included. Each unit of CPE requires elements of evaluation by the students and their Certified Educator(s).

The CPE Learning Environment

The CPE learning environment may vary from one CPE Center to another, but the environment must be conducive for learning, protect the student rights according to the ACPE Standards, and provide each student with the resources needed to address the learning objectives and outcomes for Level I, Level II or Certified Educator CPE.

Beginning the Application Process

Applications for clinical pastoral education may be obtained from any of the ACPE accredited CPE Programs, such as Our Lady of the Lake Health CPE, from many participating seminaries, from the National ACPE office in Decatur, Georgia, or the ACPE website (www.ACPE.edu).

The Admissions Interview

The next step after completing an application is an admission interview. The admission interview provides opportunity for the aspirant to ask questions and to discuss whether centers are suited to their educational goals. It also provides time for the interviewer to discuss the person's application, engage the individual as a person and learner, and to assess their readiness for CPE. The interview may be held with any ACPE Certified Educator and some PAG members (if applicable). Many CPE centers require an interview at their institutions when an application is for a yearlong Residency. Seminaries frequently schedule a day when several ACPE Certified Educators are available to conduct such interviews.

Applying to a Particular Center

CPE programs have established education and experience requirements that are prerequisites for a successful CPE experience at OLOL Health CPE. Our Program requires an application fee and a deposit to confirm the student's acceptance. The deposit is usually applied to the tuition for the CPE unit.

Glossary of Terms

Clinical Pastoral Education

ACPE:	The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc. ACPE is the standard for spiritual care and education. It is the premier, Department of Education recognized, organization that accredits and provides the highest quality CPE programs for spiritual care professionals of any faith and in any setting. This is done through a rigorous accreditation and certification process for centers and educators that provide CPE in the US and across the globe.
CPE:	Clinical Pastoral Education
Chaplain: (Staff/Professional):	The professional chaplain serves as a mentor for the students regarding pastoral ministry in their shared clinical area. The professional chaplain orients that student to policies, procedures, and staff unique to their ministry area and consults regularly with the student during the CPE unit concerning the patients, families, and staff members they serve.
CEC:	Certified Educator Candidate
Student:	Student, trainee, or training chaplain – several terms may be used in reference to the various types of students in the CPE program at Our Lady of the Lake Health. These are typically used when referring to any or all students. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intern – typically applies to summer and extended unit students.• Residents – are students who receive a stipend and participate full-time for one-year in the CPE residency program.
Didactic Seminars:	Didactic Seminars are structured seminars on a variety of ministry-related subjects presented by professional chaplains, clinical health care professionals and ACPE Certified Educator(s). Each seminar provides helpful theoretical theological foundations for pastoral care.
IPR	Interpersonal Relationship (Seminar)
Extended Unit:	A CPE unit that is approximately 18-23 weeks in duration and calls for an average of 20 hours of classroom/clinical time per week (part-time).
Intensive Unit Summer:	A CPE unit that is 10-12 weeks in durations and calls for an average of 60 hours of classroom /clinical time per week (full-time).
Self-Directed Ministry Team:	These teams consist of department directors, managers, staff chaplains, and chaplain residents working together to address specific areas of administration, such as Research and Education, and Clinical Practices, Human Resources.