

FMOL Health | Our Lady of the Lake Clinical Pastoral Education

Program accredited by:

ACPE

The Standard for Spiritual Care & Education

1 Concourse Pkwy, Suite 800, Atlanta, GA 30328 www.acpe.edu Ph: 404-320-1472

Program accredited by: **ACPE Logo**

1 Concourse Parkway, Suite 800, Atlanta, GA 30328 acpe.edu

(404) 320-1472

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 encounters with persons in crisis. Through intense involvement with people in need and feedback from peers and teachers, students develop a new awareness of themselves as people 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.

Visit <https://acpe.edu/education/cpe-students/faqs> 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 counseling to people in their crises, celebrations and other life situations
- To understand and utilize the clinical method of learning (Action-Reflection-New 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, 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 oneself as a 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, such as palliative care, oncology, urban ministry, parish ministry, hospice ministry, pediatric ministry or behavioral health ministry.

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 that identify areas of focus and learning goals aligned with 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 on to the next. 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 programs have other part-time options.

After completing several units of CPE, some students choose to enroll in the 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 as chaplains. 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 typically last 17 to 32 weeks, and the time commitment will be half-time or less per week, depending on the program's structure. Full-time CPE units last 10 to 12 weeks and allow for intensive engagement and immersion in the ministry setting.

CPE is an action-reflection model in which participants engage in ministry with patients or parishioners and reflect on their care with “the living human document.” Educational seminars include didactic sessions, presentations by subject-matter experts, reading-reflection sessions, theological-reflection sessions, and peer-group meetings or interpersonal-relations group sessions.

These educational experiences enable 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, patients, or parishioners. Field trips, workshops, and clinical observations may be periodically included. In addition, each unit of CPE requires student and Certified Educator(s) evaluation.

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 FMOL Health | Our Lady of the Lake CPE, from many participating seminaries, from the National ACPE office in Georgia or the [ACPE website](#)

The Admissions Interview

The next step after completing an application is an admission interview. The admission interview provides an opportunity for the aspirant to ask questions and to discuss whether the programs 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 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 year-long 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 FMOL Health | Our Lady of the Lake 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.
Accreditation	Authorization, granted by the ACPE Accreditation Commission, to conduct programs of CPE Level I/Level II and/or Certified Educator CPE, based on demonstrated ability to meet ACPE standards.
CPE	Clinical Pastoral Education - a method of learning ministry by means of pastoral functioning under supervision as developed by ACPE. It is a process model of education, predicated on students' individual needs and goals that are compatible with program objectives. ACPE distinguishes two types of CPE programming: CPE Level I/Level II and Certified Educator CPE
Chaplain (Staff/Professional)	The professional chaplain serves as a mentor to students on pastoral ministry in their shared clinical area. The professional chaplain orients the 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.
Clinical Hours/Unit	Minimum of 400 hours: 250 clinical hours + 100 education hours + 50 flex/administrative hours.
Clinical Method of Learning	is an educational model that uses data from the actual practice of ministry as the content for reflection (also known as action-reflection-new action).
Clinical Supervision	Use of interpersonal engagement, direct observation, accurate description, and conceptual frameworks to assist students in developing a pastoral identity and ministry.
Didactic Seminars	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 and theological foundations for spiritual care.
Extended Unit	A CPE unit that is approximately 18-23 weeks in duration and calls for an average of 5-6 classroom/educational hours and 15-20 hours of clinical time per week (part-time).
IPR	Interpersonal Relations Group (Seminar)
Student	Person admitted to and participating in a CPE program. Terms like student and trainee may be used, but intern and resident are typically used for 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.

Students engaged in curriculum and ministry for at least 32 hours each week are full-time, and those who are engaged for fewer than 32 hours each week are part-time.

Summer Intensive Unit A CPE unit that is 10-12 weeks in duration and calls for an average of 10 classroom/educational hours and 30 hours of clinical time per week (full-time).

Ministry Team These teams comprise department directors, managers, staff chaplains, and chaplain residents, working together to address specific areas of administration, such as Research and Education, Clinical Practices, and Human Resources.