



ACPE is the premier, US Department of Education recognized accrediting body that provides the highest quality CPE programs for spiritual care professionals of any faith and in any setting. We do this through a rigorous accreditation and certification process for centers and educators that provide CPE. The depth of our training enables students to realize their full potential to strengthen the spiritual health of people in their care as well as themselves.

Onsite Preceptor Orientation

For Centers and Clinical Placement Sites



The Standard for Spiritual Care & Education

**Thank you for agreeing to serve as
an onsite preceptor for a CPE student.**

**We appreciate your commitment and hope that this will be an
enriching experience for the student, for you, and for your site.**

Onsite Preceptor Orientation

For Centers and Clinical Placement Sites

Key Definitions

Preceptor: A contextually relevant professional practicing in and recognized by the clinical placement site and the ACPE Certified Educator. Recognition for this role requires one or more of the following:

- professional licensing, professional certification/authority to function in their role
- an advanced degree in their field of expertise
- faith group endorsement/local equivalent process.

Clinical Placement: A clinical placement is a site for CPE student(s) that is outside of an Accredited Member center or satellite program. The clinical placement must meet all or part of the requirements for a student(s)' supervised clinical practice of spiritual care.

Introduction to ACPE

Our History

ACPE was established in 1967 through the merger of four groups: The Institute of Pastoral Care, The Council for Clinical Training of Theological Students, the Southern Baptist Association of Clinical Pastoral Educators, and the Lutheran Advisory Council on Pastoral Care. ACPE carries on the commitment of these organizations to advance clinical pastoral education (CPE) as experience-based theological education. Today, ACPE enjoys national and international recognition as an educational organization for its work in setting standards, accrediting CPE centers and programs, and certifying educators in clinical pastoral education.

Introduction to ACPE

Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

To positively affect people's lives by nurturing connections to the sacred through experiential education and spiritual care.

Vision

To create measurable and appreciable improvement in spiritual health that transforms people and communities in the US and across the globe.

Values

Diversity and inclusion – demonstrated through cultural humility, attentiveness and collegiality.

Integrity – demonstrated through trust, respect and excellence.

Curiosity – demonstrated through listening, experiential models, innovation and creativity.

Process – demonstrated through action/reflection, listening, experiential and relational models.

Service – demonstrated through compassion, authenticity and growth.

Introduction to ACPE

Accreditation

Accreditation is a primary means of quality assurance in the field of CPE. Having originated in institutions of higher education in North America, accreditation is a voluntary activity in which institutions agree on standards of institutional and educational quality and hold themselves, as well as other institutions, accountable to those standards. Accreditation offers an opportunity to institutions to demonstrate that they are committed to maintain a high level of quality in their programs and that their programs are performing at the level required by the field. Continued accreditation by ACPE provides lasting benefits to students, the institution, faculty members and employees, the profession and the larger community.

ACPE is the only agency recognized by the United States Department of Education to accredit programs of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in the United States. ACPE currently accredits over 300 CPE programs offered in hospitals, prisons, churches, seminaries, community-based organizations, and other settings across the United States.

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

Overview

Clinical Pastoral Education is multi-faith, professional education for providing spiritual care. It brings theological students, as well as clergy and lay-leaders of all faiths, into supervised encounters with persons in crisis. Out of an intense involvement with persons in need and feedback from peers and educators, students develop new awareness of themselves as persons and of the needs of those whom they serve. From theological/spiritual reflection on specific human situations, they gain a new understanding of spiritual care practice. Within the interdisciplinary team process of helping persons, they develop skills in inter-personal and inter-professional spiritual care relationships.

A CPE learning environment requires that students and educators interact and share with each other in such a way that all are cared for, supported, and challenged with attention to everyone's well-being. Furthermore, since an individual best knows their own limits, everyone respects others' boundaries and the group works together to negotiate appropriate learning relationships. An environment that is supportive, stimulating, and safe will make the risks of inter-personal learning and growth worth taking.

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)

ACPE Accredited CPE

ACPE CPE is an experience in process education which has been shaped by history and remains responsive to present-day cultural developments. The heart of ACPE CPE is serving people and learning from that service through reflection, discussion, and evaluation with other students and the ACPE Certified Educator.

In an ACPE CPE experience, students utilize verbatims, case studies, and other reflections to work with their educators. There are opportunities to learn from behavioral sciences while also reflecting theologically/spiritually, so students draw from both arenas in understanding the human condition.

Students are part of a dynamic learning group with other students and an ACPE Certified Educator. This group will develop students' ability to engage and apply the support, confrontation, and clarification of the peer group for the integration of personal attributes and professional spiritual care functioning.

ACPE Accredited CPE

Essential Elements

- Supervision by an ACPE Certified Educator
- The actual practice of providing spiritual care to persons
- Detailed reporting and evaluation of that practice
- Clinically-relevant, progressive curriculum in each unit
- 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 time period
- 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 (faculty) attached to an ACPE Accredited CPE center

ACPE Accredited CPE

A Typical Day

ACPE certified CPE units may be either full time or part time. A typical day is one in which time is provided for the practice of spiritual care and educational events. Since the heart of ACPE CPE is providing spiritual care and learning from the experience, a day's schedule frequently includes a clinical seminar in which a student presents a patient/client encounter to other students and the educator for discussion and feedback.

Typical group sessions include didactic seminars in which discussion follows a lecture; discussion of a book or article; exploration of theological/spiritual concerns; peer group meetings or inter-personal group sessions for mutual sharing where caring, support, and relationship concerns are explored; and occasions which provide opportunity for spiritual nurturing. Field trips, workshops, and clinical observations may be periodically included. Evaluation experiences with the other students and the educator are also part of CPE programs and may be scheduled at the end of a unit to sum up the experience, midway to assess learning objectives, and, at other times, such as with the other care providers in the student's spiritual care area.

ACPE Accredited CPE

Professional Growth and Preparation

ACPE CPE serves as a part of one's preparation for spiritual/religious leadership in congregational/communal settings, chaplaincy, lay ministry/spiritual care practice, teaching, and counseling. A student's learning contract may be focused toward integration of theological/spiritual and psychological insights into spiritual care practice.

Some students may choose the path of becoming a Board Certified Chaplain, while other students, after completing several units of ACPE CPE, may choose to enroll in Certified Educator CPE, working toward certification as an ACPE Certified Educator. In Certified Educator CPE, students learn the theory and practice of supervision and have an experience of supervising CPE students under the guidance of an ACPE Certified Educator.

ACPE CPE develops the capacity for the spiritual care of individuals, families, and systems.

ACPE Accredited CPE

Preceptor Responsibilities

As a preceptor, your role will be to:

- Orient the student to your placement site and ensure that the student understands the context for this placement.
- Address student questions and learning needs about the site.
- Communicate with the ACPE Certified Educator on a regular basis about fulfillment of the student's administrative obligations and the responsibilities outlined in the clinical site agreement. This includes the student's clinical work, work habits and investment in the learning process at the placement site.

ACPE Accredited CPE

Preceptor Expectations of the ACPE Certified Educator

As a Preceptor, you can expect the ACPE Certified Educator representing the ACPE Accredited Center outlined in the placement agreement to:

- Orient you to the learning goals of CPE student (s) assigned to your clinical site
- Address questions regarding the CPE model of education and expectations of hours and types of spiritual care responsibilities that are appropriate in your clinical environment
- Initiate communication on a regular basis regarding the student's fulfillment of obligations and the responsibilities outlined in the clinical site agreement. This includes the student's clinical work, work habits and investment in the learning process at the placement site.

Thank You!

Thank you again for your commitment and for serving as preceptor for our programs.

With your help, we are able to provide wonderful learning opportunities for our students.

If you have any questions or would like clarification about the role, please contact your student's ACPE Certified Educator.

Questions or concerns may also be addressed to the ACPE Accreditation Commission at accreditation@acpe.edu