CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION (CPE)

Clinical Pastoral Education, or CPE, is a nationally accredited internship in which people learn the art of spiritual care as they provide that care to others. CPE students function as religious professionals while they receive in-depth, expert supervision from Certified Educators.[i]

A. **CPE is not a requirement of the PSR MDiv program,** even if it is a part of your denomination's requirements for ordination**.**

B. Students on the MDiv *Chaplaincy Track[ii]* can meet their Field Praxis requirement by completing an (at least) 1-unit CPE program. All PSR students can take CPE as an elective course.

C. PSR does not teach CPE classes, accredit CPE programs, or train CPE Supervisors. The accrediting agencies[iii] and the CPE curriculum are outside of PSR's credentialing authority. PSR **does** offer registration in **FE-2000**, allowing students to get academic credit, if desired, for completing their CPE program.

D. MDiv. Students on the *Chaplaincy Track* taking CPE to meet their Field Praxis requirement must register for a total of **6 academic credits**. Students taking CPE as an elective can register for **0-6** academic credits, depending on the number of elective credits they wish to use. (0 credits allows CPE to appear on a student's transcript without a grade.) *See page 2 for registration instructions.*

How to Find a CPE Program

The student is required to find, apply for, and gain acceptance into a certified CPE program. Resources for this process are:

- **Grace Gilliam**, Associate Director of (Community Engaged Learning (CEL) can assist you with getting oriented to the process of finding a CPE program local to you. She can also assist with exploring non-CPE chaplaincy placements that can meet Field Praxis requirements.

- Brandeis University's **Chaplaincy Innovation Lab** **provides the most extensive resources** for chaplaincy and spiritual care, including informational materials, free e-books and webinars, discussions about chaplaincy/spiritual care in diverse environments (i.e., not just hospitals and hospices,) and a directory of CPE programs (including some international sites.) You can download some of their introductory e-books, either curated online by CEL **HERE** or from the Chaplaincy Innovation Lab website.

- **Each October**, GTU seminaries and centers collaborate to host **GTU CPE DAY**. This event allows supervisors from *ACPE Certified CPE Training Centers of the Pacific Community of Practice[iv]* to present unique aspects of their programs as well as provide time for attendees to meet supervisors and ask questions about these programs. Stay tuned to the PSR Newsletter, ***Thursday on the Vine*** for announcements about the October event.

- There are CPE organizations that offer accredited and supervised CPE programs for students in non-traditional CPE settings. These organizations (not PSR) must authorize the student's clinical hours in the non-traditional setting. The CPE organization provides the required hours for didactic training, group supervision, and one-to-one supervision. See Grace Gilliam for recommendations.

Applying for CPE Programs: [CPE Application](#)

- The accrediting agency, **Association of Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE)** provides comprehensive information on **[how to apply to a CPE Program](#)**. We also recommend contacting the CPE Supervisor of your desired CPE program by email to schedule an appointment. (The ACPE site also offers information about CPE curriculum and activities.)

How to get PSR academic credit for CPE *(note: all FE- and FERS- courses are Pass/Fail)*

1. Receive an **official acceptance letter** into your CPE program.

2. **Forward** this acceptance letter to [Grace Gilliam](#) and the [PSR Registrar](#).

3. Register for **FE-2000, Clinical Pastoral Education** (*the same course number regardless of semester*.) This registration defaults to 3 academic credits. Here are your registration options:

   a. **Your program is 4-months**, either September – January or February – May
   Register for either the Fall or Spring semester. Ask the [Registrar](#) to change your registration to 6 academic credits (or, to 0-6 credits if this is an elective.)

   b. **Your program is a Summer Intensive**, full-time, June – August
   Register for the Summer semester. Ask the [Registrar](#) to change your registration to 6 academic credits (or, to 0-6 credits if this is an elective.)

   c. **Your program is 9-months**, September – May
   Register for Fall semester @ 3 academic credits.
   Register again for Spring semester @ 3 academic credits.
   (or each semester ask [Registrar](#) to change to 0-3 credits if this is an elective.)

4. **At the end of your program**, send a preliminary email to [Grace Gilliam](#) and the [PSR Registrar](#) re: your expected evaluation date (note: most CPE programs end outside of PSR grading due-dates.) Then send a copy of your **Supervisor's Final Evaluation** to [Grace Gilliam](#) and the [PSR Registrar](#) to receive your grade.

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[i] excerpt from *[A Beginner's Guide to CPE](#)*, Chaplaincy Innovation Lab (12/15/2021)

[ii] PSR's MDiv *Chaplaincy Track* **does not require CPE** per se. It requires participation in a chaplaincy internship to provide spiritual care, in an environment with supervised and active contact with clients. Non-CPE chaplaincy programs can include: schools, universities, prisons, work with the unhoused, grief counseling, etc. The main difference is that CPE students do not attend Concurrent Field Education classes. Non-CPE chaplaincy requires that the student participate in Concurrent Field Education class sessions — FE-1005 (Fall) and FE-1006 (Spring).

[iii] ACPE accreditation is accepted by all denominations and employers. Excellent CPE programs are also certified by other agencies, such as [The College of Pastoral Supervision & Psychotherapy](#) (CPSP). CPSP CPE programs are active at some Kaiser Permanente locations as well as the Travis Airforce Base; these programs are well-regarded by PSR students. Check with your denomination or prospective employer to verify which CPE certifications are accepted.

[iv] You can download the *[ACPE Certified CPE Training Centers of the Pacific Community of Practice](#)* document from GTU CPE DAY, October 2021. The [Chaplaincy Innovation Lab](#) provides more current information and can be sorted by State.