



CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION (CPE)

What is CPE?

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is a nationally accredited internship in which people learn the art of spiritual care as they directly provide that care to others. CPE students function as religious/spiritual professionals in real life environments while they receive in-depth, expert supervision from Certified Educators.

- A) Students on the M.Div. *Chaplaincy Track*¹ are allowed to meet their Field Praxis requirement by completing a 1-unit (at least) CPE program. All PSR students in degree programs can take CPE as an elective course.
- CPE programs of less than 1-unit are **not** accepted for academic credit. (CPE programs of less than 1-unit are not accredited as professional training.)
- B) M.Div. Students on the Chaplaincy Track using 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.
- Registration @ 0 credits allows CPE to appear on a student's transcript without a grade.
- C) **CPE is not a requirement of the PSR M.Div. program**, even if it is a part of your denomination's requirements for ordination.
- D) **Pastoral Care courses** offered by PSR and other GTU schools are not part of any CPE program. It is strongly recommended that these courses be the electives for a student on the Chaplaincy Track.
- E) PSR **does not** teach CPE classes, accredit CPE programs, or train CPE Supervisors. The accrediting agencies and the CPE curriculum are outside of PSR's academic administration. PSR **does** offer registration in **FE-2000**, allowing students to get academic credit for completing a CPE program.
- F) **Clinical Pastoral Education is a professional certificate training program**. Tuition fees and background checks are sometimes required. These fees are not supplemented by PSR. However, if you are taking CPE to meet your program requirements, you can use scholarship and loan funds to pay these fees and submit them as educational expenses on your taxes.

¹ PSR's M.Div. *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 these placements do not follow the ACPE accredited educational curriculum with certified CPE educators. A non-CPE chaplaincy internship requires that the student participate in Concurrent Field Education class sessions — FE-1005 (Fall) and FE-1006 (Spring). CPE students do not take Concurrent Field Education classes.

How to Find a CPE Program

The student is responsible for finding, applying for, and gaining acceptance into a certified CPE program. Some resources for finding accredited program can be found at these sites:

- **ACPE²** is currently the most widely accepted accrediting agency for professional chaplaincy training and certification. It provides a resource directory of CPE programs with a wide range of search filters, such as Country, State, and types of environments. <https://profile.acpe.edu/accreditedcpedirectory>.
- Brandeis University's [Chaplaincy Innovation Lab](https://chaplainsinnovation.org) has extensive resources for chaplaincy and spiritual care information, discussions, webinars, research, and support groups. While many of the resources are now only provided to subscribers (there are student discounts,) access to a directory of CPE programs and some program information documents are still fully accessible: <https://chaplainsinnovation.org/training-credentials/education>.
- **Each October**, GTU seminaries and centers collaborate for GTU CPE DAY. This event, usually hosted by the [GTU Interreligious Chaplaincy Program](#), features supervisors from CPE programs in the *ACPE Certified CPE Training Centers of the Pacific Community of Practice* presenting summary details of their programs. This online event then uses Zoom breakout rooms to allow attendees to visit and ask questions of multiple programs.
- Some **independent CPE organizations** offer accredited and supervised programs for students seeking spiritual care training in non-traditional settings. These organizations must authorize the student's proposal for clinical hours in the non-traditional setting (PSR has no authorization to approve what constitutes clinical settings.)

These independent CPE organizations provide the required hours for didactic training, group supervision, and one-to-one supervision; most use distance learning. While there is no current directory for these types of organizations, [Sankofa](#) has become more widely used and respected.

² 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 have been well-regarded by many PSR CPE students for over a decade. Check with your denomination or prospective employer to verify which CPE certifications are accepted.

Applying for CPE Programs:

Most CPE programs use the [ACPE Application](#) format. The same application can be sent to multiples CPE programs. The [ACPE CPE Students](#) page also answers a wide range of information on applying for and what to expect from CPE programs. **International students seeking CPE training** have additional requirements; be sure to review the [instructions provided here](#). It is suggested that contacting the CPE Supervisor of your desired CPE program by email to schedule an appointment is a good start to finding a CPE program that works best for your vocational aspirations.

How to get PSR academic credit for CPE

- A) Receive an official acceptance letter into your CPE program. This acceptance letter should indicate the **Organization, Supervisor, and Dates** of your program.
- B) Forward this acceptance letter—email or electronic pdf—to your Academic Advisor and the [PSR Registrar](#).
- C) **Register for FE-2000**, Clinical Pastoral Education. Here are your registration options:
- 1 Your program is **4-months**, register for
 - ◇ Fall semester FE-2000 (program is Sept – Jan) **or**
 - ◇ Spring semester FE-2000 (program is Feb – June)
 - ◇ Ask the Registrar to change your registration to 6 academic credits or, to 0-6 credits if this is an elective.
 - 2 Your program is a **Summer Intensive**, full-time (June – Aug), register for
 - ◇ Summer semester FE-2000
 - ◇ Ask the Registrar to change your registration to 6 academic credits or, to 0-6 credits if this is an elective.
 - ◇ *If your financial aid is not available for the summer semester, discuss options with the Registrar.*
 - 3 Your program is **9-months** (Sept – May) or a **full-year Residency**
 - ◇ Register for Fall semester FE-2000 @ 3 academic credits.
 - ◇ Register again for Spring semester FE-2000 @ 3 academic credits.
 - or, each semester, ask the Registrar to change to 0-3 credits if this is an elective.
- D) At the end of the semester: (most CPE programs end outside of PSR grading due-dates)
- 1 Send a preliminary email to your Academic Advisor and the PSR Registrar with your expected evaluation date.
 - 2 When you receive your Supervisor’s Final Evaluation, forward it to your Academic Advisor.
 - 3 After reviewing the evaluation, **your advisor notifies the PSR Registrar** to submit a P/F grade.