

PRECEPTOR/MENTOR ORIENTATION

For Centers and Clinical Placement Sites*

**From the ACPE 2016 Manual Definition of Terms:*

Clinical Placement – clinical ministry site, external to an Accredited Member center or satellite program, established by formal agreement to fulfill the clinical hours' requirements of a CPE unit.



WHAT IS ACPE?

The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc. (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 supervisors in clinical pastoral education.

The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc. (ACPE) is the only agency recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE) 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.

MISSION, VISION AND VALUES OF ACPE

MISSION

A community of professionals committed to nurturing connections to the sacred through experiential, transformational education and spiritual care.

VISION

The consistency and exceptional quality of experiential education provided by our association creates measurable and appreciable improvement in the spiritual health and transformation of 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.



THROUGH ITS ACCREDITATION PROCESS, ACPE SEEKS TO:

- assure quality in clinical pastoral education (CPE);
- assure students of consistency in educational programs;
- recognize achievement in creative programming;
- promote fairness in conduct and evaluation of educational programs;
- support best practices in pastoral education;
- integrate unique clinical/educational resources; and
- facilitate planning and evaluation.

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.

INTRODUCTION TO ACPE 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 ministry with people and learning from that ministry through reflection, discussion, and evaluation with other students and your supervisor.

In an ACPE CPE experience, students utilize verbatim (in the form of Pastoral Care Reports), case studies, and other ministry descriptions to work with their supervisors. There are opportunities to learn from behavioral sciences while also reflecting theologically, so students draw from both arenas in understanding the human condition.

Students are part of a dynamic learning group with other students and a certified supervisor. 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 pastoral functioning.



WHAT IS CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION?

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



WHAT DO THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CPE INCLUDE?

- Pastoral Supervision by an ACPE certified supervisor
- The actual practice of ministry 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 supervisor (faculty) attached to an ACPE accredited CPE center.

WHAT DOES CPE PREPARE A PERSON TO DO?

ACPE CPE serves as a part of one's preparation for parish ministry, chaplaincy, lay ministry, teaching, and counseling. A student's learning contract may be focused toward integration of theological, psychological and pastoral insights.

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

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



WHAT IS THE CPE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT?

A CPE learning environment requires that students and supervisors 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 his or her own limits, everyone respects other's 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.

WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY IN CPE?

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 ministry and education events. Since the heart of ACPE CPE is ministering and learning from the experience, a day's schedule frequently includes a clinical seminar in which a student presents a pastoral encounter to other students and the supervisor 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 concerns; peer group meetings or inter-personal group sessions for mutual sharing where caring, support and relationship concerns are explored; and worship or sharing 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 supervisor are also part of our 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 your ministry area.



PRECEPTOR/MENTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

As a Preceptor/Mentor, 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's questions and learning needs about the placement site.
- Communicate with the ACPE certified supervisor 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.

PRECEPTOR/MENTOR EXPECTATIONS OF THE ACPE SUPERVISOR:

As a Preceptor/Mentor, you can expect the ACPE Supervisor representing the CPE Center outlined in the Placement Agreement to:

- Orient you to the learning goals of CPE students assigned to your clinical site
- Address questions regarding the CPE model of education and expectations of hours and type 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 FOR YOUR COMMITMENT AND FOR
SERVING AS AN ONSITE PRECEPTOR/MENTOR FOR
AN ACPE STUDENT.**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONCERNS OR
WOULD LIKE CLARIFICATION, PLEASE CONTACT
YOUR STUDENT'S ACPE SUPERVISOR.**