



VA PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE SERVICE (VAPAHCS)

The VA Palo Alto Health Care System (VAPAHCS) is a major tertiary referral center with three hospital-based divisions serving the VA Sierra Pacific Network (VISN 21). It operates a total of 913 beds. The Palo Alto Division (PAD) is home to one of the most sophisticated tertiary care centers in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). All acute care, acute inpatient psychiatry, spinal cord injured, rehabilitation medicine, blind rehabilitation and hospice services are located at PAD. The Menlo Park Division (MPD) provides both inpatient and outpatient comprehensive domiciliary care, mental health, Post Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) and long-term geriatric care. The Livermore Division (LVD) provides sub-acute and geriatric inpatient services as well as primary, sub-specialty and ancillary outpatient services.

VAPAHCS has an extensive Graduate Medical Education program for over 1000 medical students, interns, residents and fellows from 102 academic institutions. It maintains one of the largest research programs in geriatrics, mental health, Alzheimer's disease, spinal cord regeneration, schizophrenia, rehabilitation research and development, and HIV research.

This extensive health care center with its diverse socioeconomic, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic patient population provides a rich, challenging environment for clinical pastoral education students.



Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc.
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The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc. is a multi-cultural, multi-faith organization devoted to providing pastoral education and improving the quality of ministry and pastoral care offered by spiritual caregivers of all faiths through the clinical educational methods of Clinical Pastoral Education. For more information on ACPE, check their website [acpe.edu].

For further information contact

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CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION AT THE VA PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The mission of the Clinical Pastoral Education at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System is to teach spiritual care providers how to serve our veterans with compassionate, comprehensive, accessible quality care in a supportive and safe environment while promoting excellence in research and education.

Clinical Pastoral Education at VAPAHCS
is accredited by

Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc
to offer

CPE Level I, Level II and Supervisory Education

VA Palo Alto Health Care System
CPE Program, Chaplain Services (125)
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CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION

CPE is interfaith professional education for ministry that brings theological students and ministers into supervised encounter with persons in crisis. Out of intense involvement with persons in need and with feedback from peers and supervisor, students develop new awareness of themselves as persons, of their abilities as pastoral caregivers, and of the needs of those to whom they minister. As part of the interdisciplinary team, students develop interpersonal skills in forming relationships with other professionals.

The essential elements in CPE include:

- The actual practice of ministry to persons
- Detailed reporting and evaluation of that practice
- Supervision by an ACPE-certified Supervisor in an ACPE-accredited center
- A process conception of learning
- A small group of peers in a common learning experience
- An individual contract for learning

CPE serves as part of an individual's preparation for parish ministry, chaplaincy, counseling, lay ministry, or teaching. Students who successfully complete four units of CPE become eligible to apply for board certification through one of the professional organizations for chaplains.

There are no application or tuition fees at VAPAHCS. Students must pay the ACPE Pacific Region registration fee no later than two weeks prior to enrollment of each unit.

CPE AT VAPAHCS

The VAPAHCS CPE Program provides three ACPE-accredited programs: Level I, Level II, and Supervisory Education:

- Residency year (4 units of CPE in a calendar year)
- Summer internship (1 unit of CPE)
- Extended unit (1 unit of CPE).

Extended and summer units are also offered at the VA Northern California Health Care System at the Sacramento Medical Center in Mather, California.

Each unit of CPE includes 400 hours, which encompasses 300 hours of clinical work in providing spiritual care for patients, families, and staff plus 100 hours of structured individual and group supervision and didactic seminars. For an extended unit, the required 400 hours are stretched over a 6-month period, allowing students to participate part-time for both the clinical assignment and individual/group supervision components of the program.

Summer internship and extended-unit interns at the VA are accorded Volunteer status and do not receive compensation. Chaplain residents in the year-long residency program have status as temporary employees; they receive compensation and have access to health benefits and life insurance options. *Please note that chaplain residents, as employees of the VA, must be U.S. citizens.*

Supervisory CPE is also offered at VAPAHCS. Individuals interested in seeking certification as an ACPE supervisor are encouraged to call for more detailed information about requirements and availability.

ADMISSION TO LEVELS I & II CPE

- Completed ACPE application
- An admission interview with a qualified interviewer to determine readiness for clinical learning
- Either graduation from high school/GED or ordination by a faith community or commission to function in ministry by an appropriate religious authority
- Familiarity and experience in providing ministry with people
- Level II applicants must have successfully met Level I CPE Outcomes as identified in ACPE Standards

ADMISSION TO SUPERVISORY CPE

Requirements for admission to Supervisory CPE include:

- Successful completion of four units of CPE, including meeting Level II CPE Outcomes
- Consultation with a professional advisory committee
- Previous ministry experience with demonstrated ability to function pastorally
- A Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent.
- Endorsement by faith group
- Membership in ACPE

THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS

For each unit of CPE, the 300 hours of clinical work includes direct patient visits, family counseling, group work on the wards, participation in rounds with the interdisciplinary care team, worship and sacraments, and other leadership duties of hospital chaplains. The 100 hours of structured individual and group education includes didactic seminars taught by hospital staff on specialty areas of patient care and chaplaincy, student presentations in the form of verbatim seminars, case studies, role-play, spiritual heritage reflections, and research projects. Students also complete a learning contract, write a self-evaluation, and receive the supervisor's evaluation of their work for each unit of CPE.