

Are you interested in Clinical Chaplaincy to our nation's Veterans?

*Come join us at VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System
Clinical Pastoral Education Program*



ACPE
The Standard for Spiritual Care & Education

VA



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health
Administration
VA Northeast Ohio
Healthcare System

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System

Would you like to become part of a team providing compassionate care to Veterans? You will find a challenging yet rewarding professional experience at VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS), the third largest VA healthcare system in the country, providing and coordinating primary, acute, and specialty care for more than 110,900 Veterans each year. With over 5,000 employees and the largest VA Chaplain Service in the country, our 18 locations of care serve the daily needs of Veterans from 21 counties.

Our Clinical Pastoral Education training program is accredited by The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education to provide the following:

- Level IA: Introduction to Spiritual Care
- Level IB: Foundations of Spiritual Care
- Level IIA: Intermediate Spiritual Care
- Level IIB: Clinical Practice of Spiritual Care
- CEC: Certified Educator Training

Located in the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, a 674-bed healthcare facility, our program centers on an experiential education model through an intercultural and interfaith curriculum that is designed to prepare all trainees for board certification.

Our medical center has two research programs of excellence. As a national and international leader in infectious disease, geriatric care, and spinal cord injury research, VANEOHS is proud to offer equitable and inclusive care for all our Veteran patients and is consistently recognized as a leader in LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality by the Human Rights Campaign. VANEOHS is regularly recognized in the Northcoast 99 great workplaces for top talent in Northeast Ohio.

Chaplains serve as an integral part of interdisciplinary clinical care in a program that is tuition- and application-fee-free. The year-long positions offer an annual stipend, healthcare coverage, regular leave time, and free parking. We encourage trainees from all faith traditions and spiritual orienting systems to establish a cohort that reflects the values of our organization and the patients we serve.

Chaplain Service

The VA Northeast Ohio Chaplain Service is on the cutting edge in chaplaincy, leading the country in our specialization, organization and treatment paradigms. We have a high level of specialized chaplains available for trainee learning including a suicide prevention chaplain, women's health chaplain, hospice/palliative care chaplain, inpatient and outpatient mental health chaplains, and a domiciliary chaplain serving unhoused veterans living at our facility. As one of the largest CPE programs in the country, we offer a unique opportunity to learn about and work with PTSD and moral injury due to significant trauma exposure, especially unique combat trauma exposure in a unique Veteran population.

Educational Environment

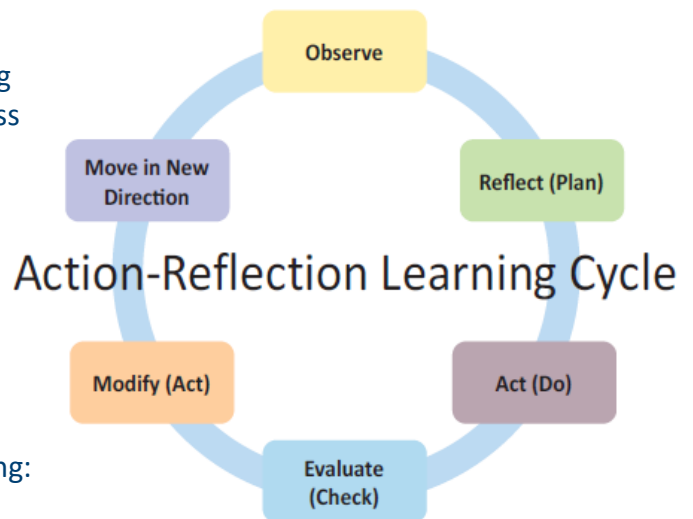
Our program's educational environment provides an intensive experiential spiritual education examining spiritual care within a Veteran population. Trainees are provided with resources and learning opportunities unique to providing clinical chaplain care within this specialized population. Our program is built on an understanding of human beings as whole persons within relationships to themselves, their families, the holy as defined by each student, and the society in which they live. Trainees have the opportunity to grow in spiritual formation and integration, awareness of self and others, relational dynamics, spiritual care interventions, and professional development.

Trainees begin by contracting with their CPE Educator for learning based on their individual learning goals. Individual supervision, small group discussion, and interdisciplinary dialogue are major program resources. These resources assist trainees in deepening their appreciation of the human predicament and to recognize the resources for ministry that reside in their unique life histories, spiritual journeys, and ministry experiences. The emphasis is on integrating experience into practice. The peer learning group contributes both to the enriched reflection upon clinical chaplain experiences and to a community which supports professional growth. In turn, this enriched reflection leads to the integration of person, professional role, belief, and knowledge. CPE calls upon trainees to be with people in times of crisis and loss, as well as joy. Trainees learn to assess the needs and resources people have for wholeness and well-being and to encourage healing and wholeness in themselves and those for whom they care.

Our CPE Program

Our CPE program is designed for persons seeking an opportunity to develop greater self-awareness and clinical chaplain competence through individual and small group reflection. Our curriculum integrates personal history, behavioral sciences, theology/philosophy, and professional development through a clinical action/reflection based education designed for ministry formation. This formation can be pursued for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to the following:

- Fulfilling requirements for board certification
- Seeking an interfaith and multicultural experience
- Seeking a supervised learning experience while serving others
- Discerning vocation
- Fulfilling ordination or seminary requirements



CPE Internship

The VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Clinical Pastoral Education Internship training is for individuals seeking an introduction to the profession of spiritual care.

The internship unit consists of 400 training hours that are certified through the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. We offer three options for completing an internship unit:

- 16-week Spring Extended Unit (January-March) – 25 hours per week
- 10-week Summer Intensive Unit – 40 hours per week
- 16-week Fall Extended Unit (September-December) – 25 hours per week

The program utilizes case studies, resources both within and outside the VA, and a variety of interdisciplinary staff to present on different clinical considerations. This program will demand the best from trainees while also providing support in each new effort. Trainees develop both self and interpersonal awareness.

Trainees are typically assigned two wards as a primary clinical assignment. As chaplains trainees, they provide spiritual assessments, general visitation, intensive and extensive spiritual visitation, and other spiritual care resources. While functioning in the assigned area, the trainees may participate in interdisciplinary treatment team meetings, planning sessions, and consultations.

CPE Residency

The VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System Clinical Pastoral Education First Year Residency program is a 12-month training period for individuals seeking to advance their skills in the profession of spiritual care. This program is designed to equip Chaplains with the experiences and resources needed to care specifically for the health challenges our Veterans face.

The Residency year begins each October and consists of four CPE units. The Educator arranges a content specific curriculum for each unit of education. Each unit provides a minimum of 400 training hours that are certified through the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. Residents spend a minimum of 100 hours in supervised group and individual education and 250 hours in clinical practice. The remaining 50 hours focus on what the educator and trainee deem as most beneficial for learning. The program utilizes case studies, resources both within and outside the VA, and a variety of interdisciplinary staff to present different clinical considerations.

Chaplain Residents rotate through different clinical foci. Residents provide spiritual assessments, intensive and extensive spiritual visitation, sacraments (when ordained), and spiritual care resources. Residents participate in interdisciplinary treatment team meetings, planning sessions, and consultations. Along with traditional inpatient/outpatient care,

opportunities include working in specialty treatment centers such as: hospice and palliative medicine, blind rehabilitation, women's health, whole-health, post-traumatic stress, substance use recovery, psychosocial resource recovery, homeless and mental health residential rehabilitation, and long-term residential care.

CPE Fellowship

Emotional, social, psychological, and spiritual needs are interconnected – the professionals and communities that attend to these needs should be coordinated and integrated for optimal care. Our CPE Fellowship, focusing on mental health, seeks to foster this care through a range of educational, research, clinical training, and community outreach activities.

Our model of education is designed to help students focus on better integrating care across six domains: screening and referrals (i.e., patient flow practices); communication, documentation, and assessment (i.e., professional practices); and role clarification and cross-disciplinary training (i.e., interdisciplinary relationships).

Our post-graduate CPE Fellowship positions focus on integrating mental health and chaplaincy. Trainees are offered the opportunity to delve further into research by completing literary reviews, preparing research proposals, and/or being involved in our Internal Review Board (IRB.) Options for clinical focus for the fellowship include serious mental illness, substance use disorder, women's health, and/or suicide prevention.

ACPE Certified Educator Training

The goal of the ACPE certification process is to produce ACPE Certified Educators who strive for excellence in their professional work. The certification process is designed as a developmental, approach to learning. Evaluation of CECs is ongoing and is grounded in clearly articulated competencies that are required to successfully engage in this work. Competency-based learning uses systems of instruction, assessment and reporting that are based on trainees demonstrating they have learned the knowledge and skills they are expected to learn as they progress.

For more information about our CEC training program and for admission requirements, please contact Chaplain Stacy Kenney at stacy.kenney2@va.gov.

Formal Admission Criteria

- A completed ACPE application.
- An admission interview with a qualified interviewer for persons applying for an initial unit of CPE. The interview along with the application determines the person's readiness for clinical learning.
- Either graduation from high school/completion of a GED or ordination by a faith community or commission to function in ministry by an appropriate religious authority as determined by ACPE.
- A signed Use of Clinical Materials Consent Form

For admission to the residency at VANEOHS, in addition to the general requirements, the following are to be included:

- The minimum of one satisfactorily completed unit of CPE at an accredited ACPE program.
- A Master of Divinity or an approved equivalent, a documented member in good standing with their faith group or community, and a letter of recommendation from the appropriate faith/ecclesial/judiciary authority for the residency.
- Ecclesiastical endorsement (or in process) preferred.
- The applicant's and supervisor's evaluations from previous unit(s) of CPE.
- A written statement indicating the applicant's reasons for wanting a CPE residency, potential learning goals, and professional plans post residency.
- A verbatim demonstrating the applicant's spiritual/pastoral care.

For admission to the fellowship at VANEOHS, in addition to the requirements above, documentation of successful completion of a year-long residency from an accredited ACPE program is also required.

For more information or any questions, please call 216-791-3800 ext. 66300.

Please submit your application via email to stacy.kenney2@va.gov and russell.burnette@va.gov.

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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System

VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System (VANEOHS)

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ACPE, Inc. is recognized as an accredited agency in the field of clinical pastoral education by the U.S. Secretary of Education, through the U.S. Department of Education. The VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System's CPE program is accredited by and meets the Standards of ACPE, Inc., located at: 1 Concourse Pkwy, Suite 800, Atlanta, GA 30328.

404-320-1472 • www.acpe.edu